

Approved 9/17/15

BOARD OF HEALTH

BOROUGH OF TENAFLY, NEW JERSEY
BOARD MEETING, June 18, 2015

The meeting of the Board of Health was held on the above date. Mr. Howard Bader, President, read the Board's compliance with the Open Public Meeting Law and called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

The following members were present: Howard Bader, Dr. Michael Basista, Berton Greenberg, Maria Xylas, Ruby Pujols, Registered Environmental Health Specialist and Sam Yanovich, Health Officer

Absent: Dr. Etta Frankel, Mark Alvarez, Dr. Daniel Feit, Council Liaison Maxim Basch

Also present: Board of Health Secretary Valerie Nicolosi, DPW Director Robert Culvert, Victoria Sidrow, President & CEO, Vantage Health System

A motion was made to approve the minutes of March 19, 2015. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor; none were opposed.

FEATURED SPEAKER

Ms. Victoria Sidrow, President & CEO of Vantage Health System, was in attendance at the meeting this evening. She thanked the board members and the Borough for its monetary support of her firm. She handed board members an information packet and reviewed some of the materials provided. Vantage Health provides Tenafly residents and the surrounding communities with mental health services for those dealing with dementia, Alzheimer's disease along with those with developmental disabilities. She noted that her organization has supportive housing residences, group homes and transitional homes as well. Vantage Health gets referrals from hospitals and her organization is extremely busy helping individuals with a multitude of problems.

She told the board about a course entitled Mental Health First Aid, which is designed to teach lay people how to identify people with mental health issues. This is an 8-hour course. She understands that Tenafly recently passed a resolution making it a Stigma-Free Zone and urged board members to gather a task force for the Borough.

She noted that she has two trained counselors specializing in hoarding (see below). She has Korean and Spanish speaking counselors as well. There is a Survivors after Suicide program and a Traumatic Loss Coalition, which goes into schools after a tragedy, such as the most recent accident in Cresskill resulting in the death of a middle school student. Vantage Health is continuing to provide counseling for some children who were affected by the fire in Edgewater.

Ms. Sidrow indicated that she will be working with Borough Administrator Jewel Thompson-Chin to bring some informative sessions to the employees at Borough Hall. One topic may include a discussion on elder care.

Board members were very interested in her Mental Health First Aid course. She will provide brochures to Mrs. Nicolosi for the board members. Ms. Sidrow was thanked for her informative presentation this evening.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Robert Culvert, DPW Director, was in attendance at the meeting to lead a discussion on grease traps in the Borough, specifically the downtown on Washington Street. There has been an increased workload for DPW staff to clean grease traps in that area. Mr. Culvert would like to propose an ordinance requiring businesses to submit monthly reports indicating that the grease traps have been cleaned and maintained properly and according to regulations. The purpose of the ordinance is not to be punitive but to protect the businesses, inasmuch as there may be a closure to the street when the work is being done thereby affecting business. The board was very receptive to his suggestions.

Mr. Culvert indicated that he will develop a pamphlet to help business owners understand how to clean a grease trap properly. He will work with Ms. Pujols, the Tenaflly Chamber of Commerce and the Mayor & Council to enact an ordinance to address this serious health issue. He will research what surrounding municipalities do as well regarding grease trap maintenance. Mr. Culvert was thanked for his presentation and attendance at tonight's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS/CORRESPONDENCE

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2016 Meeting Schedule for the Tenaflly Board of Health. All voted in favor of the motion; none were opposed.

REPORTS

Ms. Pujols, Registered Environmental Health Specialist, reviewed her March/April/May 2015 report with the board. Inspections were done on multiple restaurants, a mobile vendor and many of the pools with most receiving a satisfactory rating. She did one (1) spot check. She handled a complaint regarding unsanitary conditions at a home, which were unfounded. She has been collecting, reviewing and entering information into the state computer system for the annual local health report to the NJSHD (New Jersey State Health Department). She noted that a petition for a smoking area approval inside Baci Ristorante at 50 Prospect Terrace was denied.

Health Officer Sam Yanovich reviewed his report of June 2015. There was a brief discussion on avian influenza. Roughly 87% of the birds stricken with the disease are egg-laying hens according to the USDA, and millions of egg-laying hens have been killed. The FDA stated that it is very unlikely that eggs in the marketplace would be contaminated. There is no chance for harm as long as eggs are cooked properly. He noted that the disease is now on the downward trend due to summer temperatures.

A 55 year-old New Jersey resident who had spent six (6) months in Liberia and returned to the United States on May 17, passed away from Lassa fever on May 25. Lassa fever is found throughout much of western Africa and can produce hemorrhagic symptoms, but it is not related to Ebola. Person to person transmission is uncommon. It is usually spread through contact with infected rodents. The New Jersey Department of Health has ensured follow up with contacts of the individual who passed away.

The World Health Organization (WHO) formally declared an end of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) in Liberia. The NJDOH no longer requires travelers from Liberia to undergo active monitoring, although enhanced screening at five (5) U.S. airports will continue in a modified format by giving asymptomatic travelers from Liberia a CDC CARE kit. The kit includes instruction for self-observation, a thermometer and contact information for the CDC and state health departments.

There was an extensive discussion on hoarding, which is an issue frequently seen in many of our communities. The NJDOH has identified lead poisoning as another issue of concern. As of July 15, 2015, each local health agency is required to identify outstanding inspections and open abatement orders at lead-burdened homes in order to quantify and qualify the barriers in such matters.

The next meeting of the Board of Health is Thursday, September 17, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. in the Richard D. Wilson Committee Room. Mrs. Nicolosi advised that she will be having knee replacement surgery in August. She is unsure as to her attendance at the September meeting. The board will decide on its meeting schedule after her surgery.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. A voice vote carried the motion. All voted in favor of the motion; none were opposed.

Respectfully submitted,

Valerie B. Nicolosi
Board of Health Secretary