

Board of Health
DRAFT Meeting Minutes
March 6, 2023

Present:

Susan Schwartz, Chair
Maureen Richichi, Vice Chair
Bea Brunkhorst (Zoom)
Ann Kiessling

Staff Present:

Heidi Porter, Director of Health and
Human Services
Katharine Dagle, Assistant Health Director
Julie Genova, Public Health Nurse
Danielle Williams, Interim Recording Secretary

Absent:

Anita Raj

Others Present (In-person or by Zoom):

Mike Rosenburg, Bedford Citizen
Bedford TV
Robert Kalantari

Dan Brosgol
Olivia Kharin
Leonid Kharin

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM. Ms. Schwartz chaired the meeting. A roll call vote of 4-0-0 opened the meeting.

Public Comment

Ms. Schwartz opened the meeting to any public comments.

As there were no public comments, Ms. Schwartz closed the public comment portion of the meeting.

BOH Minutes - Review and Vote

The BOH reviewed their meeting minutes from February 6, 2023. Ms. Richichi moved to approve the minutes as amended. Dr. Kiessling seconded the motion. A roll call vote of 4-0-0 approved the meeting minutes from February 6, 2023.

Body Art Establishment Permit Approval – New Age Laser and Aesthetics, 200 Great Road, Suite 244 and Body Art Practitioner Permit Approval – Olivia Kharin

Ms. Dagle introduced Olivia Kharin and her husband Dr. Leonid Kharin. They are the applicants and owners of New Age Laser and Aesthetics, located at 200 Great Road, Suite 244. They have applied for a Body Art Establishment Permit as well as a Body Art Practitioner Permit. The permit is for cosmetic tattooing of the lips, eyes and eyebrows. Ms. Dagle performed a pre-operational inspection at the end of February. Cosmetic tattooing is also referred as permanent cosmetics, microblading, micro pigment implantation or dermal pigmentation, which is the implantation of permanent pigment around the eyes, lips, and cheeks of the face and hair imitation. The applicant had submitted both the establishment and practitioner applications and Ms. Dagle gave a quick summary of the documents. The applicant meets the following training and experience criteria as outlined in Section 12 of the Body Art Regulations: 1) Anatomy and Physiology Course with a passing grade, 2) Past experience in Body Art, includes certification from the American Academy of Micropigmentation and completion of specific apprentice hours whereby Ms. Kharin was an apprentice for a body art practitioner and establishment in Lynn, MA, 3) Ms. Kharin is certified in

CPR and First Aid and received Bloodborne Pathogen Training, 4) Ms. Kharin has provided proof of Hepatitis B Vaccination, and 5) submitted 3 Client Forms (Health, History and Informed Consent) and provided copy of Photo ID. Ms. Dagle also give a brief review of the written procedures the applicant submitted as outlined in the regulations: 1) Client Disclosure Statement 2) Emergency Plan 3) Exposure Control or Report Plan 4) Health History and Client Informed Consent 5) Client Aftercare Instructions 6) Exposure Incident Report and 7) Injury/Complication Report. Ms. Dagle included a photo of the procedure room. Ms. Dagle also touched upon a few of the questions that some of the Board members had in regards to the applications: 1) There is a fee for each of the permits the applicant has applied for, 2) from the Practitioner application, the Bloodborne Pathogen training the applicant completed is OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) approved, 3) the applicant is aware that some of her current certifications are expiring and intends to renew them – the CPR Certification has been renewed already, 4) all equipment is single use and will be discarded after each use, 5) from the Establishment application, the applicant noted that she has 1 hand sink but to note, the floor plans show 2 sinks, however one is for the purpose of the Body Art and one is for janitorial purpose of the practice so just that one sink is applicable for the Establishment application; 6) Emergency Plan was updated with the wording with 9-1-1 and a ‘you are located here’ (showing the exact address) and listed phone numbers for Police, Fire, Lahey Hospital, Poison Control and included the Bedford Health Department information, 7) proof of age (18+) is required at the consultation. Ms. Dagle asked the applicant, Olivia Kharin to explain a bit of her background and business.

Ms. Kharin started off by passing around photos of some of the work she has done for the members to look at.

