

LONGMEADOW BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes of Meeting

Monday, December 17, 2007 7:30P.M. Longmeadow Fire Dept.Community Rm.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M. by the Chair.

BOH members present were: Dr. Michael Coppola, Dr. Richard Steingart, Maripat Toye, RN, MS, Dr. Robert Rappaport and Dr. Barry Izenstein. Beverly Hirschhorn, CHO, Longmeadow Health Director, was also present.

- 1) Public comment was available at the beginning of this meeting; no residents present to address public comments.
- 2) The minutes of the regular BOH meeting of September 17, 2007 were unanimously approved and accepted without amendment.
- 3) Communicable Disease Report:
 - a) Nine cases of pertussis have been reported within the last month all epidemiologically related to members of the Longmeadow High School Junior Varsity Football Team.
 - b) Approximately 1200 individuals were immunized with flu vaccine; 1000 residents (state-supplied vaccine) and 200 teachers/town workers (purchased vaccine). MRC volunteers assisted at the main clinic held on Nov. 28 at Greenwood Center; over 500 individuals were vaccinated at that time. Approximately 75 individuals were vaccinated during nursing home visits. Additional clinics were also held including a clinic at Emerson Manor and an evening clinic for caregivers of the elderly and small children under 6 years of age.
- 4) Budget preparation for FY'09 was discussed. There will be no increase in the BOH budget line items except for required employee step/COLA increases.
- 5) A housing issue regarding housing code violations at 96 Redfern was discussed by the BOH. Mark Denver has sent a letter to the owners regarding the violations and the house is presently empty. Beverly will keep the BOH apprised regarding this situation.
- 6) The policy on "Guidelines for Required TB testing prior to Student Exposure" and Expanded Pre-Employment policy for TB testing for school department personnel and contractors was reviewed and discussed by the BOH. The policy was voted upon with unanimous approval by the BOH in favor of the policy as updated and written.
- 7) Tobacco grant: Beverly has written an "extension" grant on behalf of the Towns of Longmeadow, Hampden, Wilbraham, East Longmeadow who are the members of the Scantic Valley Insurance Trust, an employee health insurance buying cooperative. This grant would fund the hiring of a "wellness coordinator" for the employees of all four town. The purpose and goal of this role is to promote healthy lifestyles and offer preventive health supports and prevention education on health issues for town employees. The program will complete a needs assessment of the town's employee health status and health preventative needs, and plan data-based programs to address the identified health risks (e.g. smoking; depression; cardio-vascular health risks such as obesity, sedentary life-style, high Cholesterol). Interventions could include employee walking groups, cessation counseling, nutrition counseling and demos.)

- 8) An application for a massage license was submitted to request a variance for the number of required hours. The applicant has 748 hours of acceptable training hours and the requirement is for 750. The individual (Gina Welch) has experience and will be employed by Curves in Longmeadow. The BOH voted unanimously to approve this variance.

The "massage license" is expected to become a state license requirement in the near future in Massachusetts.

9 There were no tobacco compliance check violations during the recent tobacco check.

9) The associate non-voting member to serve on the BOH (as voted upon at the Town meeting) has not been chosen yet by the Selectmen.

10) An update on Emergency Preparedness: Hampden County Deliverable and Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) were given by Beverly. The town has 140 volunteers and 120 are MD's or RN's. 40 have completed the total training requirements. (MRC 101, Incident Command Structure 100/National Incident Management System 700 (on line- www.wmmrc.org) and Behavioral Health in Emergency Situations as well. Thirty volunteers attended the December 3, 2007 lecture by a MDPH staff psychologist on "Psychological First Aid." This lecture will be available on tape for future trainings.

The BOH meeting was adjourned at 8:05P.M to go into executive session.

The BOH made the motion to return to Open Meeting BOH meeting session at 8:30 P.M.

The BOH adjourned the regular open meeting at 8:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Maripat Toye, RN, MS, Longmeadow BOH