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Councillor Davis thanked all those present for their participation.

The meeting adjourned at seven o'clock and thirty minutes p. m.

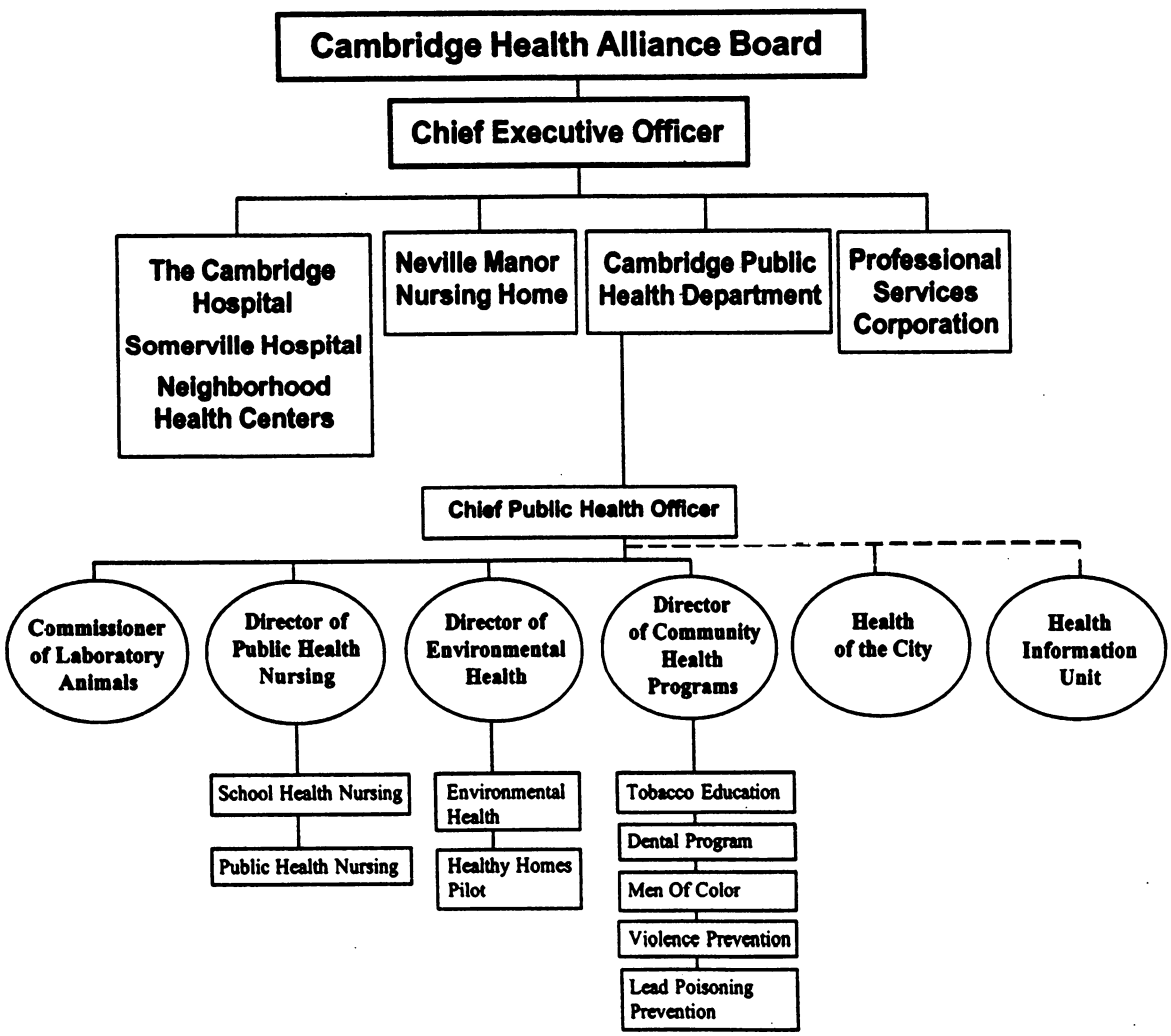
For the Committee,

Councillor Henrietta Davis,
Chair

00HEALTHANDENVIRONMENT.000511.PUBLICHEALTHASSESSMENT

ATTACHMENT A.

Cambridge Public Health Department



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Retailers of Tobacco Products

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- 18 group meetings or public presentations
- 55 individual visits to restaurants
- 7 mass mailings to restaurants
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Between June 21, 1999 and the implementation date of January 2, 2000 the following occurred:

- 5 mass mailings to ~425 restaurants
- 85 restaurants that applied for a permit to allow smoking visited
- 84 Permits to allow smoking were granted by the Cambridge Public Health Department

Since Implementation date of January 2, 2000 the following occurred and/or continues:

- 80% of Cambridge restaurants are 100% smoke-free
- Advertisement in Cambridge Tab and Cambridge Chronicle celebrating the smoke-free restaurants in Cambridge
- Individual on-site visits to all non-smoking restaurants (~340)
- Educational compliance checks to restaurants that were granted a permit to allow smoking

ATTACHMENT C

Public Health Nursing & School Health Nursing

- The Newborn Homevisiting Program:

  In 1999, 84 home visits were made.
  In the first 4 months of 2000, 57 home visits have been made.