Dr. Kiessling asked Ms. Kharin if this is her first application of this type for her own establishment.

Ms. Kharin replied yes. Ms. Kharin added that she has a Bachelor’s degree in Biology and in Dental Hygiene and she has worked in dentistry for over 10 years, starting out as a dental assistant, then became a Dental Hygienist, a roll which she still currently maintains. She is also a licensed electrologist and currently has a Laser Hair Removal practice in Bedford. She wanted to do business in Bedford because 1) she lives close by and 2) to be near the military base since she has a lot of clients from there. Ms. Kharin started her own business because she and her husband have two small children and wanted more flexible hours as they both work in dentistry field which is mostly 9 to 5 and that was a challenging schedule. Ms. Kharin stated that her sister, who has been doing cosmetic tattooing for many years, inspired her to get started in the field. She is from Russia and cosmetic tattooing is a big industry in European countries. Ms. Kharin told a story of a client who was very quiet and shy and came to her to have her eyebrows done and because of this, the client expressed that she gained more confidence of appearance and that had made a difference in her life.

Dr. Kharin added that he worked in a dental practice in Bedford under Dr. DePriest for two years and that he is a Captain in the US Army Reserve so is connected with the military.

Dr. Kiessling asked about the hours Ms. Kharin is currently working.

Ms. Kharin stated that she works 3 days (Thu, Fri, Sat) due to her having small children. Once the children can go to daycare, she intends to increase hours.

Ms. Schwartz asked if business is by appointment.

Ms. Kharin answered yes, by appointment only, which allows her the currently flexibility.

Dr. Kiessling inquired if the documents used in her application are from the Lynn practice or are they sample documents from her specialized licensure.

Ms. Kharin stated that they are a part of the school that she attended. They provided sample templates for them to use in their practice.

Dr. Kiessling also inquired if younger people are required to show proof of age.

Ms. Kharin responded that people under the age of 18 are not allowed to partake of these services. They are required to provide their date of birth and she will ask for ID.

Dr. Kiessling asked if there are AED's located in the office building.

Dr. Kharin noted that Dr. Kennedy, the dentist across the hall, does have an AED.

Dr. Brunkhorst asked if there is pest control, restrooms and waiting area in the medical office building they are in.

Ms. Kharin stated that the building is a professional building and does have restrooms in the hallway and she has her own waiting area.

Ms. Dagle added that there are food establishments in that building so we know that there is pest control and property has dumpster vendor. Ms. Kharin has a vendor for sharps collection.

Ms. Schwartz inquired what the application process was like since Ms. Kharin is the first applicant under this local regulation.

Ms. Kharin stated that the applications were self-explanatory and the checklists helped. The process was a bit more detailed than some other towns but it's better to be more detailed in this field.

Ms. Schwartz asked about what types of allergies Ms. Kharin asks her clients about.

Ms. Kharin replied that the establishment is latex free. There is no know allergy to the ingredients in the pigments but there can always be somebody who could be allergic or if a person know that they have a lot of allergies to something, a spot test can be done on the wrist or behind the ear to see if there is any reaction.

Ms. Dagle commented that Ms. Kharin provided after care instructions for each procedure as opposed to a generic after care instruction sheet.

Dr. Kiessling recommended to add Emerson Hospital to the "In Case of Emergency" signage.

Ms. Richichi moved that the Bedford Board of Health ratify issuance of a Body Art Establishment Permit for the New Age Laser & Aesthetics located at 200 Great Road, Suite 244 in Bedford. Dr.

Kiessling seconded the motion. A roll call vote of 4-0-0 approved the Body Art Establishment Permit for the New Age Laser & Aesthetics located at 200 Great Road, Suite, 244 in Bedford.

Ms. Richichi moved that the Bedford Board of Health ratify issuance of a Body Art Practitioner Permit for Olivia Kharin at the New Age Laser & Aesthetics located at 200 Great Road, Suite 244 in Bedford. Seconded by Dr. Kiessling. A roll call vote of 4-0-0 approved the Body Art Practitioner Permit for Olivia Kharin at the New Age Laser & Aesthetics located at 200 Great Road, Suite, 244 in Bedford.

