

**Board of Health Meeting
June 2, 2005**

PRESENT: David Osler, M.D., Chairman
Noreen Burke, Director
Babette Mello, Board Member
Cesar Pungirum
Jennifer Shirak-Birk
Rita VanSteensburg, Administrative Assistant

Dr. Osler called the meeting to order at 5:10 PM.

Accept Minutes – May 5, 2005:

The minutes of the May 5, 2005 were not on voted on because Cecilia Sosa-Patterson was not present at the June 2, 2005 meeting. Ms. Mello could not vote on the minutes because she was not present at the May 5, 2005 meeting. The minutes will be presented at the August 4, 2005 meeting for review and approval.

Tobacco Update:

Cesar Pungirum followed up on his previous report that Central Variety had sold tobacco during an inspection, while its tobacco permit was under a 30-day suspension. He contacted other programs across the state to determine common practice. He also contacted Cheryl Sbarra, attorney with the Massachusetts Association of Health Boards, to discuss whether an amendment to the regulation to provide extra penalty steps would be necessary. She informed him that it would not be necessary since, as a last resort, the tobacco control program could file a request for an injunction at court to compel the retailer to comply with the terms of the suspension. At that point, the retailer's refusal to comply could result in his/her arrest. Mr. Pungirum also mentioned that as part of his workplan for July/05 to December/05 he'd be looking at the youth access regulations of all five cities to determine whether they need any improvement.

Cimex Update:

Jennifer Shirah Birk thanked the Board for inviting her to student intern on the Cimex eradication project for the Somerville Health Department. The following three points were addressed in her report:

1. Past, present & future state of Cimex in the City of Somerville.
2. Observations
3. Recommendations and next steps

Massage Regulation Amendment:

Ms. Burke reported that Board members are in receipt of information that addresses students who practice hands on massage. Upon the recommendation from the City's Legal Department it is suggested that such language should be adopted under its own heading of the regulation. The new language recommendation is as follows:

All students at institutions licensed to teach massage therapy in the City must provide a statement in writing from a licensed physician in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that he or she has examined the student within the past thirty (30) day period prior to the student conducting any hands on massage therapy and believes the student to be free from all communicable diseases transmissible by the practice of massage or the close physical contact ordinarily associated with massage. Such statement shall include a

certification that the student is free of tuberculosis in a communicable form as set forth by the Department of Public Health in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Such statement must be provided whether or not the student has or intends to seek a license to practice massage therapy and a copy of the statement must be kept on file at the school. Ms Burke noted that notice of the Public Hearing was published and there has been no protest against the regulation.

Ms. Mello made a motion to accept the recommended language and Dr. Osler seconded the motion. Motion passed two to zero.

Director's Report: Ms. Burke presented the April 2005 Joint Public Health Board report that details activities performed by staff and programs within the Health Department. Dr. Osler and Ms. Mello reviewed the report.

Updates/ Unfinished Business

Ms. Burke mentioned that she presented the Health Department's initial budget proposal to the city's finance team. The budget was presented in two forms – a line item budget and the Somerstat budget that identifies activity outputs and costs associated with each program

Strategic Plan: Noreen will get back to the Board next month with an update.

Memorandum of Understanding: Noreen met with Sam Lipson, the environmental coordinator from the Cambridge Health Dept. and received a model that identifies responsibilities between the Inspectional Services Division and the Health Department. She will continue her research and report back to the Board on the progression of the MOU.

Emergency Preparedness Operations Plan: Noreen reported that we have hired Bryan Murphy-Eustis, a consultant to work on the Emergency Preparedness Plan for the department. His salary is funded through the emergency preparedness grant

Cimex: the ten steps for landlords and tenants brochure is currently being translated in three major languages. The Committee will meet one more time to discuss the distribution of brochures. The non-provider alert letter will be sent out shortly. Board Orders: Rodent Control – Noreen will be meeting with the Mayor to update him on the recommendations from student research to control Rodents particularly rats in the city.

Hypodermic needles: Alderman Provost has found some needles and Noreen and Liz have met with the Police Dept's Lt. Paul Upton and they are working on a protocol, which will be presented to the Board when complete.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30p.m.

The next meeting will take place on August 4,, 2005 @ 5:00 p.m. at the Somerville Health Department, Conference Room located at 50 Evergreen Avenue,

Somerville, MA

Respectfully submitted,

Rita VanSteensburg
Administrative Assistant