



Programs & Services Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Present: Councilors Leary (Acting Chair), Kalis, Schwartz and Auchincloss

Absent: Councilors Rice, Baker, Sangiolo and Hess-Mahan

City Staff: Deborah Youngblood (Commissioner, Health and Human Services), Karyn Dean (Committee Clerk)

#416-16 **Mayor's Appointment of Michelle Freshman to the Advisory Council of Health**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR appointing MICHELLE FRESHMAN, 39 Gray Cliff Road, Newton as a member of the ADVISORY COUNCIL OF HEALTH for a term to expire January 1, 2019 (60 days 2/3/17) [11/21/16 @ 1:35 PM]

Action: **Programs & Services Approved 4-0**

Note: Ms. Freshman has a degree as a family nurse practitioner and is working at Newton Wellesley Hospital with gastroenterological patients as well as those with Multiple Sclerosis and soon with diabetes patients. She has been active in public health in other communities and has a degree in Public Health. She is interested in Hepatitis B and C treatment and concerned with the opioid crisis. The older communities are also of interest to her and those with chronic conditions and the transitions from home health care to health care facilities. The housing crisis causes gaps in health care and a public health perspective is needed for the older populations.

Ms. Freshman said the Newton Wellesley Hospital runs wellness clinics for skin checks, blood pressure, flu clinics, etc., which can be accessed by the residents of Newton. She imagines those could be expanded to other sites and how points of contact with people in need can be created.

A Committee member asked Deb Youngblood, Commissioner of Health and Human Services, what the role will be of the Advisory Council. She explained that it took her quite a while to pull this talented group together. She wanted a variety of perspectives to make it as useful as possible. The ordinance requires two doctors and she also wanted backgrounds in human services, public health, and a faith-based perspective among others. The conversations have been valuable and the ideas that come out of them have been amazing due to the many different backgrounds, experiences and expertise. It is a new group, but there have been conversations about driving one or two main initiatives as well.

A Committee member noted that the City has some wonderful programs such as the Senior Center and the Newton at Home organization which works to keep older people safe in their homes. The

City's population is aging and these issues need to be addressed. A Councilor added that there are tremendous school clinics and nurses in every school. Depression in the school -age population is an issue and programs have been put in place to support students.

The Committee thanked Ms. Freshman for her willingness to serve and approved her appointment unanimously.

#417-16 Mayor's Appointment of Asa Fanelli to the Advisory Council of Health

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR appointing ASA FINELLI, 8 Kerry Court, Newton as a member of the ADVISORY COUNCIL OF HEALTH for a term to expire January 1, 2019 (60 days 2/3/17) [11/21/16 @ 1:35 PM]

Action: Programs & Services Approved 4-0

Note: Ms. Fanelli said she is Swedish and moved to Newton as an immigrant from Italy. Her sons came here without speaking a word of English and they have had a great life here. She has seen her neighborhood changing on the border of West Newton and Auburndale, and also the neighborhood struggling. She has worked in the corporate sector in travel and student education, business management, strategy and crisis management. She then worked in the non-profit arena with issues of homelessness and families living in poverty. There are so many factors involved in poverty and most people are vulnerable to that. This leads to barriers to education and health care. In Newton 11% of school children live in poverty and this is a huge opportunity to make changes. She would like to look at setting up systems to intervene as quickly as possible, especially in families with young children and second language learners. The problems are complex and need both policies and services to help solve them.

The Committee felt her background and experience, particularly in strategy would be very helpful to leverage the great resources in the community. They thanked her for her willingness to serve and unanimously approved the appointment.

#418-16 Mayor's Appointment of Lisa Terrizzi the Advisory Council of Health

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR appointing LISA TERRIZZI, 63 Ridge Avenue, Newton as a member of the ADVISORY COUNCIL OF HEALTH for a term to expire January 1, 2019 (60 days 2/3/17) [11/21/16 @ 1:35 PM]

Action: Programs & Services Approved 4-0

Note: Ms. Terrizzi agreed with the other appointees comments. It is very complicated to be poor and takes quite a bit of energy and knowledge. She is interested in seeing which ways she can plug into the needs in Newton, but she is particularly interested in helping to better understand the health related needs of Newton's newly arrived or first-generation residents. These are also people who may not be aware of the resources available to them informationally and legally. There are very educated and high informed people with connections to the best doctors and policy makers in the City, but that is not true for many people. She would like to find the caregivers and policy people who can help those populations and help them understand what they need to ask

about and need to know. She could also envision opportunities to put on informational programs about health care proxies, informed consent, clinical trials and other health related, legal matters, so when a medical crisis strikes in a family they can move forward in an informed way.

A Councilor noted that the Veteran's Service Officer follows that model for the veteran's community by dealing with a very large bureaucracy and delivering services to the individual. He acts as a very effective ombudsman. It was also noted that there are many residents who are dealing with language issues and new to the City and they could very much benefit and be grateful to have someone to talk to about their options and guide them through various processes.

Ms. Terrizzi has a personal interest in rare diseases and worked for the company that is credited for getting the orphan drug bill past. She has been to summits with patient advocates and there were pretty much all white. It made her think about how other populations find their perspective and come from different racial and ethnic backgrounds because that data is needed. A Councilor recommended that this group with the social workers that work for the City and network with them.

The Committee thanked Ms. Terrizzi for her willingness to serve and unanimously voted to approve her appointment.

