

Health Officer Association Board Meeting Minutes
January 10, 2012
Local Government Center

Attendance: Judy Jervis, Cec Curran, Dennise Horrocks, Brian Lockard, Bill Oleksak, Chuck Stata and Louise Merchant Hannan

Absent: Donald Bent

Guest Speaker: Michael Dumond, DHHS

Mike discussed pertinent legislation, which is under the legislation section as well as a recent OWB case, which is noted here:

In the town of Ossipee, there was a complaint of an OWB that was installed prior to 2008. Senator Bradley contacted DHHS and DES and both agencies conducted interviews and conducted a site visit. Neither agency can enforce the situation. Senator Bradley sent the State a letter and Mike is in the process of sending a letter on how DHHS interprets the law. Can discuss the health issues from the OWB and how they may not be resolved. Can also discuss the individual rights of the person versus the rights of the others living nearby. The local health officer has chosen not to take any enforcement action. DHHS might choose to sit down with Senator Bradley's office and explain the challenges of the current law.

Judy discussed the Health Officers' Manual and the current challenge of not having the text of the sections and just the link. Judy has asked Mike to reconsider this option.

Judy has also asked Mike to provide the personal emails of the health officers. Mike indicated that he will talk to Jose to get his decision if a request can be made to all health officers for permission to give out all email addresses.

Chuck made a motion to have Mike pass Cec's letter. Bill seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passes.

Meeting commenced at 9am

Opening discussions included only receiving 18 evaluations back from the fall conference and some of the evaluations did not have the backside filled out. Some thoughts included holding the give-a-ways until the end then requiring the evaluations to be filled out before the certificates are given out along with the give-a-ways.

Minutes:

December 10, 2011 – Bill motions to accept the minutes as written and Wayne seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion is passed.

Treasurer Report: Brian Lockard reported that we have approximately \$5000.00 in the account. On November 30, 2011 there was a reported \$7,730.21 with two \$5000.00 certificates of deposits not including interest.

Correspondence to the Board:

Sandi Chabot from the NH COSH requested to have a 45 minute session at the spring conference to discuss the school checklist, COSH training and questions related to chemicals.

Judy received an email regarding the Emergency Preparedness conference for a Save-the-Date for June 26,2012.

The email address for health officer questions that used to go to the HOL is NHHO2012@gmail.com

The NHPHA is seeking a representative for their policy committee. Should someone wish to volunteer for this committee, please contact Judy. If there are no board members able to volunteer, a notice for volunteers will be posted on the NHHOA website for volunteers to contact Judy.

There was a request from Joyce Welch to present at the spring conference on health officer assistance during an emergency with food establishments.

Louise discussed that NHCOSH with support from TNEC will be able to offer an OSHA standard certification conference again this year to the health officers and will be looking for potential dates if there is interest from the board to have this conference again this year. This conference will be offered free of charge and will be offered to both health officers and to the building officials.

Board Business:

Old Business:

Committee Reports:

Legislative Update – There was a follow up discussion on whether or not the board felt that they wanted to hire the services of lobbyist Nancy Johnson @ \$1000.00 per year. Wayne was able to follow up with Steve to obtain his opinion and Steve felt that a lobbyist was not needed for the purposes of the board. Steve has offered his services to keep the board informed of any legislation that could affect health officers in the future in the House. Judy will get in touch with Nancy to let her know that we are all set with not needing her services at this time.

Mike discussed legislation that could potentially allow the sale of hazardous food to be sold in homes. Can sell to retail outlets.

HB-1650 – Food borne Freedom illness Act. This Bill would allow the removal of local control. The self-inspecting communities would have to follow what the state regulations are.

HB-1349 – Rep Steve Cunningham – DHHS supports this Bill. DHHS has some questions in regards to what “temporary” means, week or year? Can this term be defined? Answer – determined by the Select board. Can the State be notified when a community enacts this statute? NHHOA board feels that this would not be needed.

HB-1182 – chemical in plastic, DHHS lab is monitoring

HB514 – John Williams meeting, problems for health officers, DHHS supports changes, happen in Senate

Mike will continue to keep contact with NHHOA board through Judy.

HB-514 question, are health officers agents of the State or not? DHHS legal team determined that there is no language in statute supporting this. The wording is Commissioner or his representative or appointed?

New statute HB-1524 indemnification is the line of duty, internally, not impression that health officers are agents of the State.

Council on the Relationship of Public Health and the Environment – Cec has not heard from Matthew Cahillane in regards to when there will be another meeting yet.

Emergency Preparedness Committee – Chuck notified the board that the upcoming conference would be held on June 26, 2012.

Public Health Improvement Council – Judy will send out the minutes and will discuss the minutes at the next board meeting. Judy is the representative to this committee.

Arboviral Task Force – Dennise/Brian – There will be a meeting on January 25, 2012

NEHA – Judy has renewed professional membership and magazine subscriptions for, Cec, Chuck and Don.

Other Committees - All

New Business:

1. HOL Website/Question Board or E-Studio
 - a. Tim Soucy from Manchester has offered to host a website/blog.
 - b. Ask Dennise if the LGC would charge more money to host a list serve (blog) in a neutral location? The building officials had a list serve at the LGC at one point.
2. Spring Conference
 - a. A room has been reserved at the LGC for May 24, 2012.
 - b. The Makris requires the NHHOA to bring our own laptop. There was an on-line review of the food, which was not entirely favorable.
 - c. Sandi Chabot (NHCOSH) and Joyce Welch (DHHS FPS) have both requested to be placed on the spring conference agenda. We could also have Phil Alexakos to discuss legislation and legal issues. We could ask Mike Dumond or Christine from the LGC to discuss legislation and legal issues as well.
 - d. Other topics to consider are HO credentialing, Legal – LGC, mosquito control

- e. Chuck – enforcement/legal with Paul Sanderson. Impact on the health officer. We can have “Effective Use of Enforcement Tools” as a handout.
- f. We can have Sandi, Joyce, and Mike in the morning with a break then have Paul in the afternoon.
- g. Food
- h. Registration fee - \$30.00 for members and \$45.00 for non-members

Other Issues and Concerns of the Board:

Next Meeting Date and Topics:

Feb. 14, 15, 16, 2012

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Louise Merchant Hannan

Staff

New Hampshire Health Officers’ Association