



Observer Report Form

Table with 4 columns: Feature Evaluated, Yes, No, Comments. Rows include: Meeting started on time?, All members present?, Members attentive?, Did members appear to have done their "homework?", Were members courteous to each other and the public?, Agenda sent/posted 72 hours before?, Agenda items clearly described what was to be discussed?, Adequate opportunity for public input?, Was there an appearance that some action items were discussed in closed rather than open session?, Was background information available to the public?, Facilities adequate? (room size, lighting, ventilation, speakers audible, accessible to handicapped)

Were any issues on the agenda relevant to LWV positions or programs?

- 1. Board approval of proposed revisions in Metro regulations #3 and #13 to make them consistent with EPA amendment specifying CO2 and other greenhouse gases as regulated air pollutants.
2. Report of participant in APHA delegation to visit public health facilities and initiatives in Cuba [see notes appended]
3. Report on grant from U.S. Dept. Health and Human Services – Pathways to Public Health; mention of related Metro Health Dept. programs and linkages with community health initiatives, including: TN Obesity Task Force, TN Health and Wellness Coalition, Healthy Communities Network, Healthy Workplace, Center for Health Equity (Belmont University), Great American Smoke-out, health impact assessment of public transportation, social networking initiative, etc.

Do you recommend League action on any of these issues? Not at this time except to continue the League's involvement in Community Conversations on Children's Health Issues spearheaded by Nashville Public Television.

Other Concerns: none

Observer: Pat Post

Meeting: Metro Board of Health Date: 12/02/2010

1 Metro Board of Health members:

William Hance, JD – Chair; Asst Vice Chancellor for Vanderbilt Med Ctr (VUMC) News & Communications
Ruth Stewart, MD – Vice-Chair; Clinical Faculty Family Medicine Physician, Meharry Medical College
Samuel O. Okpaku, MD, PhD – Secretary; Clinical Professor, Vanderbilt; American Psychiatric Association Board Diplomate
Henry Foster, MD – Chair, Board of Pathfinder Internat'l.; Chair, Nat'l Advisory Cttee on Transforming Public Health Informatics Systems
Samuel L. Felker, JD – attorney in private practice
Carol Etherington, MSN, RN, FAAN – Director of Global Health Studies, VUMC; Asst Prof Nursing, Vanderbilt School of Nursing

AGENDA BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Lentz Public Health Center
Room 212 - 4:00 p.m.
Thursday December 2, 2010

APPEAL OF DECISIONS
FROM THE METROPOLITAN BOARD OF HEALTH

Pursuant to the provisions of § 2.68.030 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws, notice is hereby given that a contested case hearing before the Metropolitan Board of Health, acting as a Civil Service Commission, which affects the employment status of a civil service employee is appealable to the Chancery Court of Davidson County pursuant to the provisions of the Uniform Administrative Procedures Act. Any such appeal must be filed within sixty (60) days after the entry of the Board's final order in the matter. A common law writ of certiorari is the appropriate appeal process of any decision of the Metropolitan Board of Health that does not involve a contested case hearing affecting the employment status of a civil service employee. This appeal must be filed within sixty (60) days of the action taken by the Board. You are advised to seek your own independent legal counsel to ensure that your appeal is filed in a timely manner and that all procedural requirements are met.

BOARD OF HEALTH

1. Consent Agreement A-10-001 - Raney
2. Proposed Revisions to Regulation No. 3, "New Source Review" - Raney
3. Proposed Revisions to Regulation No. 13, "Part 70 Operating Permit Program" - Raney
4. Report on APHA Delegation to Cuba - Beasley
5. Behavioral Health Update – Thompson [deferred to next meeting]
6. Approval of Grants/Contracts - Romine
7. Report of Chair - Hance
8. Approval of November 4, 2010 Minutes - Hance
9. Report of Director - Paul

Notes on agenda item of interest to the League:

4. Report on APHA Delegation to Cuba: Mr. Beasley reported on his participation in a 72-member U.S. delegation to Cuba, Nov. 13-16, 2010. Delegates included representatives of the Johns Hopkins Hospital Systems and persons interested in women's health concerns and the importance of cultural competency for medical providers. They visited Cuba's National School of Public Health, National Center for HIV/STD Prevention, the Findley Institute (known for bacterial vaccine development), and the Latin America School of Medicine (attended by students from all over the world, including 2 U.S. students). A position paper on universal health care in the U.S. is planned by this group.

Beasley noted that Cuba's model of health care entitles all citizens to equal access to health services, from birth to death. Primary care physicians are based in communities where they were raised (1 MD per 1,700 community members), and are responsible to the government for the health of their patients. Delegates were impressed by the holistic model of care they observed, as well as Cuba's good health outcomes.

Dr. Foster urged Beasley to present his remarks to the American Public Health Association. He noted that in Cuba, there are 4 generalists for every specialist; the reverse is true in the U.S. Infant mortality rates in Cuba are lower than in the U.S., and Cuba has a 97% literacy rate. Women there are encouraged not to get pregnant before age 24 (important for good infant health), and women with high-risk pregnancies are hospitalized preventively. This may help to explain lower infant mortality rates. Dr. Okpaku noted that Cuba has the best mental health system he has ever seen. Dr. Stewart said the main deterrent for physicians in Cuba is not financial (lower pay) but political oppression. There is also limited access to electronic information systems and computers in general. These Board members thought Nashvillians who had been to Cuba should be encouraged to get together and discuss their experiences.