

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

May 12, 2009

The meeting convened at 1:10 PM. Present were Chairman Louis Fazen, III, Members Nancy A. Sacco and Richard H. Seder, Public Health Nurse Leslie Chamberlin, Sanitary Inspector Dennis Costello and Administrative Assistant Barbara M. Luther. Laurie Pardee, RN, Nurse Team Leader for the Northboro/Southborough School District also attended the meeting.

TOPIC	Members were briefed on the agenda and any scheduled appointments
BRIEFING	In the absence of Public Health Director, Paul C. Pisinski, and due to the H1N1 Flu issues, Public Health Nurse Leslie Chamberlin, RN and Laurie Pardee, RN, Northboro/Southborough School Nurse Team Leader briefed the Board Members on their interaction and individual actions since the April 27 th outbreak of the flu.

PETITIONS/PUBLIC HEARINGS

TOPIC	H1N1 (Swine Flu) Influenza First Response
DISCUSSION	Questions and review of H1N1 (Swine Flu) in Massachusetts
ACTION	Mrs. Chamberlin advised the board members of the meetings and activities that she, Mr. Pisinski and the administrative staff had taken or been involved with addressing the flu outbreak after HHAN alerts on Monday April 27, 2009. A meeting with town officials and other emergency preparedness personnel first took place on Tuesday morning April 28, 2009, the day after notification of the Flu outbreak in Massachusetts. The Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Administrator, Fire, Police, Emergency Preparedness Director, Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Health all coordinated on how to address the issues of this flu. Information for the public was added to the Board of Health Webpage which included directing residents to a DPH information line (211), a flu fact sheet, CDC website addresses, and information on what the general public can do to avoid getting or spreading the flu. Staff and Dr. Fazen, all the way from Arizona, participated in Department of Public Health (DPH) Informational Conference Calls, held on several days after the first case in Massachusetts.
PENDING	Continued monitoring of CDC, DPH updates on the flu

TOPIC	H1N1 (Swine Flu) Positive Cases in Southborough
DISCUSSION	Laurie Pardee, RN and Nurse Team Leader for the Northborough/Southborough School Nurses attended the meeting to let the board know what was happening in the schools. She reported that she has contacted the Executive Branch of each town and spoken with both Fire and Police departments. She and the Superintendent of schools together wrote one letter to be sent to all parents in an attempt to calm any hysteria that might be caused by way of the media and rumors about the outbreak. She believes that the concerns have been addressed and parents are being informed, but calmed. Ms. Pardee was asked to share the type of calls that she was receiving regarding the flu. Most of the calls were asking which schools were involved, and how parents should respond if they have a child with a chronic illness. Ms. Pardee said that she feels this outbreak can be used as a "dry run" for any possible pandemic that might hit in the future. The Board suggested that next time it might be good to have the MRC help with phone calls and answering basic questions. Ms. Pardee advised the members

