

Dr. Nancy Norman called the Meeting to order at 4:07 PM.

Dr. Nancy Norman stated that the Board would have to approve the March 2007 minutes at the next meeting, due to a lack of a quorum.

Dr. Nancy Norman introduced Julie Webster of the Legal Department as the new Board secretary for the day and possibly for the future. Dr. Norman also introduced Christine Hayes of the Legal Department. The Board welcomed Julie Webster and Christine Hayes.

Dr. Norman gave the floor to Valerie Bassett, who is the Director of Intergovernmental Relations and Public Health Advocacy.

Valerie Bassett introduces Sarah Almer and asked her to give an update regarding legislation. The Board welcomed Sarah Almer to the Commission.

Sarah Almer stated that the Health Ways and Means Committee came out with their budget last week which comes on the heels of the governor's budget. The Commission will be focusing on amendment strategies to quickly get and continue funding for the Commission. The top priority is funding for the bureau of substance abuse services. The Commission would like to annualize supplemental monies passed to us through the budget. The Commission is looking at outreach enrollment work around health reform as well as money for the sharing grant and other items as well.

Valerie introduced the new Director of Communications, Ann Scales taking over for Tom Lyons who left to go to the Department of Public Health. Ms. Scales was formally a reporter and editor at the Boston Globe. The Board welcomed Ann Scales to the Commission.

Dr. Norman updated the Board on the transition of leadership at the Commission. Dr. Norman stated that the first two weeks have been a learning experience. Dr. Norman summarized a couple of articles in the Globe regarding Improving Oral Health for the residents of this city, and a national salmonella outbreak caused by turtles. Even though it was a national issue, the Commission issued an advisory for purchasing these turtles in the Boston area.

Another issue was the illegal sale of prescription drugs, particularly antibiotics. The Commission is continuing to work with the city regarding regulations and the selling of prescription drugs, focusing mostly around education. Information was sent out to schools and hospitals in English and Chinese. The Commission is working on having translations done in Spanish and Vietnamese. Dr. Norman stated that these were just a few of the more interesting things the Commission is working on.

The Commission will present the budget for review to the city council in the 11<sup>th</sup> of June, just a month before the new Executive Director Barbara Ferrer comes on board.

### **Updates on Recently Approved Regulations:**

#### **Biological Laboratory Regulations – Anthony Gemmellaro**

Anthony Gemmellaro gave a brief update on Biological Laboratory Regulations. The Board had some questions regarding the permits and fees. Only one entity has filed a permit application to date.

Ruth Ellen asked is there is a fee for permits. Anthony replied that there is no fee. Dr. Paula Johnson stated that it would be helpful if we had some kind of schematic for the Board's edification. John Townsend briefly reviewed the inspection protocols for the regulations and stated that he would provide the Board with a schematic of the inspection program. Elaine Ullian asked who filed the permit. Anthony informed the Board that Harvard Medical School applied for a permit.

#### **Data Collection Regulation – Meghan Patterson**

Meghan Patterson gave a presentation to the Board around Data Collection regulations. Elaine Ullian stated that it is difficult to collect data even when you are working in a hospital where 75% of your patients are non-white. It is not easy with the comfort level of asking for information to distill that type of caring and how to handle it when the person on the other side of the desk may not be comfortable. Asking these sensitive questions is not easy. It's really important to do, but having lived through it, she has tremendous respect for the complexity of the work. It's not just saying are you male or female. Overall she thinks it is a great project.

Dr. Paula Johnson said as much as we train secretarial and clerical staff, it's really important to train the professional staff actually providing healthcare services. We need the involvement of everyone. Dr. Paula Johnson suggested that it would be worthwhile to send something out to the professional staff, saying we need your help to make this happen.

Dr. Nancy Norman asked Megan if we had reached out to the professional staff. Megan replied that we have not done so.

#### **Narcan Regulation – Andy Epstein**

Andy Epstein gave a brief update of the Opiate Overdose Prevention and Reversal Pilot Program. Ms. Epstein would like to continue the program as a regular program and would like to target younger people. Some ideal locations would be methadone clinics, detox centers and homeless shelters.

Dr. Paula Johnson asked if we had a sense of the trial period and how many other deaths occurred. Andy stated that we have a state-wide system to see if we can get the data in a reasonable time. The Commission is looking at existing databases. Dr. Peter Moyer, Medical Director, EMS, stated that he went out with the van and was impressed with the outcome.

Dr. Moyer also stated that the police presence was not a problem and had not prohibited the use of the program. EMS dispenses Narcan approximately five times a month.

Rita Nieves, Director for the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services stated that Maya Doe-Simkins and Andy Epstein provide education and train clients in the use of Nasal Narcan. Rita stated that the pilot provides different forms of education in early prevention and that it makes sense to train and engage people in Narcan. Dr. Norman replied that it is a great pilot. Andy Epstein asked the Board to continue with the program. The Commission is waiting for state-wide approval to continue the Narcan program.

**Consolidated Agreement – Walter Ramos**

Walter Ramos gave a brief update of the consolidation agreement. The consolidation agreement was originally entered into in 1995. The term of the extended agreement is 5 years with a budget of four million dollars. Anything over 4 million dollars will be split 50/50 between Boston Medical Center and the Boston Public Health Commission. The financial services' is the largest component of the agreement. The next step is for the City of Boston to look at and move towards execution.

Ruth Ellen Fitch inquired as to the term of the agreement. Walter responded that the term is 5 years.

Dr. Paula Johnson asked if the billing will be done by Boston Medical Center or another agency. Walter replied, yes, billing would be done through Boston Medical Center and the Commission would operate under their medical license.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.