



Town of Oak Bluffs
Board of Health
P.O. Box 1327
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**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
July 23, 2019 – MINUTES**

William White
Chairman

James Butterick
Thomas Zinno
Board Members

Meegan Lancaster
Health Agent

Members Present: William White, Thomas Zinno, James Butterick

Others Present: Meegan Lancaster, Lorna Welch, Susan Mercier, Julie Fay, Kathy Laskowski, Richard Seelig, Renee Nolan, Kelley Ellsworth

Chairman White called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

APPOINTMENTS:

- **Susan Mercier – Island Wide Youth Collaborative (IWYC)**
 - **Presentation on services that IWYC provides to youth in the community**

Ms. Mercier, Program Director of IWYC and Ms. Fay, Executive Director of MVCS provided the Board copies of the overview of services. They also explained the specific services that they have been providing to students through funding from the Boards of Health on the Island for the past few years. Ms. Mercier stated that IWYC is a Massachusetts family resource center and is funded through a 10 year contract with the Department of Children & Families. They work very closely with schools, counselors, the Dept. of Children & Families (DCF) and work with families who are in crisis or on the brink of a crisis. Some examples services provided are mental health, substance abuse, housing, food equity, immigration, medical, etc. They get referrals mostly from schools but also from mental health therapists, churches as well as many self-referrals or through friends & family.

Ms. Fay described how the program came about stating that in 2014 Community Services collaborated with the YMCA, the school system, the hospital and the Youth Task Force and formed the IWYC to come up with ways to support services for kids on the island. They have received grants to provide their staff with training to address many issues. The contract with DCF is very prescribed in which they tell you what they want you to do and how they want you to do it. They starting hiring recovery coaches to help with the Opioid epidemic but due to the prescribed contract they did not have the money to put the coaches in the schools. The schools continue to deal with a big addiction problem, as well as issues with vaping and opiates.

Ms. Mercier stated that they have received funding from the Boards of Health budgets on the island for the past 3 or 4 years. Recovery coaching is a service funded by the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services but because they do not pay for services rendered to people under the age of 18 the Boards of Health have been funding a program at the cost of \$13,500 per year, collectively through each town. Mr. White asked how that is allocated. Ms. Mercier replied that the 50/50 formula is utilized. The Oak Bluffs portion of that was about \$2800.00. With this money they are able to hire recovery coaches to go into the schools and provide one on one counseling for kids as well as group/parent support which has been quite successful. Mr. White asked what makes it successful. Ms. Mercier responded that kids are utilizing the services and based on the data of the 33 young people that they served, some of which were mandated to participate, 28 of them chose to continue to get services on an ongoing basis. They are also hoping to see a significant drop in the vaping in the next year or two with services in place.

They recently received funding from the Dept. of Mental Health to have an Urgent Care Center. David Araujo has been promoted to get the program up and running. The idea is to deal with crisis situations before they escalate for instance, in the first year alone they had a 43% decrease in adolescent psych hospitalizations.

Mr. Butterick asked how they are looking to monitor the vaping in the schools. Ms. Mercier responded that as far as she knows they have closed certain bathrooms and that they are monitoring them more closely. The High School also has a very robust peer to peer program and they are getting a lot of referrals through that. They are also doing a lot of educating about the facts of what the substances are doing.

CORRESPONDANCE:

- **Kathy Laskowski – Sanitary Facilities at Pay and Inkwell Beaches**

Ms. Laskowski of the Oak Bluffs Citizens Beach Committee (OBCBC) stated that after the Master Plan came out last year there was discussion about doing a trial of porta-potties on the beaches in August. Earlier in the season they had a complaint by Isabel's Beach House of beach-goers asking to use her bathroom going on to say that if she says no people have used her yard. The OBCBC wanted to bring this idea for the potties to the Selectmen and BOH. Mr. Zinno mentioned that they have three potties in Menemsha. Mr. White asked what the cost would be. Mr. Seelig replied that Araujo Brothers charges \$25 per cleaning for each unit so if it needs to be cleaned 2X per day then it would be \$50 per day and there is no rental fee. He felt that if the trial run went well then potentially a structure, like at South Beach, could be constructed.

