

CITY OF ENGLEWOOD
BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MEETING

June 17, 2009

1. The regular meeting of the Board of Health, City of Englewood, Bergen County, was called to order at 8:10 p.m. by Dianna Lachman, President, Board of Health.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dianna Lachman, President; Lisa Levien, Vice President; Bertha-Nora Acosta, JoEllen Bostick, Stephanie Davis, and Dr. Lisa Wisotsky.

ALSO PRESENT:

Richard A. Lustgarten, Esq., Board of Health Attorney; Nelson Xavier Cruz, Director, Health Services/Health Officer/Secretary to the Board; and Janet Kast, Confidential Executive Secretary.

ABSENT/with apology: Dr. Earl A. Marsan

Mr. Cruz read the O.P.M.A. Statement, as follows:

O.P.M.A. STATEMENT

Adequate notice of this meeting was given, in compliance with the Sunshine Law, and published in The Record, The Press Journal, posted on the bulletin board at City Hall, and on the City's web page, all at least 48 hours prior to the date of this meeting. The Secretary of the Board has on file a copy of the notice for appropriate retention.

Ms. Dianna Lachman, Board President, asked those present to stand while the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

- 2-7. **Motion to approve Items #2 (Minutes of May 13, 2009 Open Meeting); #3 (Receipts - May 2009); #4 (Bills - May 2009); #5 (Employee Reports - May 2009); #6 (Communications - May 2009); and #7 (Digest of Mail - May 2009).**

Cash receipts for the month of May 2009 were \$13,612.75. Vouchers/Orders for Payment for May 2009 were \$9,917.42. Non-budget payments were \$2,110.52.

Motion to approve Items 2-7 together was made by Ms. Bostick, and seconded by Ms. Davis. Motion was approved 6-0.

8. **Motion to Approve Retail Licenses - May 2009**

Ms. Lachman asked Mr. Cruz if there were any objections to the licenses being approved. He said there were none. Motion to approve retail licenses for the month of May 2009 was made by Ms. Levien, and seconded by Ms. Bostick. Motion was approved 6-0.

9. Board Liaison Reports

There were no reports for the month of May.

OLD BUSINESS

10. H1N1 Report

In the absence of Ms. Grace Morales, Public Health Nurse, Mr. Cruz and Suzie Jean-Louis, Epidemiologist/Health Educator, gave an overview of the H1N1 influenza outbreak. Mr. Cruz stated that, to date, there had been 34 cases of influenza in Englewood, mostly in the schools. There had been only one confirmed case of novel H1N1 influenza virus in Englewood, an adult.

At the last Board meeting in April, there had been a question regarding clusters. Mr. Cruz clarified that a cluster is defined as three or four cases in one locale.

Ms. Jean-Louis stated that two laboratories have produced the seed vaccine for the H1N1 influenza virus, and that it is presently being tested on animals. It will then be tested on humans, with a projected release date for the vaccine of September 2009.

Mr. Cruz mentioned that he and Ms. Jean-Louis attended a conference on preparation for the H1N1 influenza on June 15, 2009, and that most of the suggestions presented there had already been implemented in the City of Englewood.

Ms. Lachman stated that she, Mr. Cruz, and Grace Morales were scheduled to attend the Bergen County Point of Distribution (POD) Training on Friday, June 19, and the importance of that training, especially now that the World Health Organization had declared the outbreak a Level 6 Pandemic.

11. Vital Statistics Reconfiguration Status

Mr. Cruz gave the Board an update on the remodeling of the Vital Statistics Unit of the Health Department, and said the anticipated completion date is mid-July.

12. Get Fit Englewood

Mr. Cruz said the final date for Get Fit Englewood was the upcoming Saturday, June 20, and that 14-16 participants were expected. A discussion ensued regarding the number of staff used for this activity, costs involved, and how to attract more people to utilize the program.

NEW BUSINESS

13. Board Liaisons/Meeting Attendance

Mr. Cruz reported that a new City Ordinance was passed, integrating EVAC into the Fire Department, which would open the way for a new facility. He said the new City budget was also approved for 2009. Work has begun on the new City marquis, and construction on the elevator continues at City Hall. The negotiations for a new phone system are ongoing.

Ms. Lachman added that, during the construction period, the EVAC would be working out of a trailer, but that there would be some room set aside in the Fire Department for the Ambulance Corps.

