



**MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
January 13, 2011**

The monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Boston Public Health Commission was held on Thursday, January 13, 2011 in the Hayes Conference Room at the offices of the Boston Public Health Commission, 1010 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston, MA 02118.

**Board Members Present:**

Ruth Ellen Fitch, JD  
Celia Wcislo  
Kathleen Walsh  
Harold Cox  
Joseph Betancourt, MD, MPH

**Board Members Absent:**

Paula Johnson, MD, MPH, Chair  
Jack Cradock

**Also Present Were:**

Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Nancy Norman, John Townsend, Nakisha Skinner, Maia Brodyfield, Pam Jones, Debra Paul, Chuck Gagnon, James Hooley, Paul Shoemaker, Tiffany Skogstrom, Gerry Thomas, Leon Bethune, Gerry Byrne, Aliza Wasserman, Tim Harrington, Ann Scales, PJ McCann, Carol Fabyan, Lynsey Avalone, Catriona Wilkey, Nikysha Harding, Matt Erlich, Catherine Fine, Charles Naney, Deborah Allen, Daisy DeLaRosa, Anne McHugh, Margaret Reid, Rosaline Valcimond

**Visitors:**

Lyndon Vincent, Youth Options Unlimited; Steve Smith, Boston College; Elizabeth Dugan, Boston Medical Center; Chris Byner, Boston Centers for Youth and Families

**Proceedings:**

***Chairwoman's Comments***

Ruth Ellen Fitch, JD

- Vice Chair Fitch called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM. The minutes of the December 16, 2010 board meeting were approved.

## ***Executive Director's Report***

Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, Med

- Dr. Ferrer informed the Board that Vince Droser, Vice President of Development for Trinity Financial (Trinity) had passed away. Dr. Ferrer noted that Trinity is still interested in moving forward with the Northampton Square project and that the informational meetings with residents were re-scheduled. Board Member Wcislo expressed her approval and support for the continued positive relationship with Trinity.
- Dr. Ferrer thanked the Boston Public Health Commission (Commission) staff as well as Board Member Cox for their attendance at the employee award celebration held on January 6, 2011. A sample video shown at the awards dinner was played. The full-length video is posted online on the Commission's *YouTube* page. The theme of the evening was "superheroes". Dr. Ferrer acknowledged the hard work Ann Scales and her team dedicated to the creation of the video. Dr. Ferrer noted that the annual awards event is a good opportunity to thank staff and acknowledge accomplishments. Board Member Cox expressed his enjoyment and approval of the event, stating that it was a very nice way to express appreciation for Commission staff.
- Dr. Ferrer noted that the Commission's goals to eliminate health disparities were acknowledged at the Mayor's State of the City address on January 11, 2011. The Neighbor Care Initiative was introduced by the Mayor as a means of expanding the community health center function. Dr. Ferrer stated that more information, including the Mayor's perspective, would be sent to the Board Members regarding this new initiative. Board Member Wcislo noted that community health centers are critical for primary care and helping to eliminate health disparities.

## ***Nail Salon Regulations: Proposed Amendments***

Nakisha Skinner, General Counsel

- Atty. Skinner discussed the receipt of thirty-one comments regarding the regulation. Fifteen of these comments were written and sixteen were delivered orally at the public hearing held on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010. Atty. Skinner noted that the main opposition to the regulation comes from the Massachusetts Board of Cosmetology. The Board of Cosmetology's primary concern is the potential for confusion in obtaining required licenses and navigating state as well as the new local regulation. Atty. Skinner noted that the Board of Cosmetology was not represented at the public hearing nor did they submit additional written comment on the specific regulatory language in response to a special invitation extended after the formal public comment period was closed. Atty. Skinner also noted that the Board of Cosmetology has been asserting that it is in the process of amending its existing regulation since at least 2007. Notwithstanding said opposition from the Board of Cosmetology, Atty. Skinner recommended that the proposed regulation be adopted. Board Member Cox expressed hope that the Commission will continue to work with the Board of Cosmetology to identify overlapping areas in the two sets of regulations and make it easy for salon owners to comply with both.
- Several amendments to the Nail Salon Regulation were proposed, including an amendment to Section 4.7 which deals with air quality and ventilation. Board Member Cox requested more information regarding expected methods of airflow improvement in salons to comply with the amended ventilation requirement. Atty. Skinner responded that the proposed amendment allows for a process through which the Commission can work with salon owners on a case-by-case basis to determine the most appropriate resolution. Also included in the amendments was an increase from ninety days to one-

hundred-eighty days in Section 15, indicating the number of days between the passage of the regulation and its taking effect.

- Board Member Cox asked whether there would be fines associated with the proposed regulation. Atty. Skinner stated that the first offense would result in a fine of \$100, the second offense would result in a fine of \$200, and each offense after that would be \$300. After a third offense the Commission would start looking into whether the salon's license should be revoked. The Board asked if any warnings would be given to salon owners. Atty. Skinner responded that no warnings will be given, however salons will be given an opportunity to correct errors before the initial fine is placed. Board Member Cox asked whether this is consistent with other regulations that have been passed by the Board, Atty. Skinner responded that it is consistent.