#419-16 Mayor's Appointment of Matthew Stafford to the Advisory Council of Health
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR appointing MATTHEW STAFFORD, 11 Cragmore Road, Newton as a member of the ADVISORY COUNCIL OF HEALTH for a term to expire January 1, 2019 (60 days 2/3/17) [11/21/16 @ 1:35 PM]

Action: Programs & Services Approved 4-0

Note: Mr. Stafford stated that he was not a member of the medical community and has no medical training. He is currently working on his Master's Degree in Public Health at Boston University. He is very curious to learn how local governments deal with health crises and day to day issues. With his degree, he hopes to learn more about health care delivery systems and doing the most good with limited resources. He brings the perspective of a parent with elementary and middle-school children. He is interested in the public health issues of the City and its residents and hopes to be of service.

A Councilor asked about his interest in particular issues of public health. Mr. Stafford said he was concerned about the lead in water and the issues around the opioid crisis. A Councilor noted that there has been an issue of TCE contamination in the groundwater in her neighborhood which has required air purification devices in about 30 homes. Test wells have been drilled to find the source and the Department of Environmental Protection has been leading the effort. DEP has been doing a great job but she would appreciate any help from the Advisory Council to help them figure out what the role of the City might be and to let people know what is happening and get involved.

A Committee member felt that Mr. Stafford was a great contributor to this group. The Committee thanked him for being willing to serve and approved his appointment unanimously.

#420-16 **Mayor's Appointment of Bradley Barnes to the Advisory Council of Health**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR appointing BRADLEY J. BARNES, 447 Brookline Street, Newton as a member of the ADVISORY COUNCIL OF HEALTH for a term to expire January 1, 2020 (60 days 2/3/17) [11/21/16 @ 1:35 PM]

Action: **Programs & Services Approved 4-0**

Note: Mr. Barnes joined the Committee. He explained that he is a minister and has no medical or health services background. He moved to New England for school and became a Chaplain at Harvard University under Peter Gomes for 7 years and ran the Chaplain Society of Harvard with Rabbi Bernie Steinberg. He found a joy in figuring out how to communicate across faith traditions and the value of that for the health of a larger community of people. He and his wife have 3 children at school in Newton. During his son's four years in high school there were 4 suicides and there are students that are hurting deeply. He would love to see an opportunity for the faith communities in Newton to come together to serve in as many ways as possible. It is difficult to communicate well as adults and that gets passed on to our children and the society then forms deep fissures.

He and his family have been amazed at the neighbors they have had at various places they have lived in the City and they would like to see that diversity grow and flourish and in particular he is interested in seeing children in the City do as well as they can. He is a big fan of the principal at Newton South and has talked about putting together a multi-faith council that families, if and when issues arise, could turn to as a resource. Priests, Rabbis and Clerics from all faiths as well as secular humanists could all be of great service at times of crisis.

A Councilor said she was pleased to see his interest in outside activity because it is so important for children to be outside and connect with nature. Mr. Barnes referenced WayPoint which is an organization that helps students with special needs enjoy outdoor activities. He and his family love the inclusivity of the classrooms and his wife is a teacher's assistant for a child with special needs at Angier and his daughter heads up Best Buddies at Brown Middle School.

A Committee member noted that Mr. Barnes has an ability to communicate to different types of people which will be very beneficial within this group and they work they do. He also felt it was brave to try to new things and is indicated on Mr. Barnes resume. Another Councilor said that the surveys that are done are helpful but the hands on work that is done by ministers is extremely important and provides a unique point of view.

The Committee thanked Mr. Barnes for his service and voted unanimously to approve his appointment.

#421-16 **Mayor's Appointment of Brenda Anders Pring to the Advisory Council of Health**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR appointing BRENDA ANDERS, 19 Rowe Street, Newton as a member of the ADVISORY COUNCIL OF HEALTH for a term to expire January 1, 2020 (60 days 2/3/17) [11/21/16 @ 1:35 PM]

Action: **Programs & Services Approved 4-0**

Note: Dr. Anders explained that she is a mother and a pediatrician. She has worked in government in the Clinton administration and that experience in government also informs her other work. She cares for children every day and she feels pediatricians have a responsibility to serve and work within their communities. She is involved with the American Academy of Pediatrics which worked with Tobacco 21 and she's glad Newton raised the age to 21. She also wrote an article on E-cigarettes. She works with the Mass. Medical Society and represents the area at state meetings. She also is a health advisor at Rockwell Preschool which is at Lasall College and works with students at Harvard Medical School.

Dr. Anders is pleased that there are nurses in every school. She has a child with a life threatening condition and it is comforting to her to have that professional there and she is sure other parents must feel the same.

A Committee member asked if E-cigarettes are as bad as they sound. Dr. Anders said that is very likely true. A lot of data has not come in yet, but 50 years ago doctors were telling people to smoke. A lithium ion battery is being heated up and inhaled and that is probably not a great idea and there is also some second-hand smoke involved. Newton adopted laws to prohibit the sale to those under 21 and flavored tobaccos can only be sold in Tobacco stores.

A Councilor noted that some of her previous work involved getting messages out to the community and that experience with outreach will be very valuable. She used to work at LifeTime TV and she worked on PSAs there as well.

Another Committee member noted that the health benefits of breastfeeding are many. She wondered if this could be an issue that could be considered for further public education. Encouraging walking is another issue she would like looked at. Other communities have used wayfaring signage to encourage people to walk.

The Committee was pleased to meet Dr. Anders and thanked her for her service. The Committee approved her appointment unanimously.

#422-16 **Mayor's Re-appointment of Aric Parnes to the Advisory Council of Health**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR re-appointing ARIC PARNES 43 Beverly Road, Newton as a member of the ADVISORY COUNCIL OF HEALTH for a term to expire January 1, 2020 (60 days 2/3/17) [11/21/16 @ 1:35 PM]

Action: **Programs & Services Approved 4-0**

Note: Deb Youngblood said that Mr. Parnes has been extremely valuable to work with on both the Advisory Council and the Biosafety Committee.

The Committee voted unanimously to re-appoint Mr. Parnes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alison Leary, Acting Chair