



**Health & Human Services Committee
May 10, 2016
Meeting Minutes**

Committee Attendance: Chair Suslovic, Councilor Brenerman and Councilor Ray.

City Staff Attendance: Dawn Stiles/HHS, Mike Russell/PHD/HHS, Kristin Dow/PHD/HHS, Bridget Rauscher/PHD/HHS, Chief Sauschuck/PPD, Chief Jackson/PFD.

Agenda Item 1 – Meeting Called to Order and Minutes from Previous Meeting Reviewed:

Meeting was called to order at approximately 5:10 PM by Chair Suslovic and Minutes were reviewed and accepted as written.

Agenda Item 2 – Proposed Revisions to Chapter 11, Code of Ordinances:

Mike Russell, Program Manager for Environmental Health & Safety reviewed the changes to the Chapter 11 Code of Ordinances – Food and Food Handlers. Mike discussed the clarification of Base Stations – Definitions and Fees, Mobile Food Service Establishments and Community Kitchen and Community Kitchen User Fee.

Mike also indicated that over 98% of all food service establishments in Portland have been inspected at least once in the past year. Mike's department also recently completed the first Baseline Risk Factor Study in order to monitor foodborne illness and injury trends.

Councilor Brenerman question if the State regulated establishments as well. Mike explained that each establishment also needs a separate State license.

Meeting was open to Public Comment. Seeing no comments Public Comment was closed.

Motion to recommend passage to full Council, Moved by Brenerman 2nd by Ray. Passed 3-0.

Agenda Item 3 – Increasing the Minimum Legal Sale Age of Tobacco Products:

Kristen Dow, Program Manager for Chronic Disease Prevention addressed the Committee and gave an overview of the proposed Ordinance. Cost to the city was discussed as was the significant layoffs in the Public Health Division. Kristin will remain after September 30th and will continue to look for funding sources to cover costs.

Meeting was open to Public Comment:

1. **Matt Kasten**, State of Maine Grassroots Cancer Organization – Matt submitted 2 written testimonies and gave an overview of each.
2. **Becky Smith** – American Heart Association spoke to offer their expertise on this issue.

Meeting was closed to Public Comment:

Motion to Pass, Moved by Brenerman, 2nd by Ray. Passed 3-0.

Councilor Brenerman wants to ensure this is not just tobacco but also to include vapor/electronic cigarettes Kristen explained and clarified that yes that is indeed included.

Chair thanked everyone and is sorry and regretful this was not brought forward sooner. He is hoping the City can be persuasive in convincing Augusta to go statewide

Agenda Item 4 – Substance Use Disorder:

Bridget Rauscher, Program Manager for Substance Abuse/Overdose Prevention Project. Bridget gave an overview of the Program and discussed outcomes.

Grants and funding were also discussed.

Chief Sauschuck discussed the recent Community Forum on opiates and heroin and feels it was a huge success. He indicated there have been 46 overdose deaths in Portland in 2015. The Chief reviewed various outreach that is ongoing in the community. He also discussed the recent drug take back last week in which Maine surpassed all other New England States with 32k pounds of prescription drugs taken back.

Chief Dave Jackson – Portland Fire Department addressed the Committee and spoke of the recent 14 overdose deaths the City has had in 1 day. Chief feels there are other ways they can be engaging with clients/ Bridget Rauscher indicated she would like to do a ride along with the police dept./and or fire department.

Chief Jackson discussed Narcan but believes there needs to be better education about the drug. He gave a recent example where a person overdosed and was given Narcan by a roommate who revived the patient but then did not seek medical attention and later died. Narcan will help to revive a patient but it is not fixing the disease. He indicated the good work the HOME Team does and to continue to support their efforts.

Chair Suslovic questioned why PPD Officers do not carry Narcan. Chief responded because we have the immediate coverage here in Portland however he is discussing this with the City Manager. He cited the EMS National Average which is 9 1/2-10 minutes nationwide and 2 1/2-3 minutes in Portland. Narcan can only sustain a person for 20 minutes.

Bridget discussed education in jail and indicated that our Program is the only Program in Cumberland County. There is currently no other treatment available to inmates.

Grants and other forms of funding were discussed.

Chair Suslovic questioned if it's possible for Portland to utilize our Fire Stations for needle exchanges? Chief feels this would be difficult as there is usually no one there. The Committee continued to discuss the possibilities of expanding to more than 1 location for the needle exchange.

Dawn Stiles gave an overview of our Shelters and the impact that addiction has to placing some residents in housing. We currently have 30-40 opiate addicts that staff cannot work with or place b/c of their addiction.

The Committee discussed education for youth in the school system.

Alex Hughes addressed the Committee and explained how we measure milestones in a healthy community. Early marijuana use is an indicator that there is a 40 times higher risk that a person will likely use opioids if marijuana was used between the ages of 13-17.

Chair thanked the staff for educating them.

Agenda Item 5 – Shelter Data Update:

Dawn gave an overview of this month's data at the shelters and indicated that only 1 night was needed for the overflow shelter. She also discussed the long term stayers and that new intakes are down 39%.

Next meeting on June 14th will include an update from Shelter staff.

With no further business to attend the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM.