



CITY OF NEWBURYPORT

BOARD OF HEALTH

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Laura Vlasuk
Director of Public Health

Board & Staff Present:

Dr. Robin Blair, Board Chair
Dr. Robert Slocum, Board Member
Dr. Sam Merabi, Board Member

Laura Vlasuk, Director of Public Health
Michael Lawler, Office Manager

Other Attendees:

Ron Beauregard, Director of Healthy Communities Tobacco Control Program
Leah Lynch, Beautique Salon
Lauren Kantak, Mirror Mirror Salon

***Remote* Board of Health Meeting Minutes** **April 21, 2022**

I. Call to Order – 7:00pm

Meeting called to order by Dr. Blair at 7:02 pm

II. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Motion to approve minutes made by Dr. Merabi, seconded by Dr. Slocum. Motion passes 3-0.

III. General Department Update

Laura Vlasuk was introduced as the new Director of Public Health for the City of Newburyport.

IV. Appeal Hearing – Newburyport One Stop, 1 Kent Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

This agenda item was pushed to the next meeting, Thursday, May 26, 2022.

V. Body Art Regulation

Dr. Blair and Dr. Merabi gave an overview the discussion of last meeting where there was a request from two salons to do lip pigmentation.

Director Vlasuk gave the Board an overview of the updates that were done to the regulations over the past month. The updates include grammatical errors, changing from gendered pronouns to gender-neutral pronouns, and a new section on apprenticeship licensure.

Michael Lawler, Office Manager, explained that there were two key problems to tackle, one being lip pigmentation and the other being an apprenticeship license. Michael also informed the Board that both Lauren Kantak and Leah Lynch who both have Body Art facilities were on the call to answer questions the Board may have.

Leah spoke to the confusion around micropigmentation which is with the use of a machine and microblading which is a separate technique using different tools.

Dr. Merabi asked for clarification on when the date was that micropigmentation was discussed because he does not recall, he only recalled microblading being reviewed.

Lauren explained that technically their license covers microblading and micropigmentation. She currently only holds her microblading and eyebrow certification so that is the only service she provides, but if she takes the course for lips, that will then fall under the blanket of her certification so she should be able to jump into it. Lauren explained that she originally came to the Board as a formality to make sure that this was okay to do because she was under the impression from conversations with the former Director that this was an allowed procedure if the course was taken.

Leah explained that the technique and equipment of micropigmentation is the same for the eyebrow as it is for the lip. It is just moving the equipment down the face and that the same risk and exposure exists for both.

Dr. Merabi explained that the lip is made up of mucosa and not derm which is the difference in his mind and that the Board has not yet reviewed any materials related to that. Dr. Merabi also referenced one presentation that was given to the Board on areola tattooing that was given in conjunction with a plastic surgeon in the context of ancillary treatment for cancer patients. Dr. Merabi was hoping for some sort of presentation on the procedure that the Board could review. Leah stated that she was willing to do a presentation on the procedure for the Board. Lauren stated that spoke with the school that she attended, and they suggested that the Board reach out to the City of Boston to discuss their regulations if that would offer more clarity.

Dr. Merabi asked if the Board could be sent information on how far the needle is going in the lip, what is being used, and just the basics.

Lauren stated that she would make a copy of the chapter of the book they study from on lip micropigmentation and drop that off at the Health Department for review by the Board.

Dr. Slocum asked Dr. Merabi for clarification on what the current concerns were from his perspective so that he had a better understanding. Dr. Merabi stated that the Board approved everything for derm and that the lip is made up of different cells and the Board was not yet presented with information relating to the lips. Dr. Slocum also asked for clarification on what the Board's role was in this – if it was just to say that it is not a public health risk for disease transmission but also not endorsing it as a recommended procedure or anything. Dr. Merabi explained that it was more about due diligence and looking at what issues might come later so that if someone came forward with an issue and said why did the Board approve it, they had all the information.

