

Minutes
Pittsfield Board of Health
Wednesday, March 4, 2020
Pittsfield City Hall, Room 203, 6:00 PM

Present: Chairperson Alan Kulberg; Board Members: Steve Smith, Brad Gordon,

Also Present: Health Department Director Gina Armstrong.

Convening

The meeting of the Pittsfield Board of Health was held on Wednesday, March 4, 2020, in room 203 of the Pittsfield City Hall. Chairperson Kulberg called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Review and Approval of Minutes: The Board reviewed the minutes of February 5, 2020 and they have been approved.

BHS Healthy Steps Program Update: Michael Perrault, Director of Infection Prevention & Control was unable to attend. This topic will be moved to the April 2020 agenda.

Coronavirus: Gina Armstrong noted that the department is staying on top of all of the updates received from the CDC as well as MDPH. She noted that the information is being disseminated regularly. She noted that the department is using its resources and that they are in constant contact with all partners. Ms. Armstrong stated that there are no confirmed cases of Coronavirus in Berkshire County and that the state is at a low risk level. Dr. Kulberg pointed out that Public Health Nurse Manager Kayla Donnelly-Winters follows up with the families that have been placed under self-quarantine twice a day for monitoring. It was also noted that Ms. Donnelly-Winters has been fielding phone calls as well. Ms. Armstrong noted that emergency preparedness is something that the department always does (ie. Making sure protocols, dispensing sites and the like are in place). Ms. Armstrong assured the Board that the department is acting accordingly with the day-to-day management of the situation and it has not been a problem. Ms. Armstrong also noted that the department is in close communication with city officials, EMS, BMC and the school district. Finally, Ms. Armstrong shared information with regard to an upcoming training pertaining to isolation and quarantines. Dr. Kulberg noted that MDPH now has the resources to do testing at the state level rather than sending samples for testing to the CDC. He also pointed out that people should not just show up to the ED; they should call their health care provider and the provider will set up admission to the ED through specific protocol.

BOH Environmental Tobacco Smoke Regulations: Dr. Kulberg noted that the Board was approached to consider a private smoking lounge. In reviewing the regulations around this type of establishment, they found some gaps in how this would apply. It was noted that definitions need to be reviewed and other municipalities need to be looked at statewide to see how this issue has been dealt with. It was noted that 251 of municipalities in the state ban smoking at membership associations. It was further noted that Pittsfield also took the more restrictive approach and put the ban in place at the time of the last revisions. Board Member Gordon noted that while some municipalities did not place a ban, they did put specific rules in place. Ms. Armstrong will be working with the city solicitor to use the most appropriate language. Board Member Gordon will also be reviewing this language with the city solicitor to be sure he has a clear understanding of the language and its interpretation. This matter will be revisited in at the April 2020 meeting.

Health Department Updates:

1. Gina Armstrong reviewed the Monthly Inspections Report. Also Discussed:

Body Art Regulations: Board Members and the Chairperson signed the Body Art Regulations.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Board Member Gordon and seconded by Board Member Smith, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,
Stephanie Provencher, Clerk

Documents/Materials Distributed at Meeting

- Meeting Minutes of February 5, 2020
- COVID-19 Training Information
- Environmental Tobacco Smoke Regulations