

MINUTES

Oak Park Board of Health Tuesday August 23, 2016- 7 PM Village Hall – Room 102

Present: Chair Florence Miller; Commissioners, Edgar Vesga, Dhana Ganesan, Bob Danstrom
Jonathan Mizgala, Jassen Strokosch

Excused: Staff Liaison: Mike Charley, Interim Health Director:

Guests: Vicki Scaman, SPF-PFS Program Coordinator, Adriene Rodgers, Noel Chavez,
candidates for Board of Health vacancy

- I. Call to Order @ 7:03 pm
- II. Approval of Agenda, agenda approved, first by Strokosch, second by Mizgala
- III. Approval of the Minutes of July 26, 2016, Vesga recommended update to roll on meeting minutes, explanation given. Minutes approved, first by Vesga, second by Danstrom
- IV. Public Comment: None
- V. Commissioner Updates
 - A. Workgroup for Positive Youth Development – BOH involvement with focus group: Scaman made a presentation at previous meeting, and returned to give the Board of Health follow-up and updated information. Miller would like to make sure everyone is on the same page. At the previous meeting Scaman presented data from the at risk youth survey, Scaman expressed that for underage drinking parental involvement had a significant impact. Since there are other organizations which work directly with youth, we have an opportunity to focus on parental monitoring and provision of alcohol to youth. Chair Miller recommends that we run a focus group to gather ideas, uncover factors that influence decisions and explain the quantitative data to identify myths and gaps in information. Our goal is to identify why parents are providing alcohol and what education steps we can implement to explain the issues related to that. A focus group is being organized which should focus on Oak Park residents with current high school students. Through parent groups, Village Hall and Scaman making contacts we will attempt to find individuals interested in participating. The board of health will not act as facilitators, our goal will be supporting, note taking and backing the event. Parents will be given a survey of demographic data, foundational questions (at what age should youth be given access to alcohol, etc). We will hold the focus group, and follow up with evaluation questions and a request for future participation. Proposed focus group questions:

- Why did you decide to participate?

- Can you describe the circumstances around your decision to allow your child to have alcohol?
- What concerns do you have related to underage drinking?
- What types of conversations have you had with the other parents/your child about underage drinking?
- Under what circumstances might you provide an opportunity for other young people to drink?
- This is our data, does that surprise/concern you?

Scaman is asking for assistance with developing questions and helping select informational slides to be included in the presentation. Vesga asked a follow-up question about how we can help with this project. Miller suggests that we evaluate the questions to look for information which is missing from the questions. Vesga asked for additional information to be provided related to how the current data fell along cultural lines and related to the size of households. Scaman explained that the data is a representative sample, but at this point we do not have access to the cultural data. Strokosch asked and Scaman confirmed that data for 8th grade includes Roosevelt Middle school in River Forest and local private schools in addition to OPRF public schools. Scaman stated an interest in a separate focus group related to cultural issues within this topic. Mizgala asked for clarification for the purpose of the focus group and how we factor in. Miller explained the goal of the data is to find the root of the problem. The concern is that parents are not doing enough to prevent underage drinking. This qualitative issue of “why” does not show up in the data, and the purpose of the focus group is to find why it is still happening, and what we can do about it going forward. Children are saying “we have access” in the data, so we need to find out if the parents are aware of that access, or why they are allowing it. Vesga is concerned that this is being rushed. Miller explains that we need the additional information from parents to decide how the grant funds will be allocated and how to best work with the community to resolve or improve this issue. Strokosch clarifies that they are looking for information on the data side, we can help with outreach for the focus group? Miller answered yes, and to help allocate resources based on what the focus group findings are. Strokosch asked how large a group? Miller explained between 12-15, likely held to 12. Miller explained there would be several focus groups and we would help to lead one. It is not believed that there will be incentivized participation. Vesga asked whether the Village itself is supporting these efforts, or only through the board of health? Miller communicated that the Police, board of health and liquor commission are all involved. We have the ability as the board of health to lend expertise and credibility. Also that going forward we will allow the opportunity for follow-up within the community. As follow up, everyone will be sent an updated list of proposed questions, and comments are requested in one week.

