

City of Somerville
Board of Health Meeting
October 19, 2006

Present: Brian Green, M.D., Chairman
Babette Mello, Board Member
Noreen Burke, Health Director
Kathy Henkle, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Maria Parra, Board Member

Dr Green called the meeting to order at 5:00pm
Ms. Mello seconded it.

Accept Minutes:

The minutes were postponed until next meeting because there were only two board members present and Ms. Mello was absent from September's meeting.

MOU Agreement between the Health and ISD Division Signing

Ms. Burke briefly stated that from last meeting Mr. Landers refused to sign the agreement anticipating a union issue, which was if Donna Pickett was to be moved all of the 4300 calls would go with her, it would be an increased burden on her, and the burden would not be shared with other administrative staff in the Health Department. Most of those issues have been taken care of. The Health Inspectors along with Donna Pickett are scheduled to move to the DPW on October 23, 2006. Ms. Burke passed out the five copies of the agreement for the board members to sign.

Director's Report:

Mutual Aid Agreement has been signed by the Mayor and BOH and is now approved.
Ballot Question 1 – Allowing Grocery Stores to Sell Wine – Tammy Rocha, Director of Somerville Cares about Prevention along with Ms. Burke and Ray Zonghetti presented strong research to the Board of Alderman. at their October 12, 2006 meeting. If this law were to be voted in, there would be increased alcohol density, which would subsequently lead to underage access to alcohol. The Somerville Cares about Prevention's main work is working with the youth and educating them about the dangers of alcohol and drug use. Many of Somerville's small liquor stores would be affected by this law passing in reduce sales.

Assistant Health Director Position Dennis Keefe from the Cambridge Health Alliance has agreed to fund the position for \$50,000 for one (1) year.

Flu Vaccines. The MDPH (Mass Dept of Public Health) has told the local health departments that they are experience distribution problems from their manufactures and the flu vaccines will not be come available until late November. The Health Department has already scheduled 18 clinics and they are hoping that they can get a loan of vaccines from the Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA); if not the Health Department will have to reschedule their flu clinics.

The Board of Alderman has approved Trash Ordinance Changes. The four (4) main changes are:

1. All trash will need to be secured in barrels with lids during the week.
2. On trash day the lids can be taken off the barrels
3. Barrels can be 32 gallons with no more than 50lbs of trash in them.
4. Placing plastic bags not in barrels will be prohibited

Public Health Nurse Capacity is being research and we have identified a school nurse position at the Parent Information Center is being underutilized. It would make sense to add public health nurse duties to this position.

Good Times Dr. Green inquired about the Good Times no smoking situation and Ms. Burke told the board that Mr. Pungirum has gone done there on several occasions and they have been in compliance.

MRC (Medical Reserve Corp) Ms. Burke gave a short overview on what is MRC. The MRC is a community-base group of volunteers who can serve during a local emergency health situation and assist with local public health needs throughout the year. The board watched a 15-minute video on the MRC program.

Next Meeting Reminder & Schedule for the Year:

Ms Parra stated at the last meeting that she has to teach on Thursday nights for the Meeting scheduled January through May. Dr. Green, Ms. Mello, Ms. Burke, and Ms. Henkle discussed what other nights that they would be able to attend board meetings. They came up with two options – the first being the 3rd Monday of the month @ 5:00pm and the other option was the 4th Wednesday of the month @ 6:00pm. Ms Henkle will contact Ms. Parra to see if any of these days will work for her.

A motion was made by Ms. Mello to adjourn the meeting @ 5:33pm.
Dr. Green seconded it.

Respectfully Submitted
Kathy Henkle
Administrative Assistant
Health Department