14. Proposed City Ordinance (draft) - Tatoeing/Body Piercing

Mr. Lustgarten said this ordinance was being drafted by the City because of the potential impact on zoning. The City Council may want to determine in which zones a tattoo parlor would be considered a lawful or a conditional use. The health considerations would include sterilization, an hour wait after submitting the application, so the applicant has a second chance to think about it, and other safety factors. Minors would need their parents' consent, and anyone appearing intoxicated would not be able to get tattooed.

Mr. Cruz had sent a copy of the ordinance to Mr. Bill Bailey, the City Attorney. After the Board gives him their feedback, he will take it to the next level. He said there had been questions regarding an existing city ordinance by a new applicant, but attempts to locate any such ordinance have failed. Mr. Cruz said he would like guidelines for the new applicant, and for that reason, is proposing a new ordinance.

Mr. Lustgarten stated that either the City can adopt the ordinance, under its general police power, or the Board of Health can adopt it under the authority of Title 26.

15. Upcoming Events

Family Health Awareness Fair

Mr. Cruz stated the Department's Annual Health Fair would be held on September 26, 2009 at TD Bank in Englewood. The Colgate dental van will be available for dental screening. Ms. Lachman invited the Board members to attend the health fair, and discussed the reasons for holding it on a Saturday rather than a Sunday. She said the Board would be happy to entertain the idea of a Sunday event if there was enough support and commitment by the community for a Sunday.

16. Status of Model Lead Safe Cities Program

Mr. Cruz stated that the Model Lead Safe Cities Agreement was approved and adopted by the City Council. The State Department of the Public Advocate is arranging an official signing of the document by the Mayor of Englewood and the Department of Health. Mr. Cruz said as soon as the date was decided, he would inform the Board, and that he hoped the Board members would be able to attend.

Ms. Lachman spoke again of the Board's intention to honor the memory of Mary Walker for her dedication and many years of work at the Health Department, especially in the area of teenage pregnancy prevention. Since it had been difficult to contact members of the Walker family, and organize a ceremony including those who contributed to the Reach & Teach program, Mr. Cruz suggested having a plaque made for the Department in her honor.

17. Reach & Teach Summer Internship

In continuation of the Reach & Teach program, the Department has developed a summer internship program. Ms. Jean-Louis had arranged with Mr. Elbert, Principal of Janis Dismus Middle School, to present a "Baby Think It Over Again" during the summer months. The program is a prolongation of the "Baby Think It Over" program, which deals with teenage pregnancy and its implications. Recently, the program included a speaker from New York who talked with the students about teen sexuality and pregnancy, which was funded by Bergen Family Center. She said they had agreed to fund the same program next year.

Ms. Jean-Louis reported on a meeting with Mr. Bell, Principal of Liberty School, some of the students and their counselor recently. They agreed to hold a series of workshops in which the students would be taught how to write resumes and cover letters, interviewing skills, and receive computer training at the Womens Rights Center. It would be called the Professional Development Program, and the students would get credit for this. Upon completion of the program, the students would also receive gift certificates to some local stores.

A six-week summer program, for the middle schoolers, would be held at the Englewood Public Library, and would include workshops on peer pressure, bullying, and related topics. Another program, involving seven groups of children, will be held at Mackay Park. Ms. Jean-Louis said she had been working with these children on nutrition and recreation since 2006 under the Pediatric Obesity Project. One of the components of the program is to assure that nutrition is provided to the children as recommended by the U.S.D.A. Students in the Keeping It Real program, sponsored by the Health Department, would be working with the children as peer educators.

18. Englewood Health Department Newsletter Publication Cycle

Mr. Cruz referred to the newsletter of the Health Department, which presently is published and mailed six times a year. The translation of the newsletter from English to Spanish is delaying the process, and he suggested quarterly instead of bi-monthly issues.

A discussion ensued regarding the mailing of the newsletter, the costs involved, the actual purpose of the newsletter, the format, translation issues, and whether it should be done monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly. Ms. Lachman asked Mr. Cruz to provide a cost analysis for the next Board meeting. She suggested including a message in every newsletter, asking those who wished to receive the newsletter via e-mail to contact the Health Department in order to reduce mailing costs. Mr. Cruz asked if a Board committee could look into the matter and make recommendations. Ms. Levien suggested including information regarding various translation web sites that residents could use to translate the newsletter into their own language. Mr. Cruz agreed to test the Babel Fish translation web site and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

19. Other Business

Mr. Cruz reported on the progress being made by Englewood Hospital & Medical Center and the North Hudson Community Action Corporation in their application for designation as a Medically Underserved Population (MUP). The consultant, Ms. Pat Burks, indicated that it looked very promising and would take approximately 45 days for approval. Mr. Cruz said that if this application is approved, the next step would be for North Hudson Community Action Corporation to apply for a change of scope, which usually describes the target population and its location. In order to qualify for funding from the Federal Department of Health and Social Services, the North Hudson Community Action Corporation would have to change its scope to include Englewood.

