



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes

Board of Health



Thursday, March 8, 2018

5:30 PM

Regular

Department of Public
Health and Human
Services

Training Room 1
1005 W. Worley St.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Szewczyk called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Staff Present: Stephanie Browning, Scott Clardy, and Amy Larkin

Present: 7 - Cynthia Boley, Elizabeth Hussey, Jean Sax, Mahree Skala, David Sohl, Michael Szewczyk and Mary Gadbois

Excused: 4 - Harry Feirman, Lynelle Phillips, Denise Stillson and Angie Bass

II.. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

A motion was made by Dr. Hussey, seconded by Mr. Sohl and carried.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the February 8, 2018 meeting were approved as presented.

A motion was made by Ms. Skala, seconded by Ms. Boley and carried.

Attachments: February 8, 2018-DRAFT

IV. REPORTS

Directors Report

Ms. Browning reported that Public Health and Human Services (PHHS) has begun the FY19 budget preparation. There will be no increases in the budget and PHHS is hopeful to maintain current service levels.

Ms. Browning gave an update on the Live Well Boone County Community Health Assessment. The online and paper survey closes March 16, 2018. As of March 8, 2018, there have been 1,450 completed surveys. Six of the ten focus groups have been conducted and updates to all of the health and population data is underway.

Lastly, she reported that on April 24, 2018, PHHS and the Live Well Boone County Health Disparities Action Team will be sponsoring a poverty simulation conducted by the Central Missouri Community Action Agency. It will be open to the community and is part of the Inclusive Excellence Boone County Passport Series. It will be held at the Missouri United Methodist Church from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. An online registration is being set up and once the link is up, it will be shared with Board members.

Legislative Report

Attachments: BOH Legislative report 03-08-18

Mr. Clardy reported on Senate Bill (SB) 948 and House Bill (HB) 1856 regarding Medicaid Work Requirements. If SB 948 passes, it is estimated that between zero and 20,350 people would lose coverage. If HB1856 passes, it is estimated between 17,000 and 52,000 could lose coverage. HB1856 focuses more on custodial parents, requiring 80 hours of work per month or 20 hours per week. If the parent meets these requirements working hourly for minimum wage, that parent would lose coverage due to being over income requirements, yet would not make enough to afford other coverage. SB 948 has been voted out of committee, HB1856 has had a hearing but not been voted on in committee.

Representative Neely's HB1554, which has to do with medical marijuana, has been voted out of committee.

Dr. Szewczyk asked about the Citizen's Petition initiative to legalize medical marijuana and if it has gone anywhere. Mr. Clardy said he hadn't heard anything regarding it. Ms. Skala said the deadline is May 6, 2018.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Update on Status for Tobacco Retailer Licensure

Mr. Clardy reported that the Law Department is continuing to review the ordinance.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

Human Rights Commission Request Regarding Conversion Therapy

Andrea Waner, co-chair of the Commission on Human Rights for the City of

Columbia, spoke to the Board regarding their concern on Conversion Therapy. Ms. Waner explained that each year, the Human Rights Campaign issues a Municipal Equality Index (MEI); a framework which examines how inclusive municipal laws, policies, and services are for the LGBTQ community who live and work there. Cities are rated based on non-discrimination laws, how the municipality behaves as an employer, municipal services, law enforcement, and the city's leadership public position on equality.

The City of Columbia works on improving the score of the MEI by evaluating each of Columbia's current programs, services, and policies. In 2014, the City scored 70/100. Since then they have progressed; scoring 100/100 in 2017.

Each year, the framework is updated for the MEI to address emerging/newer issues. For 2018, the Human Rights Campaign has asked municipalities to explore the issue of conversion therapy. Ms. Waner explained that conversion therapy encompasses a range of practices that seek to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. There has been no evidence proving that conversion therapy works. Research has shown, however, these practices pose devastating health risks for LGBTQ youth. Conversion therapy is condemned by major medical and mental health organizations such as the American Psychiatric Association.

Ms. Waner stated that the MEI advocates for municipalities to enact laws to protect youth from the harmful and discredited practice of so-called "conversion therapy" to prohibit licensed medical and mental health professionals from engaging the practice upon minors within city limits. The Commission on Human Rights wants to explore the human rights impact as well as the broader health impact of prohibiting or allowing such practices in our community. The Commission is asking the Board to explore the health effects of conversion therapy.

The Board discussed the City's authority to regulate medical practices or tell licensed physicians or counselors what they can or cannot do. There were questions as to what can be done if a parent sends a child to a camp outside of Boone County; and how that is regulated. Ms. Waner explained how Hawaii passed a state law regarding conversion therapy. In addition, municipalities, like Reading, Pennsylvania, have prohibited licensed mental

and medical providers from practicing conversion therapy.