COVID-19 Pandemic Response – Data Evaluation Framework – Presentation of Draft Framework, Discussion of Evaluation Process and Potential Vote

Ms. Schwartz requested to review and discuss the framework that Ms. Richichi had volunteered to put together.

Ms. Richichi indicated that there is currently no framework available for a local board of pandemic response evaluation; however, she presented the Draft Framework from information pieced together from numerous sources. She reviewed the Draft Framework and noted on the last page, that 3 sources were used. The Framework starts with a purpose for the exercise, the BOH Mission and an infographic of the stages of the COVID pandemic. Next, the Framework background outlined Health Department and BOH Functional Capabilities as described by the World Health Organization (WHO). The Canadian Government's report was helpful in generating the working assumptions. The Framework seeks to look at each of the Functional Capabilities and in a round-robin format, each member or staff person would have the opportunity to answer the questions around what worked well and what could be improved for each of the capabilities. The WHO outlined 5 foundational public health capabilities: Emergency Preparedness and Response; Communication and Community Engagement; Surveillance and Case Investigation and Management; Infection Prevention and Control; and Community Partnership Development. Questions to ask would be: What Worked; What Challenges Were Encountered; What Was Learned and What Can Be Done Differently and How to Prepare for Future Pandemic. This framework will give a starting point for the pandemic evaluation.

Ms. Schwartz noted that she would like to ask the Board Members and the Health Department if these are the categories to start with and is there any missing and are these the questions to ask for the analysis.

Dr. Kiessling stated that a this should be a community wide analysis and not just BOH or HD.

Ms. Richichi responded that the only action and responses that the BOH can take responsibly for is that of the BOH; and only make comment about what happened in the community in connection with what the BOH did or didn't do.

Dr. Brunkhorst asked if there is anything from Department of Public Health (DPH) and any guidance or professional opinion if the questions being asked are truly measurable and can be followed.

Ms. Richichi replied that there isn't any guidance or information on the DPH website. This framework is just intended to look at the processes and how the Bedford BOH managed this

pandemic according to the prescribed parameters and provide guidance that was within the BOH's purview and not someone else's.

Dr. Kiessling stated that there is a health committee group that is testifying before Congress and looking at the Federal response to COVID. The group that wrote the Great Barrington Declaration had put together guidelines in the Fall of 2020 or 2021 on what they thought should be addressed because of what was known about the virus. They are meeting again to review the Federal response and how the community responded to the guidance that the Federal government put out.

Ms. Schwartz indicated that drafting an assessment of what the BOH did on the community level should be the template and then consider adding options from the global response evaluation. The focus should be on the BOH objectives, mission, and response and evaluate what was learned and what can be done differently.

Ms. Porter added that this evaluation will be a good first step of looking at the work that BOH/HD did and enable better future preparedness. From there perhaps the town could conduct a survey or set up some focus groups.

Ms. Dagle also added that by first evaluating what was done by the BOH/HD it will be easier to figure out what and who best from the community and/or professional level that could be pulled in for future discussion and offer their evaluation.

Ms. Schwartz noted that this is something that is not going to be completed tonight and would like all BOH members review the template framework and move forward at the next meeting.

Dr. Brunkhorst recommended to add a timeline of the COVID response - what we knew and when we knew it.

COVID-19 Response

Ms. Porter reviewed the COVID-19 data and noted that two weeks ago the COVID community level was low and then popped up to medium level last week. Even though the localized data numbers are improving, we are part of a county designation. The school numbers are low and the good weather has help contribute to lower case counts and transmission.

Dr. Kiessling asked if the medium level was contributed by the wastewater numbers.

Ms. Porter indicated that to the wastewater is not one of the parameters that CDC uses to determine the community level. It is outlined on their website that they use population first, then the case count numbers and at persons in hospital who are positive.

Ms. Schwartz noted that the COVID dashboard on the website is two pages.

