

David Mulligan, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:12 PM.

David Mulligan, Chair, welcomed Dr. Barbara Ferrer as the new Executive Director.

Dr. Barbara Ferrer thanked Dr. Nancy Norman and the leadership team for all of their work during the Interim period.

**Board vote to approve June minutes:**

David Mulligan, Chair, made a motion to accept the June minutes. The Motion was seconded and approved.

The Board made motions which were seconded and approved to appoint Julie Webster as the Board Secretary, to give signatory authority of Cheryl Overs as the new Director of Finance and the vote to approve the Boston Public Health Commission's FY08 budget.

**Board vote to appoint Board Secretary:**

Yeas 4 Na's 0 Absent 3

**Board vote regarding the Signatory Authority for Cheryl Overs:**

Yeas 4 Na's 0 Absent 3

**Board vote to approve Boston Public Health Commission Budget:**

Yeas 4 Na's 0 Absent 3

**Violence Prevention Update/Community Dialogues Report – Maia Brodyfield**

Maia Brodyfield, Senior Policy Advisor, gave a brief update regarding community meetings hosted by the Commission to discuss violence prevention. The goal is to increase public awareness to violence as a public health issue.

Celia Wcislo asked whether the meeting included children. Ms. Brodyfield reported that the children included a combination of youth from the Boston Area Health Education Center program and other community based programs.

**Youth Development Network Initiative – Dr. Barbara Ferrer**

Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Executive Director, gave a brief update regarding a new program at the Commission, the youth development network initiative. The goal of the program is to serve youth at risk in Boston. The focus will be on strengthening, expanding and coordinating youth programs. Dr. Ferrer stated that the Mayor has repeatedly stressed that violence is preventable and that it is a public health issue.

David Mulligan asked if there is an upswing in gunshots and knife wounds. Elaine Ullian responded that from the hospital perspective there is a huge upswing and that there are a large number of cases. When there is a gang related shooting or stabbing, gang members of both the victim and the rival gang members congregate in the hospital waiting room.

David Mulligan asked if there is a way to know if someone is coming into the hospital with a gun. Elaine Ullian stated that it's a big issue and a real challenge.

Dr. Ferrer stated that in the summertime there is an even higher risk for violence. We can do short term work in the summer but long term work has to be done. Dr. Ferrer stated that we have

to start looking at the culture of violence and we need to give the youth tools and alternative cultures.

David Mulligan stated that gun availability is a huge issue.

**Recent Drill Report & September Update – Suzanne Crowther/John Jacobs**

Suzanne Crowther, Director of Emergency Preparedness, discussed a recent practice drill where we dispensed simulated medication to 1,998 people in an hour with an accuracy rate of 98.8%. Ms. Crowther spoke regarding working closely with the Boston Police Department as they focus on the security issue involved in an emergency situation. The national goal was to serve antibiotics to 1,000 people per hour which Boston exceeded.

John Jacobs, Deputy Director, Emergency Preparedness, gave a brief update regarding the cities readiness initiative. The focus of the September 22 and 23, 2007 drill “Testing Ourselves” is to exercise part of our emergency preparedness plans to distribute medicine to every household in Boston by partnering with the United States Postal Service. Mr. Jacobs stated that there is a possibility of a one-time use of USPS mail carriers who will deliver a single bottle of antibiotics to every residential address in the city. In order to rehearse for such a scenario, the Boston Public Health Commission will participate in a USPS drill. Each letter carrier will be paired with a Boston Police officer. The program will only provide limited coverage in the event of a disaster and will be tested in two Boston zip codes in an upcoming exercise.

Celia Wcislo asked if hospitals were involved in conjunction with the developing of the plans. She also raised the issue regarding crowd control.

Celia Wcislo questioned why we would not give a one-plus day supply to everyone in household instead of a ten day supply to one adult.

**Healthy Nutrition – Marketing Healthy Messages – Roger Swartz**

Roger Swartz, Director, Community Initiatives Bureau, gave a brief update regarding healthy eating initiatives including a social marketing campaign “Get healthy now.” Community wide messages will be spread to elders, families with children and people with disabilities, about staying healthy with a good diet.

David Mulligan stated that the next big issue after tobacco use is the food issue.

Celia Wcislo asked how many restaurants are on broad right now for the Boston Best Bites program. Mr. Swartz, replied about 20.

**Long Island Organic Farm Stand – John Christian**

John Christian, Director, Serving Ourselves, Homeless Services, gave a brief update regarding the farm t Long Island Shelter. Mr. Christian stated that the farm has the only NOFA (National Organic Farmers Association) certification in Boston. Approximately, about 80% of the produce goes into Homeless Shelter and 20% they sell to the public.

**Homeless Services – Re-Entry Program – John Christian**

John Christian, Director, Long Island Re-Entry Program, gave a brief update regarding a new program to support re-entry from prison, substance abuse treatment and reintegration. The goal is to maintain sobriety, re-integrate and reduce recidivism.

Celia Wcislo asked whether we have anyone who signs the participants up for the Commonwealth Care health benefits. Mr. Christian replied that they get signed up for MassHealth and food stamps immediately and they have Healthcare for the Homeless right at the shelter.

Legislative Update & Trans Fat Restaurant Ban Bill – Maddie Ribble

Maddie Ribble, Coordinator for Public Health Advocacy, gave a brief legislative update. Overall, the State FY08 budget is good for public health. Mr. Ribble stated that the Department of Public Health's Substance Abuse Program was cut by 4 million.

There is a bill before the legislature to ban trans fat in restaurants statewide. David Mulligan requested that a letter in support of the trans fat bill be sent from the Boston Public Health Commission to the legislature regarding the Board's support of this bill.

Mr. Ribble stated that on October 1, 2007 the Health Safety Net Trust Fund will begin. There is a concern that the free care pool doesn't cover ambulance services.

Dr. Ferrer stated that about \$11 million, which is about 25% of EMS' budget, comes from the free care pool. She will be joined by the Mayor and Rich Serino at a meeting with Dr. Bigby. In addition, the Boston Public Health Commission will testify at the August 22, 2007 hearing regarding the free care pool. Dr. Ferrer also stated that the language in the present bill is about the same as the new bill regarding ambulance services and we have managed previously to get reimbursed via special agreements with the state.

**Executive Director's Report – Dr. Barbara Ferrer**

Dr. Barbara Ferrer spoke regarding the cook-out in Mattapan for the Entre-Familia, Families in Recovery Program and thanked Dr. Hortensia Amaro for all of her hard work and dedication to the program.

Dr. Ferrer gave a quick update regarding the format of the Board packets going forward. Dr. Ferrer stated that we will be sending out 2 packets a month. The first will contain the minutes from the meeting along with any follow-ups which the Board requested. The second packet will go out a week before the meeting with the agenda and materials, so that the Board will have an opportunity to review everything and make any changes to the agenda.

Dr. Ferrer spoke regarding the permitting of the Bio 3 level labs. Dr. Ferrer stated that we have met the initial deadline. One entity has completed the process and has been given a 3 year permit. The other 6 have been issued provisional permits for 60 or 90 days. Out of the six, four have provisional permits for 60 days. The other two sites were given 90 day provisional permits because they are dealing with an agent that we feel we need to involve the fire department for their input.

Dr. Ferrer stated that the 7 entities did a great job of meeting our requirements and that they are taking the regulations very seriously. Dr. Ferrer stated that the regulations are great and the guidelines clarify everything.

Celia Wcislo requested that the Board be given the list of entities and the names of the labs. Dr. Ferrer stated that we would provide the list and the names to the members the following day.

David Mulligan thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 5:50 PM.