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	<p>that she monitors the daily rate of absenteeism in all the schools and as of this date the rate has not increased nor is it considered excessive. At this point any child with a fever and flu symptoms may return to school prior to the seven days, only with a doctor's note indicating that they do not have the H1N1 virus, all others are required to remain at home for the full 7 days as recommended by the DPH and CDC. The Board would like to use the same "check list" protocol that was provided by the CDC during the regular flu season in the fall. Ms. Pardee advised that two individuals who live in Southborough have tested positive for the virus. These cases were reported to the State and Ms. Chamberlin.</p> <p>A discussion ensued regarding the way the St. Mark's school had handled cases of children with flu symptoms. One day-student from Framingham has tested positive for H1N1. Ms. Chamberlin reported that she has had multiple conversations with St. Mark's school and the Department of Public Health. She believes that proper procedures were followed. St. Mark's has data on the number of sick children; they sent home any ill day students, and isolated all sick residential students in the infirmary. Dr. Fazen spoke to the State Epidemiologist Dr. Madoff, regarding the detail on reporting of the St. Mark's students. Dr. Madoff advised that Southborough was not notified about the St. Mark's day-student because he lives in Framingham. Framingham Board of Health was not able to give the Southborough Board of Health the student's name due to HIPPA laws. A response to an e-mail from the Emergency Preparedness Director, who was concerned with procedure, was sent clarifying the treatment and procedures required to be followed by St. Mark's regarding their student who contracted H1N1. He was advised that procedure was correctly followed, the school's doctor was involved as well as the DPH and the local Board of Health in the student's home town. Ms. Chamberlin made a visit to the St. Mark's Health Center and is in daily communication with the nurses at St. Mark's. She is also satisfied that proper Public Health protocol was followed with all of the three students who became ill, only one of them was found positive for H1N1.</p> <p>Ms. Pardee advised that she is the Health Advisor for the Fay School and is in daily contact with them regarding this flu, the proper procedure and policy. Ms. Chamberlin reported on the two Southborough children who contracted the H1N1 flu and explained her communications and actions with their families and the State DPH regarding these cases. Neither of these children knew each other or had any known contact with the other.</p>
ACTION	<p>The Board thanked Leslie Chamberlin for her efforts in addressing the issues surrounding the outbreak and for her coordination/communication with the schools, Ms. Pardee and town officials. The Board feels that things are in place to properly address any issues that may arise in the future.</p>
PENDING	<p>Continued monitoring and response for any additional cases of H1N1 in Southborough.</p>

TOPIC	Election of Officers
DISCUSSION	<p>2008/2009 Board Chairman, Louis Fazen was re-elected at this year's Annual Town elections. He suggested that as he is working part-time with the U.S.</p>

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	Public Health Service it would be wise to have another chairman and nominated Nancy Sacco. Ms. Sacco suggested that Dr. Fazen remain as Chairman and that she would keep her role as Vice Chairman. Dr. Fazen then suggested that the Board of Health have three Co-Chairs.
ACTION	A motion to have 3 Co-Chairs in 2009/2010 was made and passed unanimously. The meetings for June and July were scheduled; June 10 th at 1:00 for the next meeting and July 8 th in July.

TOPIC	Discussion on Requiring a Board of Health Certificate of Occupancy for all rental properties
DISCUSSION	None
ACTION	Tabled until the June meeting
PENDING	Mr. Pisinski's research, report and recommendations to the Board.

REPORT ON CORE DIRECTIVES

TOPIC	Tobacco Control
DISCUSSION	Town of Southborough Tobacco Regulation and Attorney D. J. Wilson's additions have been joined. Review by the Board to determine final version for adoption. Southborough's Tobacco Vendors were in 100% compliance during the check on their sales to minors.
ACTION	Board Members will review the regulations and vote on them at the next meeting
PENDING	Once the regulations are approved Notice of a Public Hearing will be posted regarding the ban of Hookah and Cigar Bars. Letter of congratulations to be sent to all vendors.

TOPIC	Emergency Preparedness
DISCUSSION	Emergency Prep Booklets delivered. Big Book to have additional copies made at Quik Print, and copies on flash drives.
ACTION	Booklets given to each member. Police Chief and Fire Chief each have a copy.
PENDING	Booklets will also be given to Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, Superintendent of Schools and Laurie Pardee, RN, School Nurse Team Leader, Neal Aspesi, Emergency Prep. Dir. of Operation, Karen Galligan, and Andrew Gleckel, MRC/CERT Coordinator

TOPIC	Wellness/Obesity and Working with other Departments
DISCUSSION	Member Nancy Sacco reported that she and the Recreation Dept. will hold a modified "Walk to School Day" on May 20 th for kids at Finn School. They will walk from satellite locations to participate in Physical Fitness month. The satellite location will have an adult to walk with the kids and provide a safe route. School Nurse Dale Burgess, RN is getting her Master's Degree in Health and

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	would like to work with the Board of Health on Wellness and Obesity. Ms. Burgess asked if the Board is looking to get a grant from the Metro West Public Health Foundation.
ACTION	
PENDING	Dale Burgess, RN for Southborough Public Schools will be invited to another Meeting to discuss Obesity in the schools and see if she will write the grant for the Board of Health

TOPIC	Wellness/Obesity and Working with other Departments
DISCUSSION	Public Health Nurse Leslie Chamberlin went to the Quarterly Meeting of the Northboro/Southborough School Nurses. She reported that the school district has put a lot of work into menus; kids are only allowed “sweet deserts” twice per week. On other days fruits are on the menu.