Reports – BOH Liaisons and HD Staff

Ms. Dagle stated that in January and February Food Establishment permits are renewed. A Food Safety Training Program is being offered for free and online to all establishments by our Food Consultant. The training is related to basic food safety knowledge and a Person In Charge (PIC)

from each establishment will be required to complete the training. Once completed, a completion certification is awarded. The Annual Rabies Vaccination Clinic for cats and dogs will be held April 8th from 9am – 11am at the Town Center Building and will offer residents low cost vaccination and pre-registration is required. Information is posted on the website. Ms. Dagle reported that a new contract for the Household Hazardous Waste Collection is still in process as the current contract expires March 2023. She also participated in a study completed by graduate students from Virginia University who were collecting information related to retail safety operations for local health departments from 4 different states and will send results on the study once completed.

Ms. Richichi inquired about the complaint process.

Ms. Dagle responded that for any complaint that comes into the HD, the complaint is documented and then an inspection would be conducted to ensure that any regulations and/or standards are being followed. If a violation is determined, then an order to correct is issued to the responsible party.

Dr. Kiessling asked what the name of the online Food Safety program is.

Ms. Dagle noted that the Mojin Solutions is the vendor that is offering online training. The program is their own program they created and it contains 9 chapters. The program was a success last year because it was offered online and participants are able to complete the course when they have the time to do so.

Ms. Schwartz asked if there was anything new with the State Housing Code (#14 on Assistant Health Director report).

Ms. Dagle replied that nothing new to add compared to what she reported on last report.

Ms. Genova reported that COVID cases are coming down. There were 69 COVID cases in February and there were 2 influenza cases. Planning of public health awareness initiatives are ongoing. A 'Benefits of Movement' presentation will be conducted at the COA on 3/13. A presentation on medication is scheduled for April. Summer Camp communications have begun and sent to the camp vendors for the upcoming season. BP Clinics were conducted in the COA 2/8, 2/22 and 3/1. Ms. Genova was recertified as an American Heart Association (AHA) BLS AED CPR instructor. Bedford vaccination data was collected at the request of Dr. Brunkhorst.

Dr. Brunkhorst noted that we gave out more flu shots in 2021 and wondered if the COVID vaccinations that were being given has effect on flu shots and asked Ms. Genova if anything struck her from this data.

Ms. Genova responded that this report is pretty consistent.

Ms. Williams added that the schools had required students to have flu shots at the beginning of the 2021-2022 school season so that probably contributed to the uptick in flu vaccination for FY21.

Ms. Richichi noted that the MAVEN report indicates the number of Lyme cases so far for FY21 is 25 and we haven't hit the high months yet.

Ms. Genova noted that there was a repeat Lyme case.

Ms. Porter reported that the predominant work that she engaged in last month was related to the Gun Violence Prevention Campaign. That work involved finalizing and printing the mailer and coordinating delivery to every Bedford household. Additionally, she coordinated the community forum that was just held. The recording of that forum is on the website. The forum was an hour long but the stories and data that was shared was pretty impactful. Ms. Porter attended the school district mental health team meeting where town staff from HHS meet with school counselors and the counseling team to discuss current issues and work on rolling out some surveys related to social emotional learning. Emerson Hospital launched their 'Find Help' website which is a resource website of all different type of social services, food insecurity and transportation related assistance and Bedford is listed as a resource. The website can be searched by area or town and is being built based on the results of Emerson's community health assessment where residents and people that work within the community were asked what their greatest needs were that impacted access to health care. A big gap was identified as actual access to information. Great Meadows (regional public health group) is moving along and trying to transition from the contact tracing work that was being done with one of the grants to what's next and trying to get authorization from the state to be able to utilize those grant funds for other work, including a mental health campaign and the prevention and the promotion side of that work. Some of the staff have been trained in Mental Health First Aid will offer a training in Bedford. Ms. Porter is also looking forward to having great presentations, one being Hidden In Plain Sight which is a display of a teen's bedroom and show all the places substances and paraphernalia can be hidden. It was last hosted at the High School about 6 or 7 years ago and was very well attended. The region intends to build one of these presentation set-ups and take it from place to place.

Dr. Kiessling asked if Sudbury had a new Health Director yet.

