

# BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

September 28, 2016

Watertown Administration Building, Lower Hearing Room

**CALL TO ORDER:** Dr. John Straus called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM.

---

**PRESENT:** Dr. John Straus, Chairman, Dr. Barbara Beck, Board Member, Deborah Rosati, Director of Public Health. Guests: Stephanie Venizelos, Live Well Watertown; Mensimah Bentsi-Enchill, Graduate Intern.

**Public Comment:** No comments

## **28 Grant Ave.**

D. Rosati updated the Board on the 28 Grant Ave. case which has been deemed to be in compliance with Board of Health orders. The owner advised today that she is withdrawing her request for a hearing.

## **Board Comment**

Dr. Straus expressed that the W.A.T.E.R.town Task Force on Substance Use Disorder Chairperson, Deborah Rosati, has been doing a great job with the meetings. D. Rosati expressed her appreciation.

## **Minutes**

B. Beck commented that there should be a note added to the September 28, 2016 minutes that the Health Dept. observed the leak at 69 Hillside Road during a subsequent inspection. The minutes of the September 28, 2016 meeting were approved with the amendment (Motion-Dr. Beck, Second- Dr. Straus, 2-0)

## **Live Well Watertown Report**

Stephanie Venizelos updated the Board on current activities of Live Well Watertown along with strategic planning that has been done to formalize the structure and objectives of the organization.

D. Rosati advised the Board that the Live Well steering committee is working towards gaining support to fund a part-time coordinator or program manager position as funding through grants is uncertain and unsustainable. As it currently stands, funding for this effort will end in January. The Board was presented with a draft document that outlines a statement of need, target population, and program manager responsibilities. Suggestions for modifications included: Adding the Task Force coordination work, specify tasks included with LWW and Task Force work, include work on the Community Health Assessment, and the role of the LWW Advisory Committee.

The Board expressed their support for supplementing funding through June 2017, and presenting a request for a part-time position for FY'18. They suggested a supplement of \$1,500/month for November through January, and \$2,500/month from February through June, for a total of

\$17,000, and annualizing the salary at no more than \$30,000 (Motion- Dr. Beck, Second-Dr. Straus, 2-0)

The Board offered to provide a Letter of Support with the FY'18 budget submittal.

**Health Needs Assessment Project**

Mensimah Bentsi-Enchill presented an update on her continued work on a health needs assessment, working in conjunction with D. Rosati and Stephanie Venizelos. Ms. Bentsi-Enchill has continued to research available health data, and presented the latest version of the report, and the draft survey.

The Board recommended that the Pilot Survey include a neutral group of people who are not invested in the process, and to ask questions in multiple ways, as well as including “N/A” or “no opinion” where necessary. Dr. Beck advised that a literature search would be important for survey design. Relative to the health data study, Dr. Beck cautioned about response rates on data, sample size and statistical significance, as well as the strengths and limitations of underlying data and interpretation of data.

The Board thanked Mensimah for her continued work.

**Next Meeting** – D. Rosati will propose dates for an October meeting since R. Arnold is not available to provide input at this meeting.

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 pm.**

Respectfully submitted: Deborah M. Rosati, Director of Public Health

**Approved: November 1, 2016**