Lauren asked the Board that since they brought up areola tattooing and that is technically dermis, if she would be covered under that with her license if she were to take the class. Dr. Merabi said that he believes that was approved so yes it would be allowed. Michael Lawler explained that he saw that in the minutes during his research that in order to do areola tattooing a sign-off was needed by the surgeon that treated the patient just saying that they were clear from risk of infection. Lauren explained that her plan would be to take both the lip and areola class and add those procedures to her service.

Leah asked for some clarification on what the Board wanted to see so she may prepare for next time. Dr. Merabi asked for bullet points of equipment, how far into the lip you are going (layer), what is single use, what is not single use, what is autoclaved, etc. Lauren explained that it is all single use except for the machine and those are wrapped in tattoo plastic. She also asked if she

should bring in her machine and single use items for the Board to see. Dr. Merabi explained that photographs should be fine and in terms of presentation, he was looking for an itemization of equipment, brief description of the procedure and how it differs from what was already approved then sent to the Board, so they have time to review it.

Dr. Blair stated that this will be continued to the next meeting.

Director Vlasuk asked before moving on to the next topic if the Board would want to take up the apprenticeship portion this month or wait until next month and do it with the lip pigmentation.

Leah spoke on this matter that this regulation was somewhat recent and was asking for grandfather status for those who had applications and be considered for licenses before the changes were made. Dr. Blair stated that his opinion would be that if they were approved for their license already than those individuals would be grandfathered in before the new regulations went into effect. Director Vlasuk agreed that the five that were already licensed should be grandfathered in, but if the Board voted in those regulations that those should take effect immediately.

Dr. Blair asked if the changes are mostly just housekeeping. Director Vlasuk explained that it mostly was housekeeping and that the only real change was the apprenticeship portion which was added because it was not there. The Board decided to table this until the next meeting and vote on it with the lip pigmentation discussion.

VI. Updated Fee Schedule

Director Vlasuk gave an overview of the updated fee schedule which included:

- Adding the fines from the state tobacco regulations that retailers sign on to when they get their permit

- Making temporary food events from 1 and 2 day events being \$100 to \$50 per day.

- Adding event organizer onto the fee schedule.

- Increased Disposal Installer Exam from \$10 to \$50.

- Added choke-saver to the fee schedule.

- Burial Permit was \$10 but Board voted to increase to \$15 in February of 2016 but it was never updated.

- Increased Well Plan Review and Permit from \$25 to \$50. This is our first online permit as well.

Motion to approve update fee schedule by Dr. Slocum, seconded by Dr. Merabi. Motion passes 3-0.

VII. COVID-19 Update

Director Vlasuk went over our current COVID-19 numbers.

In January the city saw over 600 cases which is our highest month to date. Currently, this month, the city has 62 cases which is an uptick with a 3.91% positivity. The highest day of new infections was at 9 cases. The current prediction is that we will see an uptick with the post-Easter gathering crowds.

Dr. Merabi inquired about hospitalizations. Dr. Blair explained that there were 7 cases in the hospital currently.

VIII. 2022 Beach Testing Season – Proposed Testing Locations

Director Vlasuk explained that we are currently testing the water in 4 locations at Plum Island Point, End of Island 1, End of Island 2, and 55th Street. The End of Island 1 and End of Island 2 are approximately 50 feet apart, so the suggestion is that the Board eliminates End of Island 1 and making that 1 testing site instead of 2. This would be a cost saving for pre-season testing and retesting, not that money is a factor, it mostly just does not make sense.

Dr. Merabi asked if there was another location we could test. Director Vlasuk said she would ask the Harbormaster if there's another area he suggests.

Motion to approve testing locations made by Dr. Slocum, seconded by Dr. Merabi. Motion passes 3-0.

IX. Upcoming Events

- a. Blood Drive - Tuesday, May 3rd
- b. Choke-Saver Courses – April 25th, May 9th, and May 23rd

X. Future Meetings

- a. May 26, 2022 7:00pm (fourth Thursday)
- b. June 23, 2022 7:00pm (fourth Thursday)

XI. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made at 7:50pm by Dr. Merabi, seconded by Dr. Slocum. Motion passes 3-0.

The recording of this meeting can be viewed on the Newburyport Health Department YouTube page at this link: https://youtu.be/M6cB6Lq-D_Q.