



CITY OF LOWELL, MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF HEALTH

December 1, 2021

IN ATTENDANCE

Jo-Ann Keegan, Chairperson
Erin Gendron, Board Member
Kathleen Cullen-Lutter, Board Member
Lisa Golden, HHS Director
Cesar Pungirum, Tobacco Control Program Director
Jimmy Le, Sanitary Code Inspector
Jon Kelley, Trinity EMS, Inc.

12/1/2021 - Minutes

1. NEW BUSINESS

1.I. For Acceptance: Minutes of the November 3, 2021 Meeting of the Board of Health

Motion: To accept the minutes of the November 3, 2021 Meeting of the Board of Health made by Kathleen Cullen-Lutter, seconded by Erin Gendron. All in favor.

1.II. For Review: Trinity EMS, Inc. Reports and Notifications submitted by Jon Kelley

John Kelley, Trinity EMS, Inc. reviewed the report with the Board. Mr. Casey Rainville (LGH Paramedics) and Mr. David Green (PRIDEStar EMS, Inc.) were also present for the report. Mr. Kelley noted that an increase in the use of Narcan is expected after last year's decrease even though fatalities haven't increased at the same rate.

1.III. For Discussion: Merger/Sale of Trinity EMS Inc. and PRIDEStar EMS Inc.

John Chemaly and Gary Sepe from Trinity EMS Inc., and David Daly, Brian Shanley, and John Hebert from PRIDEStar EMS Inc. were present to inform the Board of the merger of the two companies. The Board asked several questions and were assured that the merger will not affect the Lowell Hospital Paramedics or the reports currently given to the Board on a monthly/quarterly basis. It is expected that this merger will help with non-emergency transfers with the implementation of the EFR (Emergency First Responders) program and it is expected that a doubling of the capacity will occur.

Motion: To consent to the merger/sale of Trinity EMS, Inc. pending receipt of the documentation required by the current Ambulance Contract made by Kathleen Cullen-Lutter, seconded by Erin Gendron. All in favor.

VOTE

Jo-Ann Keegan - Yes
Kathleen Cullen-Lutter - Yes
Erin Gendron - Yes
Lisa Golden - Yes
William Galvin - Absent
Vote passes 4-0

1.IV. For Review: Monthly Development Services Report submitted by Sanitary Code Inspector Jimmy Le
Mr. Jimmy Le, Sanitary Code Inspector, was present to review the reports with the Board. Discussion of several schools on the failed inspection list occurred. The Board requested that a representative of Banner Pest Control come to the January Board of Health meeting. Chairwoman Jo-Ann Keegan requested that DPW Commissioner/Asst. City Manager Christine Clancy be informed of the failed schools and asked for a response and if Commissioner Clancy wished, a staff member attend the next meeting.

Mr. Le also informed the Board that a temporary Part-Time Sanitary Code/Health Inspector has been hired.

1.V. For Review: Tobacco Control Monthly Report Submitted By Cesar Pungirum, Program Director
The Board accepted and placed on file.

1.VI. Tobacco Permit Suspension Hearings- Sale to a Minor

Cote's Market 175 Salem St. Lowell, MA

Mr. Cesar Pungirum reviewed the Sale of Tobacco Products to a Minor with the Board. Mr. Pungirum noted at the last suspension heard, the Board had decided a three day suspension for a first offence was appropriate. Mr. Pungirum recommends a three day suspension to be served from the open of business on December 15, 2021 through the close of business on December 17, 2021.

Mr. Kevin Dong, owner of Cote's Market addressed the Board regarding the circumstances of the sale. Motion: To suspend the Tobacco Sales Permit for Cote's Market, 175 Salem St, Lowell MA from December 15 through December 17, 2021 was made by Kathleen Cullen-Lutter, seconded by Erin Gendron. All in favor.

VOTE:

Jo-Ann Keegan - Yes
Kathleen Cullen-Lutter - Yes
Erin Gendron - Yes
Lisa Golden - Yes
William Galvin - Absent
Vote passes 4-0

1.VII. Informational: 2021 Merrimack Valley Substance Use Disorder Symposium
The Board accepted and placed on file.

2. OLD BUSINESS

2.I. Update: COVID-19

The Board reviewed the most recent Massachusetts Department of Public Health COVID-19 order and placed on file.

Chairwoman Keegan reviewed the latest COVID-19 infection figures with the Board and noted that the case numbers are rising as well as the positivity rates for the State (over 4%) and Lowell (6%). The testing site at Cawley Stadium has increased its operating hours and added a police detail due to the increase in the number of people requesting testing. Other than an increase in the number of positive pool tests in the schools and an increase of positive cases in the 0-19 age group, there has been no specific pattern. Only 25% of the school population has opted to participate in the school-based pool testing program. The Board discussed the number of cases occurring in the schools.

2.II. For Discussion: Mask Requirements in Indoor Establishments

The Board agreed to revisit the possibility of an indoor mask requirement at the January 3, 2022 Board meeting.

2.III. Update: Revision of Body Art Regulations to Allow Microblading

The Board reviewed the Boston Body Art guidelines. The Board will request the Law Department revisit the City's Regulations to remove micro-blading from the regulations and add language to allow micro-blading and other language including training requirements.

2.IV. Update: Regarding September 28 2021 Notice of Permanent Solutions 1212 Westford St Lowell MA

The Board reviewed the provided documentation and placed on file.

3. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

3.I. Department and Divisional Reports and Updates

Health and Human Services Director Lisa Golden updated the Board on various items occurring in the Health Department such as the hiring efforts of two Contact Tracers and a special vaccination clinic for 5-11 year-olds to be held on December 30, 2021.

4. Motion: To Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn at 7:19PM made by Erin Gendron, seconded by Kathleen Cullen-Lutter. All in favor.

**THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH WILL BE ON
JANUARY 5, 2021 AT 6:00 PM IN CITY HALL, MAYOR'S RECEPTION ROOM,
375 MERRIMACK ST., 2ND FLOOR LOWELL, MA 01852**

DRAFT