



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
*HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT*

JOSEPH A. CURTATONE  
MAYOR

*DOUGLAS KRESS*  
DIRECTOR

**MINUTES**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH**

Regular Meeting

September 17, 2015

5:00pm

Conference Room @ Somerville Hospital  
236 Highland Avenue

**Present:** Douglas Kress, Director  
Dr. Brian Green, Board Member (Chair)  
Babette Mello, Board Member  
Paula Machado, Board Member  
Kathy Teixeira (Recording Secretary)

**Absent:** None

**Staff Members in Attendance:** Cory Mashburn, Office of Prevention; Ben Lipham, ISD/Health Division

**Guests:** None

**Meeting Called to Order:** On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was called to order at 5:04pm. It was seconded by Ms. Mello.

**Previous Minutes:** On a motion made by Ms. Mello, "The August 27, 2015 Minutes were approved as circulated." It was seconded by Ms. Machado. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**ISD/Health Division Updates:** Temporary Food Permit Policy was distributed and reviewed by the board members. The policy is attached to this month's minutes.

**Medical Marijuana Updates:** Cory Mashburn gave a brief overview of the medical marijuana updates. The states Department of Public Health has very strict guidelines, which cities and towns should follow. For example a medical marijuana dispensary cannot be within in 500' of a school zone this includes all schools, daycare, pre schools, etc. Any city or town can have the option to increase the distance but not shorten it. The Somerville Planning Board can give a special permit for a medical marijuana dispensary. According to the state, the application process could run between 3 months and 2 years. All medical marijuana dispensaries are considered treatment facilities. The Mass Smoke-Free workplace law will apply to the dispensaries. All marijuana dispensaries are not allowed to advertize on the premises. . For example; no images of marijuana or related paraphernalia, no ads for marijuana or brand names, no project displays visible from exterior, no advertising marijuana prices and no promotional gifts for example – t-shirts, novelty items, etc. All establishments must adhere by the state regulations on security measurements/ requirements. Other notes - consumption at dispensaries and internet and mail orders are prohibited. No home delivery to clients is also prohibited. Dispensaries will have to adhere to local municipalities zoning laws which control the location, size, frontage parking minimums/maximums and distance from schools/parks residents and signage and so on.



More information can be found at the states Department of Public Health website.

**Review of Restaurant Inspections:** ISD conducted 63 inspections at 42 locations along with 34 dumpster's inspections. Mr. Lipham informed the board that he would like to get more inspections and have a better history on Yak & Yeti before ordering them to appear in front of the board. .Which Wich Superior Sandwiches establishment was having trouble staying in compliance due to their refrigerator units unable to keep the temperature below 41 degrees. One factor causing the problem was humidity going over 50%. Most refrigeration has trouble maintaining the proper temperature when the humidity rises over 50% within the premise.

**911 Emergency Calls:** Mr. Kress stated that there were 2 deaths by suicide in September. Ms. Contente, Clinical Youth Specialist was told that there was a changed to the 911 reporting data to exclude alcohol related incidents. She is. not sure why; but did mention in an email that she thought it might be a result of the hyper focus on opioid OD but was concern that leaving this off would not allow us to tack boarder concerns.

**Health Department Updates:**

**ADA:** ADA's 25th Anniversary celebration will be held at Somerville High's Atrium on Saturday, September 19, 2015. The

**Public Nursing:** Public health nurses cleared 239 medical records for children entering the Somerville Public Schools. Flu clinics will be starting up and we will vaccinate the fires, police and the elderly at council on aging. End of September beginning of October, clinics will be held at Council on Aging, Health and Human Services, and other various areas within the city.

**Office of Prevention:** A proclamation for National Recovery Month for September with the collaboration from Somerville Overcoming Addiction, Ryan Harrington Foundation, and Alex Foster Foundation was presented to the Board of Alderman. We still continue to build partnerships and collaborations throughout the department.

**SUS:** Lisa Robison, the Shape-up-Somerville Director along with Mayor Joseph Curtatone visited the White House to attend a celebration for all Let's Move Cities, Towns, and Counties participates across the nation LMCTC is a major component of the First Lady's Let's Move initiative. The mobile market is going very well. Erica Satin-Hernandez who works for SUS recently got married and we wish her well.

**Administrative:** A staff retreat was held at Tufts University. The staff came up with five (5) areas of strengthen the Health and Human Services Department. We will reconvene on October 13, 2015, to bring recommendations to the department. The topics that staff would like to work on are as follows:

- 1.) Develop an org charge of HHS with a brief description of each division
- 2.) Develop consistent policies on communication
- 3.) Relationship building \* between HHS and across all departments
- 4.) Creating a data base with accomplishing our vision booth's and city.
- 5.) Beatifying existing space – the annex building where the HHS is housed.

**Next Meeting:** October 15, 2015  
Location - Somerville Hospital - Conference Room – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor @ 5:00pm.

**Adjournment:** On a motion made by Dr. Green, the meeting was adjourned at 5:56pm. It was seconded by Ms. Machado.

**List of Documents:** Restaurant Inspection Report; 911 Data (July-August); Medical Marijuana Information PowerPoint  
Temporary Food Permitting Policy.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kathy Teixeira (Recording Secretary)  
September 29, 2015