

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON PUBLIC HEALTH MINUTES
THURSDAY, June 9, 2016

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

Staff present: Dr. Balsam, Dr. Rudisch, Ms. Karsten

Guests: Four graduate students in the LaSalle Nursing program

Dr. Schlaff convened the meeting at 6:05. Introductions all around with the four graduate student guests.

The minutes were reviewed. Motion by Ms. Lefman, second by Dr. Narain to accept. Motion passed.

Dr. Schlaff introduced Ms. Karsten to report on the activities of the community health division. A full review of the dozen activities that took place during Public Health week was presented. Hundreds of Brookline residents were involved in activities ranging from a rabies clinic, to a “Girls Night Out” event, “Critter Proofing Your Home”, two dental events, among others.

Coming up next: A festival in Brookline Village on June 10 to include a Road Race and a celebration of International Yoga Day on June 21st at Cypress Field.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Dr. Balsam reported that Town Meeting approved our budget for next year, and also supported the ACPH’s recommendation to refer tobacco warrant article to a Selectmen’s Study Committee. This Sunday is a tribute to opera great Roland Hayes, where a bust of the singer will be unveiled.

We are recruiting for a replacement for Jorge Membreno who is leaving in August. A mini playground is being set up next to the Health Department building for kids. Dr. Larry Madoff is speaking next Wednesday. His talk is titled “From Anthrax to Zika”.

We have recruited a Tufts graduate to work on a Policy Memo to address parent concerns regarding Wi-Fi in schools. The Citizen’s Survey is complete and results will be released over the summer. Finally, we are recruiting for interns for the 2016-17 academic year.

CHNA 18

Ms. Lefman reported on a very successful program on June 9th that examined RISK and RISK PERCEPTION. Notwithstanding the logistical challenges, the program featuring David Ropeik and another speaker, provided an overview of how humans perceive risk and ways to put the risk in context and reduce stress. More CHNA activities will be planned over the summer.

FRIENDS OF BROOKLINE PUBLIC HEALTH

The Friends had a table at the MPHA Annual Meeting on June 3rd. Attorney General Maura Healy was most impressive as the keynote speaker, and Ray Considine received MPHA's highest award. The event was sold out.

The annual Public Health Policy Forum is set for Wednesday, June 22nd at the Senior Center. For Governor Mike Dukakis will again moderate. This is the 20th Anniversary of the Forum.

ANNUAL DINNER

Members decided to have our annual dinner on Wednesday, July 20th at Taberna de Haro, 999 Beacon St. at 6:30.

There being no further business, Dr. Schlaff adjourned the meeting at 7:40.

Respectfully submitted,

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