



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
*HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT*

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR

DOUGLAS KRESS  
DIRECTOR

MINUTES  
BOARD OF HEALTH  
Regular Meeting &  
Public Hearing

January 17, 2019

93 Highland Avenue, Somerville MA 02145

**Present:** Douglas Kress, Director  
Brian Green, MD (Chair)  
Paula Machado, Board Member  
Robert Ciccio, Board Member  
Kathy Teixeira, Recording Secretary

**Absent:** None

**Staff Members in Attendance:** Bonny Carroll, Tobacco Director; Matthew Mitchell, Prevention Services Manager;

**Guests:** Carl Sciortino, Kristin Doneski, and Michelle Bordeu from Fenway Health

**Meeting Called to Order:** On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was called to order at 5:40pm. It was seconded by Ms. Machado.

**Previous Minutes:** On a motion made by Dr. Green, the December 13, 2018 minutes were approved and accepted. It was seconded by Ms. Machado. All in Favor. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Dr. Green and Mr. Ciccio were sworn in for their reappointments to the City of Somerville's Board of Health by Mr. Long.

**Fenway Health Presentation:** Mr. Sciortino, the Vice-President of Government & Community Relations along with two of his colleagues, Kristin Doneski and Michelle Bordeau; asked to come in front of the board to show a presentation on their Syringe Service Programs. A couple of years ago, the state law changed, which makes it easier, for local communities to open up syringe exchange programs. Approximately two thousand (2000) statewide deaths due to overdose are still an epidemic. Hundred twenty-nine (129) identified HIV outbreak cases have been linked to drug use. Services offered are syringe exchange, safer drug use and safer sex material, HIV/HCV/STI testing, overdose prevention trainings, and naran distribution, and nursing services. Fenway Health also engages in street and mobile outreach which allows the program to reach individuals in known drug using areas that may not seek services at a fixed location. In the spring, the mobile van will be staffed by outreach workers, and will provide on-site testing; health insurance enrollment, naran training, and medical case management, and syringe exchange where allowable.

**December 13, 2018, Tobacco Hearing Follow-up:** Since Somerville amended the regulations; Needham has voted and amended their regulations. Multiple communities have contacted the City of Somerville inquiring about our changes in our tobacco regulations. We have sent our presentation to Yarmouth, Ashland, Athol, Newton, and Cambridge. We received a public request from Cumberland Farms which requires us to submit resumes, minutes, agendas, emails and any other type of document relating to the regulations.

**Tobacco Updates:** A call came into Bonny Carroll, asking if Somerville allows smoking bars. What do we want to do about membership (private) clubs? A short discussion followed and the board members came into agreement was to leave the regulations alone.

**Director Updates:** The city has moved forward all the rules & regulations regarding recreational marijuana and zoning has passed as well. The city is also in the process of putting together the application and protocol for the applicant in what they need to open up and operate a recreational marijuana establishment. The application should be available on Citzenserve. Once the application is submitted a team of people will be reviewing it which will consist of a committee with representatives from public health, police, planning, and city clerks. The CCC will have the final say if an establishment can open up a marijuana business. Office of Prevention is conducting overdose trainings to businesses. On February 7, 2019, they will also have marijuana. /vaping discussions for adults. On January 31, 2019, the YSB will be presenting their data at the Highlander Café. Three (3) establishments have not renewed their license and the inspectors told them that they will need to appear at the next scheduled board of health meeting.

**Next Meeting:** Upcoming meetings Thursday, February 28, 2019 at 42 Cross Street in East Somerville starting at 6:00pm, and March 21, 2019, location tbd. Since the meeting, a new day and time for our next meeting has been changed from Feb 28<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday, March 5, 2019.

**Adjournment:** On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm. It was seconded by Mr. Ciccia.

**List of Documents:** Sign-In Sheet, Agenda, December 13, 2018 Minutes, Fenway Health Presentation, Regulations Prohibiting Smoking in the Workplaces and Public Places, and Email from DJ Wilson regarding Membership (Private) Clubs definition.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Teixeira (Recording Secretary)  
February 4, 2019