

Health and Human Services Advisory Minutes

October 1, 2018

6:00pm

City Hall- Health Conference rm. 106C

In attendance: Matt Stafford, Michelle Drolsbaugh, Michelle Freshman, Lisa Terrizi, Deborah Youngblood, Commissioners

Non-Commissioner: Murali Vemula

1. Lengthy Discussion on Tobacco retail permitting, vape stores, new interest in opening more vape stores as popularity of e-cigarettes is rising, loss of grant funding for retail inspections and compliance checks, new approaches to ensuring we continue overseeing tobacco stores, and possibility of capping tobacco retail establishments in general and a sub-cap on 21 and over Vape stores. Committee recommends establishing a new health regulation that would limit the number of stores overall and limit the number of over 21 vape stores. They requested a follow up discussion to report on accomplishments of these efforts which is was emphasized should be addressed in a timely fashion given rising rates of tobacco use among young people.
2. Discussed some of the departments growing efforts to educate Newton residents about the best ways to prevent rats from infesting their properties. Members expressed interest in these efforts continuing. They were supportive of a column being published in the TAB and in the HHS and the Mayors newsletters.
3. Discussed the summer food program. Committee members were sorry to learn that there was such significant need among our families, with over 400 backpacks distributed but were pleased that we have established this program. We discussed the modified school year program that is continuing with a limited (4) number of community based locations to pick up backpacks. We also discussed the distribution of school supply backpacks.
4. Discussed the summer high school internship program. Committee members asked to learn more about whether a smaller school year program is able to get started.
5. Did not have time to discuss the Narcan distribution program or the Code Red sign up efforts. Agreed that these would be included on the next meeting's agenda. One member requested that we include the issue of suicide prevention on the next agenda and include a specific discussion around seniors and suicide prevention.