NOTIFICATION OF ACTIONS BETWEEN MEETINGS & PENDING ITEMS

TOPIC	Housing Complaint Hearing requested
DISCUSSION	Town Counsel re: 188 Cordaville Rd. – no date set as of 5/7/09
PENDING	Court Date

TOPIC	Report on SDS conditions at 49 Boston Rd. – issues with community garden
DISCUSSION	The Housing Authority had requested that a letter be sent from the Board of Health stating that the “community garden” at the complex was not adversely affected by the septic breakout last month. They were advised that there is nothing in the code, nor does the Southborough Board of Health restrict planning over the leaching area of a septic system. However, no letter will be provided due to liability issues.
ACTION	Board members agreed with the Director’s decision

TOPIC	Facilities Department will be replacing the “visitor” signs with “Handicap Parking” signs out back.
DISCUSSION	FYI

TOPIC	Julie Maneus – Partnership for Healthy Pathways
DISCUSSION	Ms. Julie Maneus introduced herself and gave a brief history of her education and work experience. She is now with Partnership for Healthy Pathways and is conducting a program in connection with five towns; Northborough, Southborough, Westborough, Shrewsbury and Grafton. The State Grant was awarded to Shrewsbury and Grafton Youth and Family Services, but the other 3 towns are included in the project. In Southborough she is working with Trottier School and wants to get into Algonquin H.S. as well. She is now in the assessment stage and will present a strategic plan at the beginning of the next school year. In Southborough she is focusing on a “youth diversion program.

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	<p>When the police pick up kids with marijuana the new law imposes a fine, but it is believed that there should be an educational component in the process. Ms. Maneus provides a three session educational program for first time offenders. She explained how she is working with the six kids now going through the program, but advised that no one has completed the full program as of yet. The Board asked if she was seeking access to people who might want to be involved. She stated that she is in hopes of the Board being able to direct her to both kids and parents who would be willing to meet with her and answer some assessment questions. She has scheduled some interviews with kids at Trottier School next week. The kids will be asked to also fill out an anonymous questionnaire. She has noticed that in the rather homogeneous groups she has interviewed to date parents are not aware of the extent of the drug and alcohol activity that is out there in their kid's world. Teens seem to be very aware, but parents aren't willing to believe that the exposure is there let alone that their kids might participate. She would like to be able to interview both parents and teens.</p>
ACTION	<p>Ms. Maneus was told that board members could connect her with some parents of middle school and older kids whom might be willing to go to the Youth and Family Services office on Central St. to be interviewed. Because this project fits so nicely into the Board's "Healthy Community" goals, the offer was made to "advertise" this program and the need for interviewees on the Board of Health Web Page. Ms. Maneus was asked to e-mail the information she wanted on the site and the staff would place it there. Awareness will be part of the strategic plan.</p>
PENDING	<p>Continuing contact with Ms. Maneus and information for the Board of Health Web Site.</p>

TOPIC	Other Business
DISCUSSION	<p>Minutes of the April 13, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved. Annual Board of Health Gathering will be held again this year on Wednesday, June 10th following the Board of Health Meeting. Dinner will be at Wildwood Steak House. Everyone is invited to meet at Dr. Louis Fazen's home for refreshments at 5:30 PM and then at the restaurant for 6:45PM reservations.</p>

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara M. Luther, Board of Health Administrative Assistant