Mr. Cruz referred the Board to a flyer that was included in their packets for the NJ FamilyCare Enrollment/Renewal Event scheduled for Sunday, June 21, 2009, at St. Cecilia's Catholic Church. He said he had arranged for the North Hudson Community Action Corporation to provide cholesterol, glucose, and blood pressure screening at the event. The Police Department would do child safety checks there as well. He said a good turnout was expected, as the Department had been receiving many phone calls inquiring about the event.

Mr. Cruz reported that he had recently been informed that an article about the Trap, Neuter & Release Program in Englewood appeared in the June 2009 issue of the New Jersey League of Municipalities magazine. Other municipalities are now interested in setting up programs based on the model used in Englewood. He said as soon as he received an electronic copy of the article, he would make it available to the Board.

Mr. Cruz stated that the City had passed a revised "Poop and Scoop" law several months ago. He said the Department would prepare a mass mailing to all registered pet owners in Englewood informing them of the changes. The Police Department will post signs in strategic locations such as schools, churches, and parks. If individual residents feel the need for a sign in their neighborhood, they may go on-line and request it through the Q-Alert system.

Mr. Cruz reported that, as a result of the Pediatric Obesity Project, a letter of intent has been submitted to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for funding the planning of this project for two years. If that is approved, another application will be submitted for funding of a five-year grant.

Dr. Wisotsky asked if the Department was able to track dog bites by the same dog, and expressed concern over the number of dog bites in Englewood. Mr. Cruz said they are tracked and followed up on, including whether or not the dogs are properly licensed.

Dr. Witsotsky also asked whether the deer population in Englewood is being tracked. Mr. Cruz answered that complaints about deer, received by the Department, are addressed. He said the Department works very closely with the Flat Rock Brook Nature Center. Dr. Wisotsky asked Mr. Cruz if it would be possible to get data on the deer population growth, deer ticks, safety issues, etc. for the next Board meeting. Mr. Cruz said he would ask Matt Traudt, Environmental Assistant/Animal Cruelty Investigator, to do a presentation with the requested data at the next Board Meeting. A discussion ensued as to whether it was even possible to assess the number of deer in the area, and the difficulties involved in that and in population control.

Ms. Lachman announced that the National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) was holding its annual meeting in Philadelphia from July 1-3, and that she would like to attend. She asked if any other Board members were interested, but no one else was able to. Mr. Lustgarten asked for a consensus of the Board to authorize Ms. Lachman's trip to Philadelphia for the NALBOH meeting. All members voted "Aye."

Ms. Lachman asked for a Motion to open the time for public comment. Motion was made by Ms. Davis, and seconded by Ms. Acosta. Motion was approved 6-0.

PUBLIC SESSION

Ms. Jeanne Hopewell, 380 Liberty Road

Ms. Hopewell invited all present to a demonstration concerning single payer health care planned for Saturday, June 20, at 11:00 a.m. at the Englewood Monument.

Ms. Hopewell expressed her concern over the lack of a dental program for children at the schools. She said there used to be such a program at the Liberty School, and asked if there was a dental program at any of the schools at the present time.

Mr. Cruz said there are very few dental programs now, except for the Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). He said some dentists in private practice will provide pro bono services. Ms.

Hopewell asked if any local dentists could be approached about providing this kind of service at the schools. A discussion ensued regarding the possibility, including the legal issues and costs involved.

Ms. Lachman stated that if a FQHC was opened in Englewood, one of the services would be a dental clinic. Mr. Cruz said the Department would work on finding a dentist willing to volunteer time at the Liberty School.

Ms. Jean-Louis stated that the Board of Education holds a dental screening at the schools each year.

There were no further comments or questions from the public. Motion to close the time for public comment was made by Ms. Bostick, and seconded by Ms. Davis. Motion was approved 6-0.

Mr. Richard Lustgarten, Board Attorney, stated there were no additional updates on the Ortiz & Paster litigation, and no need to go into Closed Session.

There being no further questions or comments, Ms. Lachman asked for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Bostick, and seconded by Ms. Acosta. Motion was approved 6-0. The meeting ended at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nelson Xavier Cruz
Secretary to the Board
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