



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

KATJANA BALLANTYNE
MAYOR

KARIN CARROLL
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

MINUTES
BOARD OF HEALTH
January 23, 2025

Open Conference / Virtual (Zoom) Meeting

Members Present:

Brian Green. MD (Chair)
Margaret H Coit, Board Member
Alyssa Dubois, Board Member
Lucy Barrows, Recording Secretary
Karin Carroll, Director of Health & Human Services
Bonny Carroll, Tobacco Control Coordinator
Nicholas Antanavica, ISD

Roll Call: Brian Green

- 1. Meeting Call to Order:** Brian Green made a motion to open the meeting at 6:00 pm. It was seconded by Alyssa Dubois. All in favor.
- 2. Minutes Approval:** Brian Green made a motion to approve the minutes from December 19, 2024. It was seconded by Margaret H Coit. All in favor.
- 3. Council On Aging -Ashley Speliotis**

The COA provides comprehensive services that enhance the lives of our older adult population here in Somerville, and we try to promote and safeguard the health and independence of older adults through advocacy and providing meaningful social and recreational opportunities to our seniors here. We provide about 400 rides per month to seniors, and we just completed a survey on the transportation program. Proud to say that 91% of people before this program thought that transportation was a barrier to access healthcare. 56 percent are seeing doctors more frequently and 49% are no longer skipping appointments. Our seniors also report that they're able to obtain more healthy foods and fresh produce as they no longer having to shop at a convenience store, but instead, they're able to go to a full grocery store. That's something that we're particularly proud of here. In addition to our daily events, we recently started some pre-recorded exercises that will be shown on YouTube and on the cable television station that people can do at their own pace and at home. In addition, the COA hosted over 100 lunches with special programs, technology classes and more.

- 4. Tobacco Transfer Permit Request -Sav-Mor Spirits, Assembly Row at Assembly Square**

Tobacco transfer permit request for Sav-Mor Spirits, Assembly Row at Assembly Square was approved. The New buyer sent a copy of the Escrow Agreement. Brian Green motioned to approve the transfer. It was second by Margaret H Coit. All in Favor.

5. Health Fee Proposal Comparison

ISD Director, Nick Antanavica, proposed changes to the ISD fee structures to better reflect the amount of work done by the staff for the inspection, etc. Nick Antanavica stated that the other reason for making this change is to go to a risk-based food licensing system as opposed to square footage, to bring us more in line with Federal regulations and standardization. This also supports the goal of getting the Health Department accredited for food inspections. Margaret H Coit motioned to approve the changes in the fees. It was second by Alyssa Dubois.

6. Draft Model Regulations “Restricting the Sale of Tobacco products and Smoke Accessories

Bonny Carroll from the Tobacco Control Program presented the Board with the new draft tobacco regulations that reflect both a change in fee structures for fines and the Nicotine Free Generation initiative. The Board provided input to the draft and will revisit the final draft regulation in February, with technical assistance available from MAHB if needed.

7. Health and Human Services Update

Director Carroll shared several departmental updates with the Board including winter flu and covid clinics to targeted populations, the Office of Food Access is wrapping up the ARPA programming providing food access for youth, HHS provided over 850 rides in the last quarter, and an increased amount of basic-needs support to Somerville residents.

8. Next Meeting: February 20 ,2025

Meeting Adjourn: Brian Green moves to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 PM. Margaret Coit seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lucy Barrows
Board of Health Recording Secretary