



Municipality of Anchorage

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

Health and Human Services Commission

MEETING MINUTES ~ April 11, 2018
5:30 p.m. – 825 L Street, Ste 423, Anchorage, AK

Attendance

Commissioners present: Donna Mears, Chair, Gabe Garcia, Teresa Bormann, Matthew Thomas, Laura Hudson (telephonic), Fabrice Evengue, Kati Ward

Commissioners absent: Stephanie Berglund (excused), Gary Ferguson (excused)

Staff: Melinda Freemon, Jessie Downes, DeeAnn Fetko, Judy Atkins

The meeting was preceded by an incoming Commissioner briefing presented by Melinda Freemon, Director of DHHS, for Kati Ward and Fabrice Evengue.

Call to Order

Chair Mears called the meeting to order at 5:29 p.m. with a quorum and welcomed all to the meeting.

Roll Call – Introductions

Commissioners and staff were introduced. The Chair welcomed two new members to the Commission, Kati Ward and Fabrice Evengue.

Approval of Agenda

Chair Mears called for approval of the Agenda as presented. Motion to approve by Commissioner Hudson; 2nd by Commissioner Thomas. ***Motion passed.***

Approval of Minutes

Chair Mears called for approval of the January 10, 2018 minutes as presented. Motion to approve by Commissioner Garcia; 2nd by Commissioner Thomas. ***Motion passed.***

Presentations

Jessie Downes, Community Health Supervisor, briefed on three areas of interest. She reported that public health nursing is expecting a \$400,000 funding cut. She then offered an exercise on problem solving which she uses and thought may provide insight for the commissioners. Public health focuses not on just the treatment of the disease but advocating for healthy communities. The six external

strategic priorities for FY18 are: Chlamydia, domestic violence/interpersonal violence, emergency preparedness, immunizations, obesity and tuberculosis. DHHS is expanding the partnership with the Anchorage School District. There has been a communication problem and after meeting it was parental feedback was identified as an ongoing issue. The decision was made to put marketing out with the DHHS logo. We are working with the State to initiate a public health alert level that all parents can relate to. They are working on strengthening the relationship with the school nurses as well and will prepare a presentation for the upcoming nurses' conference.

Three outbreaks are of current concern in the Anchorage area:

- Gonorrhea – 2017 saw a 75% increase of 2016. There was a need to increase the outreach to the community so monthly outreach started in April, seeing 35 clients in six hours, making the effort extremely successful. We are in partnership with 4As and Identity to get the word out.
- Syphilis – Over the last 4 months there has been a 400% increase over the same period last year. This disease is curative and there is no treatment for it; you carry the disease for the rest of your life.
- Mumps – This outbreak has been ongoing since May of 2017; currently there are 304 cases in Anchorage. DHHS has done extensive outreach; the MMR vaccine is free. The level of immunizations children need to have before registration should be re-evaluated so outbreaks such as this don't happen.

Old Business

DHHS New Building Project Update. The groundbreaking for the new building has been delayed tentatively to 2020. The \$170 million project at Tudor and Elmore is a complex with several buildings: grocery store, apartment buildings, etc. DHHS is now scheduled to be the 3rd building completed. DeeAnn Fetko is assisting with the design and FFE. We are very optimistic that it will happen. The building is two floors and have 40,000 sf.

Inclusiveness Resolution. Chair Mears asked that the resolution be tabled until the July meeting. Commissioner Ward agreed to work with her and Commissioner Thomas on this important subject.

New Business

DHHS Strategic Plan 2018-2025. Ms. Freemon presented the program implementation plan which was over a year in the making. The plan has a longer vision, practical and visionary ideas for public health in Anchorage with specific goals for each program. Every employee was involved and provided input. A link will be provided to the plan and Commissioners were encouraged to reach it and identify areas where a commission could become involved. Advocacy for resolutions is one area of support.

Program updates, DeeAnn Fetko. The mold ordinance affecting hotels passed the Assembly. There are some animal control ordinance changes being worked on right now but probably won't go before the Assembly until later this year. The streamlined

clean air code passed offering better enforcement on smoke issues. A great partnership with the Fire Department has been formed. Cost of healthcare ordinance passed last year and has received no complaints, only a few inquiries. The WIC program is receiving a \$125,000 cut in funding because we did not reach as many people as predicted.

Other Announcements

DHHS is participating in the municipal wide Vera Whole Health Program which offers free limited health care to employees. Basic lab work, prescriptions, visits. They also do referrals.

DHHS won three of the Annual Employee of the Year Awards: Employee of the Year – Liz Butera; Multicultural Diversity Individual – Willy Mamtchueng; Multicultural Diversity Group – Clinical Services. Congratulations!

Adjournment

Move to adjourn, Commissioner Garcia; 2nd by Commissioner Bormann. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be held Wednesday, July 11, 2018, DHHS conference room 423.