Ms. Lancaster explained that the Board of Health has no local regulations as they pertain to porta-potties but if a nuisance issue were to arise then the BOH would need to become involved. She stated that her main concern is determining the number of porta-potties needed for the number of people for the duration of the event. She expressed concern that if this process is started with an insufficient quantity of potties we will quickly have a public health nuisance situation in which case the BOH will have to become involved. As much as she thinks it is a reasonable project she would strongly caution against placing one or two at the beach to see how it goes because it could go bad quickly and the office would likely receive complaints. Further discussion continued. Mr. Zinno suggested taking this to the Selectmen and possibly creating a facility that could be tied into town sewer as porta-potties are a bit of an eyesore and could pose issues with storms etc.

- **Gail Barmakian – Progress report cesspool upgrade for 67 S. Circuit Ave.**

Ms. Lancaster stated that Ms. Barmakian has accepted a bid by JJ Healy of CLAYCO. Ms. Barmakian sent an email to the Health Agent stating that the installation at her property is not as straight forward or as easy as the BOH members may think and placement, excavation and hook up is quite complicated. Ms. Lancaster will continue to follow-up with Ms. Barmakian.

AGENT REPORT / OLD / NEW BUSINESS:

- **Review and signing of Island Health Care Nursing Contract**

Ms. Lancaster had to address a couple of issues we had last year which was timeliness of billing and the fashion in which they are billing. They stated that they were utilizing the shared services coding because they found that billing very specific things to specific towns became complicated. She contacted IHC to let them know that this practice is not acceptable. They will reallocate the shared services and credit the first bill for the fiscal year 2020. The Board members reviewed the contract prior to the meeting and signed the contract.

- **Food operations conducted without temporary permit – Yommi Pops / Smoak BBQ (Moveable Feast Catering)**

Ms. Lancaster explained that there were two events that were conducted without permits. Yommi Pops were food vendors at the Featherstone Flea Market and Smoak BBQ were food vendors at the MVCMA Sunset Concert Series for two weeks without a permit. She noted that at the current time we do not have a fine structure in place for these violations but will work towards getting it sorted out as part of the regulations overhaul in the fall.

- **Blueprint for Public Health Excellence**

Ms. Lancaster provided the board with a copy of the DPH Executive Summary of the Blueprint for Public Health Excellence. The DPH came out with an assessment which defines effectiveness and efficiency of local public health. Massachusetts is unique insofar as having individual towns with individual Boards of Health as across the country, health departments are frequently county based. Ms. Lancaster asked the Board to review the document in preparation for reviewing our current practices, develop a mission statement and set goals for the department in preparation for submission of the 2021 budget.

- **Tularemia Flyer**

Ms. Lancaster presented a flyer that was developed by the Island Health Agents and the public health nursing staff noting that there have been two more non-fatal cases of Tularemia since the death last summer. The health agents would like to do some outreach by distributing the flyers to businesses and the high school for the horticultural program. They would like to offer some educational outreach about the best mask (N95) that can be used and how to properly fit it.

Ms. Ellsworth stated that she is a PA student and works with Vineyard Medical Care. She had a Tularemia patient last week that presumably contracted it from caring for their cat that had Tularemia. She stated that it transferred from the cat to the person through saliva.

Mr. Butterick stated that he invited Ms. Ellsworth to the meeting and gave her a synopsis of what our department is responsible for in the town.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- May 21, 2019 – Approved

OTHER:

Mr. Zinno presented a house on the market in Lagoon Pond DCPC that is being advertised as expandable. He suggested putting together an educational packet for brokers, from the Board of Health so they understand the reasons for the regulations that are in place. This will help prevent problems with people trying to expand properties in sensitive areas that are not allowed to be expanded. Mr. White asked if he would be willing to do that. Mr. Zinno replied yes.

Mr. Zinno made a motion to adjourn. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Welch, Administrative Assistant.