#### **VOTE**

- The Resolution to Adopt the Nail Salon Regulation was read into the record and the board voted unanimously in favor.

The votes were as follows: 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 absent.

#### ***Partners Advancing Communities Together ("PACT")***

Roy Martin, PACT, Child and Adolescent Health Division

Catherine Fine, Director, Violence Prevention Division

- The PACT program is responsible for identifying and providing services to individuals who are most likely to become victims or perpetrators of violent crime and identifying ways in which supporting agencies can come together for this purpose. Out of 236 possible clients 34 have been incarcerated and 72 are in regular contact with PACT. The importance of creating a relationship with clients was expressed and it was noted that when clients were asked about major concerns 31% answered education and 40% answered employment. It was only after a relationship was cultivated that more individuals admitted to concerns about obtaining further education.
- PACT is assisted by five city service providers. The Boston Center for Youth and Families (BCYF) provides street workers. The Commission provides outreach and service connection. Youth Options Unlimited (YOU) provides employment and case management. Youth Connect provides clinical case management. Violence Intervention Advocacy Program (VIAP) provides rehabilitation and case management. Bi-weekly case assignment reviews and monthly case reviews are conducted and regular contact between agencies is maintained.
- The Board heard from four members of the various agencies involved in PACT: Elizabeth Dugan, a program manager at the Emergency Department at Boston Medical Center, Lynden Vincent, a case worker at YOU, Roy Martin, a program manager at the Commission, and Chris Byner a BCYF street worker. All four of these members expressed the importance of maintaining positive relationships with clients and aiding in developing a positive family and community support base in the area where the individual lives.
- Dr. Ferrer acknowledged that all of these agencies were able to commit to PACT and provide these services without any new staff or additional funding, with the exception of a stipend from the Mayor for youth employment and participation with YOU. Board Member Wcislo expressed eagerness for the next update.

**Update: Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW)**

Margaret Reid, Director, Healthy Homes & Community Supports Division

Anne McHugh, Director, Chronic Disease Prevention & Control Division

- The Center for Disease Control provided funding to CPPW for tobacco and obesity prevention with the expectation that significant policy systems and environmental changes would be achieved by March 18, 2012.
- Ms. Reid recognized Nikysha Harding, Tobacco Director and Odessa Ortiz, CPPW Tobacco Project Director. CPPW has three overarching goals regarding tobacco: (1) to reduce effectiveness of tobacco marketing; (2) to eliminate exposure to residential and environmental smoke; and (3) to increase the effectiveness of cessation infrastructure and tools.
- Ms. Reid stated that at some point there should be discussion regarding the compliance data for CPPW tobacco goals and noted that youth are being sold other tobacco products at higher rates than actual cigarettes.
- CPPW sent out an RFA providing funding and technical assistance to properties transitioning to smoke-free housing.
- Ms. Reid stated she would email cessation benefits documents to the Board Members. CPPW also includes a comprehensive tobacco free hospital policy, including maintenance of smoke free campuses, integration of screening and cessation practices, and ensuring cessation benefits to employees. It was also noted that a smoking cessation “patch giveaway” was held from October 1, 2010 to January 11, 2011 with 359 callers requesting patches. Board Member Wcislo noted that it would be helpful to look into whether other hospitals and health centers have this level of practices for tobacco cessation, and to involve the City in tobacco discussions. Board Member Wcislo also offered to help where possible.
- Ms. McHugh introduced Daisy DeLaRosa as the Project Director for the Obesity Initiative.
- Goals for the obesity initiative include reducing sugar sweetened beverage consumption, encouraging active transportation, and supporting urban food production such as community gardens. Other goals for the obesity initiative are increasing the frequency and quality of physical education and activity through the Boston Public Schools Initiative and a new curriculum called “Spark” and implementing a physical activity referral system to be launched in January 2011. While this initiative is aimed at all residents of the city, special consideration shall be made for Black and Latino residents in response to current disparity levels in those groups.
- A youth targeted obesity campaign group called the Youth Media Council launched a *YouTube* contest from September to November of 2010. The winners were announced in November and the communications office will now use the materials submitted to develop a broader campaign to be made public in the summer of 2011. The adult focused campaign is currently being developed to launch in the Spring of 2011.
- Hospital support has been solicited for the tobacco initiative as well. Hospital learning network meetings have already been held.
- The Complete Streets program hopes to improve pedestrian and bike safety in the streets of Boston by encouraging increased helmet use, identifying unsafe areas, and promoting street and sidewalk redesign. Board Member Wcislo suggested making it possible for people to send in photographs of streets that are bad for bikers or pedestrians, similarly to the City of Boston’s mobile application used to report potholes.

***Adjournment***

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:04 PM.

**Submitted By:**

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**Jamie L. Martin, Secretary**