

Board of Health Meeting  
December 15, 2005

**Present:** Brian Green, M.D., Chairman  
Babette Mello, Board Member  
Maria Luisa Parra, Board Member  
Cesar Pungirum, Tobacco Control Program Director  
Kathy Henkle, Administrative Assistant  
Noreen Burke, Director

Dr Green called the meeting to order at 5:05pm

**Accept Minutes**

Upon review of the December 15, 2005 board minutes, Ms Mello made a motion to accept the minutes as presented and Dr. Green seconded the motion. Motion passed two to zero.

**Fee Increases Public Hearing**

Noreen discussed the proposed fees with the board. Written materials were provided before the meeting for members to review. Brian Green spoke briefly about the definition of location of tobacco. Noreen also discussed the difference between practioners and establishments. The Mayor proposed these fees. Brian Green made a motion to accept the fee increases and Ms. Mello seconded it. The board members unanimously accepted the fee increases.

**Tobacco Control Program Brief Overview**

Cesar Pungirum gave an overview of the 5-City Tobacco Control Program and his evolving role from Enforcement Coordinator to Director. He discussed the program composition, structure, history, funding, scope, authority, main activities, and accomplishments. Cesar provided an educational packet to Board members, which included a profile of his program, and copies of the Youth Access and ETS regulations. He also provided a summary copy of the state law. Dr Green asked Cesar if they do investigations, to which Cesar responded affirmatively. Dr Green asked about smokers going outside of buildings and how it affects people going into the establishments. Cesar explained that currently there no provisions in the local regulations to address the issue. Cesar also discussed how *Good Times* was able to build two smoking rooms by exploiting a loophole in the language of the state and local smoking laws. He also added that new Mass. Department of Public Health regulations have been passed to address similar issues. Maria Parra also brought up concerns about the youth and their smoking habits and wanted to know what the percentage was on young smokers and Noreen said she would try to find numbers on this subject. Finally, Cesar stated that next board meeting he will bring suggestions for the strengthening of the Youth Access Regulations.

**Directors Updates**

### Body Art Working Group

Dr Green inquired about the progress of the body art-working group. Discussion followed and Noreen stated that Stephanie Almeida, Mongo's Tattoo Madness, Jason Zube, The Painted Bird, and Jason Webster from Cambridge Public Health have been meeting. Currently they are working on the apprenticeship regulations. Noreen would like to get these proposals to the board for review in the near future.

### Coach/Planner

Noreen wants to get a coach planner to assist in the strategic planning for the Health Dept. The Cambridge Health Alliance is willing to help pay for this and Noreen wants to recommend Eileen Sullivan. She lives in Somerville and has a masters degree in organizational development. Noreen said she would send her resume to the board and bring her to the board for a meet and greet. Noreen wished to have a planning day, which would take ½ day session with the whole staff, etc

### Dr. Osler

The Mayor and the Board of Aldermen want to honor Dr Osler with a citation at one of the upcoming aldermen meetings. The date has not been confirmed. Once confirmed, we will send out Save the Date reminder.

### Emergency Preparedness Training

Emergency Preparedness involves participating in two trainings NIMS (National Incident Management System and ICS Incident Command System which local public health must take. The trainings will be held at the Somerville Hospital beginning in January. We need to get every employee and board member to the trainings. Noreen will provide the schedule to the board so they will be able to take the training so we all can understand the management of crisis systems.

### Local Newspapers

Noreen mentioned to the board members that they should get the Somerville Journal and News. She encouraged them to read these newspapers so that they would know what is going on in the community.

### Shape Up Somerville

We are getting money from Tufts to help hire a Shape Up Somerville Coordinator. This position will pay about 45,000. Shape Up Somerville is a three (3) year research project that implemented strategies in schools and after schools to fight obesity in children, offer cooking classes etc. Now there is a working group. We hope to get this person on board in March and they are hoping to develop walking groups. Noreen will send a summary of Shape Up Somerville.

### 311 Program

The mayor is unveiling the 311 call-in information and referral program, which is a customer service base system where citizens can call to get services and information. For example information about flu clinics, needing to get a pothole fix etc. The first department on board is the DPW; the health dept will soon follow.

### Public Health and School Nursing

Liz is continually busy with communicable diseases. There are 4 new TB cases. We deal with many immigrants and Somerville is so diverse and we need to advocate for another public health nurse.

We are currently trying to fill one school nurse position.

*The Mayor's Inauguration*

The Mayor's Inauguration is Jan 2 and Noreen suggested that the board members should go to hear the speeches, and start to build networks in the community.

*Snow Related Concerns*

Maria Parra brought up concerns about sidewalks not being shoveled. Discussion followed and it was noted that health inspectors do go out and give out fines to homeowners who don't shovel their walks. Fines are 25.00 and Dr. Green mentioned that with the new Shape Up Somerville and if we have walking groups, we should have cleared sidewalks.

Motion made by Ms. Mello to adjourn the meeting, and seconded by Ms. Parra. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

The next Board of Health meeting will be held on January 19, 2006 at 5:00pm at City Hall Annex Conference Room located at 50 Evergreen Ave, Somerville.

Respectfully Submitted:

Kathy Henkle  
Administrative Assistant  
Health Dept.