

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HEALTH MINUTES
TUESDAY, March 24, 2016

Members present: Dr. Schlaff, Ms. Lefman, Dr. Narain, Ms. Maher and Ms. Stoddard

Staff present: Dr. Balsam, Mr. Maloney, Ms. Avendano and Dr. Rudisch

Dr. Schlaff convened the meeting at 6:30. The minutes from the last meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve and seconded. Motion passed.

Mr. Maloney presented on the Environmental Health division. Copies of the presentation, which was well received, are available on request.

Ms. Avendano, graduate student intern working with Lynne Karsten in the Community Health division, outlined the activities coming up for Public Health Week in the beginning of April. A full listing is available on the Town and Department webpage as well as our on Facebook page.

Ms. Maher presented on the impressive array of activities planned for Climate Week. A full listing is available on the Town and Climate Change websites.

Ms. Maher reported on communicable diseases over the past month:

Three suspect mumps and 1 revoked mumps; 1 legionella, 2 Noro, 2 giardia in kids adopted from Africa, and 40 flu cases so far this year (both A and B strains, wide age range). MDPH is calling MA at moderate risk for influenza. Not too late to vaccinate. Still seeing a trickle of kids from China entering our schools and needing vaccination. We had our bi-annual inspection of our immunization program and passed thanks to a new pharmaceutical refrigerator and new data logger equipment for monitoring temps of the freezer and refrigerator. A few food complaints, bat complaints, stray cats, etc.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Balsam asked that the Council agree on a time/date to hold a hearing on the Warrant Article to ban sales of tobacco in Brookline. Thursday, April 14th at 7:30 in the Denny Room at 11 Pierce Street was selected.

This warrant is likely to draw broad interest and tobacco retailers will be notified. The hearing format will include hearing from the petitioners invited experts in the field, town residents and business people, and others. Time limits may be needed, depending on the number of people wishing to speak.

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Ms. Lefman reported on progress at the last Steering Committee meeting. A focus on “Risk” was suggested, a topic that transcends any specific public health issue. The goal is to attract new interest to the CHNA with a possible public meeting in June

There being no further business, Dr. Schlaff adjourned the meeting at 8:00.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan Balsam, Ph.D., MPH
Director
Public Health and Human Services