Ms. Porter noted presumably yes because they had 2nd interviews on Friday evening with the full Board but she hasn't heard the outcome. The former Health Director of Sudbury is now in Framingham and heads the MetroWest Tobacco Collaborative. Because the Bedford, Lexington, Wilmington and Concord tobacco collaborative will be dissolved in late June, Bedford will be joining the Framingham Collaborative. OUT MetroWest will be coming 3/20 for a Dinner and Discussion event. They are an organization that supports the LGTBQ community, mainly youth, and will present LGTBQ vocabulary, answer questions and discuss how to engage in conversation with someone who is struggling with gender identity. Childcare, transportation and dinner will be provided for this event. Currently there are 15 people registered. A grant from the State directly for additional equipment and electrical upgrades for the Food Bank has been submitted. Another separate grant for other equipment through the Greater Boston Food Bank was submitted. It seems there is some funding for addressing food insecurity available, which is helpful since Friday was the last day for the additional COVID SNAP benefits.

Ms. Richichi asked if the schools were noticing a sharp rise in anxiety issues, impacting adolescent girls specifically.

Ms. Porter responded not specifically girls but impact across the board but will ask about this.

Dr. Kiessling referred to #13 of Ms. Porter's report in regards to DPH not allowing a sun cancer prevention campaign consisting of deployment of sun screen dispensers and inquired if that means they wouldn't fund it.

Ms. Porter relayed that DPH will not fund it. Great Meadows is trying to shift funding that was for contact tracing to other public health programming and they are seeking to establish a relationship with Impact Melanoma. Bedford already has an established relationship and program with them. DPH would not allow using left over COVID funds for this programming which the dispenser deployment.

Dr. Brunkhorst reported that Friday is a biosafety inspection for the manufacturing facility Ultragenyx.

Ms. Dagle noted that she and Dr. Brunkhorst had recently attended the IBC Meeting for Ultragenyx however did not have time for the tour of the facility. She also noted that there is another new facility, Prolacta, and that Dr. Kiessling will be the community representative for that facility.

Ms. Richichi reported that during the Gun Violence Prevention forum, there was a wonderful exchange between the speaker, Dr. Peter Masiakos and Mr. Piantedosi. Mr. Piantedosi noted that he and others in town preferred gun safes versus gun locks and low and behold in the Journal of the American Medical Association this week there was a study showing that gun safes were the preferred firearm storage method so some outreach can be done about their availability and we can put information about gun safes on the website as well. At the recent school committee meeting, Ann Guay noted that there is still great interest in the school start time issue and interest in pursuing this subject post the superintendent search, which is not concluded. There is no clear data tracking the number of schools that have changed their start times.

Open Discussion

Ms. Richichi stated that there is a group in town that part of their presentation this evening is about the health impacts of leaf blowers and wouldn't be surprised if that landed before the BOH at some future point. There are some surrounding towns that have ordinances on that subject.

Dr. Kiessling asked if members will discuss the framework next time or if members should submit any thoughts on paper for the template.

Ms. Schwartz added that members should come prepared with any suggestions or comments that they want to have added to the framework template and the members can send these to Ms. Porter ahead of time to put in as part of the packet for next meeting.

Ms. Richichi moved to adjourn the meeting of March 6th, 2023. Dr. Kiessling seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote 4 -0-0.

Documents and Exhibits Used During this Meeting

BOH Draft Minutes – 02/06/2023

New Age Laser & Aesthetics – Body Art Establishment Application

New Age Laser & Aesthetics – Body Art Practitioner Application

New Age Laser & Aesthetics – Summary for BOH

BOH & HD COVID-19 Pandemic Response Evaluation Framework DRAFT

COVID-19 Data – Last 2 Months

Director's Report
Assistant Health Director's Update
Public Health Nurse Update

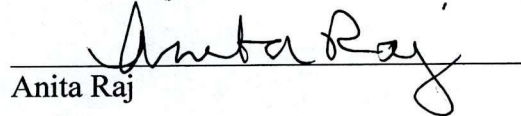
The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Health is April 3, 2023.


Susan Schwartz, Chair


Maureen Richichi, Vice Chair


Beatrice Brunkhorst


Ann Kiessling


Anita Raj