Ms. Browning asked if the Human Rights Commission has gone to City Council to ask if they are interested in taking up this issue. Ms. Waner explained they haven't yet, as they would like to gather more information first.

Dr. Szewczyk asked if there is anyone who advertises conversion therapy in Columbia or if there have been complaints received from Columbia residents. Ms. Waner stated that some LGBTQ organizations in Columbia have said they know of a few kids that have undergone conversion therapy. The Board further discussed concerns on where someone would file a complaint, whether or not conversion therapy is a common practice, and how to identify someone who practices conversion therapy.

Ms. Browning asked if the Human Rights Commission is currently focused on finding out the health implications of conversion therapy versus promoting specific legislation. She added that Public Health and Human Services staff could review the current health literature related to conversion therapy and provide their results to the Commission. The Commission wants to use the health information to develop the human rights aspect side of the issue to present the information to the City Council at a later date, since it is outside of the purview of boards and commissions to issue ordinances.

Dr. Szewczyk asked if the City could lose their 100/100 if it doesn't meet the requirements regarding conversion therapy. Ms. Waner says it is possible; the score isn't perfect in all required areas. The 100/100 score came from additional points in bonus areas. The conversion therapy issue would be a bonus area.

There was discussion that it would be interesting to see how municipalities have passed laws regarding conversion therapy and how the context reads. Mr. Clardy read an article regarding Reading, Pennsylvania banning conversion therapy. It notes that Reading along with other municipalities including Pittsburg, Philadelphia, Allentown, nine states, the District of Columbia, and twenty-four other municipalities across the country have passed ordinances or laws forbidding conversion therapy.

Potential Draft Amendment to Chapter 5 Related to Animal Tethering

Dr. Szewczyk stated the last time the Board updated the Animal Control ordinance; there were requests to ban tethering altogether. The Board didn't feel they could ban all tethering; however they included areas of enforcement in the ordinance.

Ms. Browning stated that on February 19, 2018, the City Council requested a report regarding enforcement issues with tethering. Ms. Browning mentioned that prosecuting tethering cases has proven challenging due to the vague ordinance language, which states that a citizen cannot "tether an animal as the primary method of restraining an animal to any property." Once Council received the report they asked that she and the Law Department draft a new amendment on tethering.

The changes being proposed remove all references of tethering from section 5-6 of the current ordinance and create a new section for tethering only. One proposal for the new amendment is to include definitions of tethering and supervised tethering.

Ms. Browning indicated that the proposed revisions would require supervised tethering and that the tethering would be allowed for only short periods of time, not to exceed 30 minutes. This allows an Animal Control Officer to monitor the time length of tethering more easily. There was discussion that 30 minutes may not be an adequate amount of time and that many factors go in to determining if the tethering is putting the animal at risk.

Mr. Clardy indicated that staff has looked into tethering ordinances across the country. Springfield, MO and Florida ordinances allow only 30 minutes; most places that have addressed tethering have banned it altogether.

The Board moved on to discuss changing the wording regarding how far an animal is to be tethered from the sidewalk. Current wording is "ten feet from a sidewalk or neighboring yard". It was suggested to change wording to "so that the tether cannot extend to within ten feet from the sidewalk".

Ms. Browning said the feedback from the Board is quite helpful. The proposed language, with comments, will be sent to the Prosecutor for their input. Ms. Browning will keep the Board informed about additional proposed revisions after the Prosecutor's review.

VII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

Mr. Clardy shared the schedule for upcoming site visits. The April meeting will be at the Waste Water Treatment Plant and will begin at 5:00 p.m. rather than 5:30 p.m. The Research Reactor is currently scheduled for the second Friday in June, however, members of the public are not allowed into the reactor unless they have had a background check. The reactor facility also requires a list of tour attendees one month before the tour. Mr. Clardy spoke to the Law Department and was advised against the Board meeting there or anywhere that is not open to members of the general public. There was further discussion and it was decided to wait to cancel the tour until Mr. Clardy could get further clarification from the Law Department. Mr. Clardy also added that a tour of the Landfill is scheduled for September, 13, 2018.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

April 12, 2018

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Some members had to leave the meeting, resulting in a lack of a quorum. No further business was discussed and the meeting ended at 7:00 p.m.

Members of the public may attend any open meeting. For requests for accommodations related to disability, please call 573-874-7214. In order to assist staff in making the appropriate arrangements for your accommodation, please make your request as far in advance of the posted meeting date as possible.