- B. Bike Safety Handout Update: Danstrom discussed follow-up with Sargent Jacobson and the request for updates to the Police Department handout on

bike safety. He will follow up with Jacobson for a copy of the final draft and additional bike safety information from over the summer.

VI. Old Business

- A. Fitzsimmons Awards: Will be presented at the Monday, sept 19th Village board meeting, all are encouraged to attend. They honor people who have made an effort to improve the health of Oak Park. The Johnson award for restaurant cleanliness will be presented as well.
- B. Miller provided copies of the work plan. She requested we keep copies where we could see them since we need to submit a work plan in September. If your name is somewhere on the plan we need to provide a blurb explaining what we have done and whether that action should remain part of the plan at the September meeting.
- C. Board of Health Vacancy: We have a vacancy and we had one candidate last month and two this month.
 - Rogers: Lives in Oak Park, degree in Health Management, Care coordinator at Loyola and wants to help with the health of the community.
 - Chavez: Lives in Oak Park, on the faculty of UIC, professor emeritus school of public health, recently retired, wants to give back.

Miller clarified to the candidates that we would be undertaking a needs assessment over the next few months. Asked candidates for information related to current local health needs they're aware of. Rogers expressed a concern about access to Primary Care Physicians to some in the community and how that may hinder their ability make healthy decisions. Wants to help close disparities related to health within the community. Chavez shared an anecdote of personally happening upon evidence of youth drinking, and so our current work is of interest. She also advocates a data focused approach, and hopes that we can focus especially on health care access. Both candidates were thanked and excused by Miller.

Miller asked for the board to comment upon the three candidates (including Lupe Perez who attended the July meeting). Danstrom asked whether the board had any required spots that needed to be filled by a Doctor, nurse, dentist or other medical professional. Miller answered that while we do not have a dentist on the board, the fact that we have a doctor and 2 nurses fulfills the requirement. Vesga expressed an interest in candidate Perez citing an energetic personality and Chavez for having ideas related to the board. Mizgala agreed with Vesga. Strokosch recommended Chavez citing a data driven approach. Ganesan expressed that Perez had the most energy. Danstrom recommended Chavez because she has data driven ideas and he was having trouble remembering any specifics proposed by Perez. Miller is interested in the candidate can most get into the swing of things and start

work right away. Miller is looking for someone to begin work on the IPlan and be a support and help us to further develop the Iplan, and is looking for the candidate with the most background related to that type of planning. Vesga asked for follow-up on a young man who recently attended one of our meetings, and he at this point is not interested. The Village is working on creating a pool of young people for us to reach out to for board positions going forward. Strokosch mentioned that there are 3 boards that make room for a youth commissioner including the Board of Health, and usually this is the time of year where applications come in. If we can find a youth interested and do not have an open seat, then we can have a non-voting member. Miller will make the final decision on our new member before Friday and all candidates will be informed.

VII. New Business

- A. Danstrom gave a follow-up on outreach to environmental health board chairman Nick Bridge. The board has nothing currently which we can assist with but will be following up with a copy of their work plan next month.
- B. Vesga noted MRC/CERT had a canceled meeting last month.
- C. Vesga asked for follow-up on a project that former commissioner Pont was working on related to child obesity. Miller mentioned that candidate Chavez has a background in nutrition and might be an asset in that area. Vesga asked a follow-up related to funds available for these projects and Miller suggested putting some effort toward a Youtube video. Vesga suggested that we make more of a presence on the Village website related to health in the community.

VIII. Adjourn @ 8:18 pm, first by Danstrom, second by Mizgala

Contact the Health Department for additional information at (708) 358-5480 or health@oak-park.us. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM Monday through Friday.

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