



City of Westfield, Massachusetts
Health Department

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WESTFIELD CITY CLERK

Board of Health Meeting
March 9, 2016

Present: Juanita Carnes, Chair Michael Paquette Teresa Mitchell, M.D.

Ms. Carnes opened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. The minutes of the February 10, 2016 meeting were accepted as printed. There was no one present wishing to speak during the public participation portion of the meeting. The Board began discussing items on the agenda.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None scheduled.

PUBLIC HEALTH:

Request by Smoke-4-Less for Additional Time to Submit Documentation –

Smoke-4-Less has submitted a request seeking additional time in which to submit documentation to the Board regarding the status of their establishment. In December 2015, the Board granted Smoke-4-Less six months to prove that they are in good standing and meet BOH standards. They were to also provide documentation stating that they are in compliance or do not need to comply with all applicable Federal, State and Local regulations. A motion was made and seconded to not grant an extension to Smoke-4-Less and to uphold the original decision of the Board.

The vote was as follows:

Carnes – Yes
Mitchell – Yes
Paquette – Yes

All in favor, the motion was declared passed.

Opioid Update and Discussion – A variety of brochures and material was made available to the Board with regard to addiction and substance abuse. This is a problem affecting every race, class and age group. It was agreed that the majority of heroin users first begin by using prescribed opioids (i.e. oxycodone). Ideas were exchanged as to how to educate

the public of this growing problem. Suggestions included City-wide mailings, community forums and links placed on our website directing individuals to information and/or agencies which can assist them. The Health Dept. has been approached by a substance abuse counselor who has offered assistance and may be invited to future discussions. Education about the dangers of opioids should begin as early as perhaps Middle School level.

A copy of the Governor's Action Plan to address the opioid epidemic was distributed to Board members. A "Tool Kit" provided by the Commonwealth consisted of a listing of pamphlets available through their clearinghouse and a telephone number for the addiction hotline. It was agreed that to quickly effect change with this epidemic, we will need funding as well as community involvement and direction as to what residents are looking for. All of the members of the Board are willing to assist in whatever way possible.

It was noted that the Drug Drop Box located at the police station has seen much activity; however, many residents are not aware of this service. It was suggested that a City-wide drop-off event be planned in an effort to educate the public of the dangers of keeping unused prescription drugs.

With no further items on the agenda to discuss, Ms. Carnes adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes approved by:

Three handwritten signatures are written on three horizontal lines. The top signature is a stylized 'W'. The middle signature is a cursive 'M'. The bottom signature is a cursive 'K'.

/cam

Next anticipated meeting date: April 13, 2016