

**CITY OF PHILADELPHIA  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH**

**Thursday, January 13, 2011**

A meeting of the Philadelphia Board of Health was held on Thursday, January 13, 2011, in the Municipal Services Building, 1401 J.F.K. Boulevard, and Room 1450.

**Board Members Present:** Jose A. Benitez, MSW; MD; Shannon P. Marquez, MEng.PhD; Scott McNeal, DO; Donald F. Schwarz, MD, MPH; Yolanda A. Slaughter, DDS, MPH

**Attendees:** Nan Feyler; Kay Graham; Sam Gulino, MD; Giridhar Mallya, MD, MSHP; Jeff Moran; Judith Peters; Don Sapatkin; Elaine M. Strunk; Kevin Vaughan; Tracey Williams

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Board President Donald F. Schwarz, Health Commissioner, called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM. He welcomed the members of the Board and those attending the meeting. Dr. Schwarz asked for amendments or corrections to the minutes of the meeting of November 18, 2010. In addition, the Board was asked to review attachments for inclusion in the minutes of the meeting of September 14, 2010. The minutes and attachments for both meetings were approved as submitted.

**COMMONWEALTH AND CITY CLEAN INDOOR AIR ACTS**

Dr. Mallya addressed the Board concerning a proposed resolution before the Board (Attachment A) authorizing the President of the Board of Health to send a letter to the Commonwealth Secretary of Health (Attachment B) assuming the authority to enforce clean indoor air laws enacted by the state within the City of Philadelphia.

Dr. Mallya explained that the City already enforces equivalent local clean indoor air ordinances in Philadelphia; however, as it pertains to smoking in gaming casinos, the State's law preempts local ordinance.

The resolution before the Board directs the department to inform the State that the City will assume the local authority to enforce State law pertaining to clean indoor air, thus enabling the City to enforce regulations in casinos that are not stipulated by local code. State ordinance allows the City to assume this authority, but requires that the City formally notify the State of its intention to do so.

Following discussion of related education efforts and enforcement practices, Dr. Gold moved to approve the resolution as written. Dr. McNeal seconded. Motion passed.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Schwarz noted that the State has announced the selection of Dr. Eli N. Avila, MD, JD, MPH, FCLM, a practicing physician, attorney, and public health professional to lead the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Before coming to the agency, he served as the Chief Deputy Commissioner of Health for Suffolk County, New York.

“Healthy Philadelphia” has provided an update on program activities (Attachment C). The program’s media campaigns will begin soon.

Funding for Adult Basic, which provides insurance for approximately 45, 000 statewide, has expired. Other than advocacy, the department has no role to play in this matter. The department and others have urged that a letter be sent to inform to those formerly covered by the program that they are no longer insured. To date, no letter has been sent.

## **REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH**

To continue the Board’s ongoing discussions about teens and sexually transmitted disease, Dr. Schwarz welcomed Tracey Williams and Judith Peters of the School District of Philadelphia to discuss the District’s Health Education Curriculum and its Health Resources Centers.

Ms. Peters presented the Board with information about the operation of the Health Resource Centers and the District’s program (Attachment D). The centers, operated under the auspices of the Family Planning Council and in partnership with neighboring hospitals, have served select high schools since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic. The schools that house Health Resource Centers were selected based upon AIDS data at the time they were established. Students at other schools rely upon resource guides for information about the availability of condoms.

Dr. Gold asked if Ms. Peters if data is available to measure the impact of the program, ensure that condoms are reaching young people, reveal to what extent it has impacted teen pregnancy rates.

Ms. Peters said that there is a correlation between screening programs and the number of students using protection, dropout rates, and attendance rates. Dr Schwarz cited a study conducted in the late 1990’s that identified lower pregnancy rates in the areas surrounding schools with Health Resource Centers. He said that health department data indicates that infection rates are slightly lower in the schools that have the Centers.

Ms. Peters also provided the Board with extensive information about the School District’s curriculum pertaining to sexual health, and described related annual activities and events such as the observance of World AIDS Day. Information about the programs

is available to parents on the School District's website at:  
<http://webgui.phila.k12.pa.us/offices/h/physed/programs--services>

Tracey Williams of the School District outlined the education and anonymous sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment program that currently visits all Philadelphia public high schools.

Board members discussed the need for better data to evaluate existing programs as well as the need to improve access for young people.

Dr. Schwarz noted that the School Reform Commission would influence any changes in School District policy. He thanked Ms. Williams and Ms. Peters for their informative presentations about School District programs and said that additional meetings would take place with School District policymakers. The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 PM.