  Purpose of home visits: To introduce parents to the full spectrum of community based resources for families and to assist them in accessing health and social services at their request.

- Public Health Nurses and Physicians conducted 2,268 visits in TB Clinic.

- 7.400 doses of flu vaccine were distributed to area providers in the fall. An additional 2,300 doses of flu vaccine were give to Cambridge residents at over 30 public flu clinics by the Public Health Nurses.

- In the 1998-1999 school year, there were over 69,000 visits to the school health offices.

ATTACHMENT D

Children's Dental Project

Program History

- 1994-95, findings from baseline study included
  - 44% of students in Grade 1, had cavities
  - 30% had untreated cavities
  - This compares with HP 2000 goal fewer than 20%
- Initial study also found that existing treatment services were inadequate to serve the needs of Cambridge children.

- Fall of 1997, Children's Dental Health Project began.
- Approximately 3000 children have been screened since the beginning of this project
- July of 1999, new dental clinic opened at the Windsor Street Health Center.

Program Components

- Dental education is provided by a Dental Hygienist through classroom presentations using video, puppetry, demonstration, and Q&A.
- Dental screening is provided in all public elementary schools, the Banneker Charter School, and numerous pre-schools throughout the City.
- Screening is conducted by dental hygienists, dentists and third-year dental students.
- A report on the results of the screening along with referral for dental care is sent home with each student.
- Children requiring urgent dental care are followed up by the Program Coordinator.

Findings

- 51% of children screened had no need for treatment.
- 42% had some indication of dental disease and were referred for non-urgent dental care.
- 7% had serious dental disease and were referred for immediate attention.
- Of those children requiring immediate attention, 88% were successfully linked to a local dentist.

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Healthy Homes Program

What is "Healthy Homes"?

Healthy Homes is a new program that helps families in Cambridge understand and deal with asthma.

Families that have young children with asthma receive a free home assessment to identify asthma triggers, safety hazards, and code violations in their homes.

This assessment includes a medical review by a pediatric nurse to ensure that parents understand the medicines that their kids are taking. Healthy Homes also works directly with the primary medical providers to make sure that kids are on the correct medicines and to inform the doctors of the conditions in the home.

Hazardous conditions found in the home are explained to the parents and recommendations are made to help control problem areas.

Families receive free items like mattress encasings and cleaning supplies to help them reduce asthma triggers.

Referrals can be made to other city or Alliance programs to help the families with other issues. Examples include smoking cessation, inspectional services or housing rehabilitation programs.

Infant is given daily asthma medication

Healthy Homes the details

- ☺ Pilot program funded by Mass DPH and HUD via Lead-Safe Cambridge
- ☺ Current staff of program manager, a half-time nurse, and a half-time family counselor.
- ☺ Plans to expand to older kids and provide more services if future funding allows.

Home assessment results:

56% of homes have rodents
44% have cockroaches
39% have excessive mold
33% have broken smoke detectors

Why have an asthma program?

In the US, asthma rates have risen ***over 70%*** in the past 20 years. The greatest increases have been in young children living in urban areas. In Cambridge, at least **7%** of schoolchildren in grades K-8 have asthma

Each year there are over 500,000 ER visits for asthma in the US. Asthma is now the #1 preventable hospitalization.

Billions are spent every year on medical treatment, doctor visits, therapy, and lost work time due to asthma attacks.

By conducting home assessments and explaining asthma to families in a language they understand and in a culturally-appropriate manner, we believe that we can make a difference!!

Questions?

Jeff Nussbaum

Program manager

Phone 617-665-3836

Fax 617-665-3888

Jnussbaum@Challiance.org

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Ricki Lacy, Director of Public Health Nursing, stated that she works with public health nurses and school nurses. She informed the committee that the Newborn Homevisiting Program is a program that started in North Cambridge. In 1999 the program conducted 84 home visits and in 2000, 57 new families were visited. Computerized data is now received from those families who are visited by nurses in the program. Seventy-three percent of families were reached on the follow-up calls made by the nurses. The program, she stated, is well received by the community. The Public Health Nurses conducted 2,268 visits in the TB Clinic, she said. The languages of Creole, Portuguese and Spanish are utilized in the clinics, she said. Patients and health care providers, she said, are contacted regarding communicable diseases. The Public Health Nurses distributed 7,400 doses of flu vaccines. During the 1998-1999 school year there were 69,000 visits to the school nurse's office, she said. She stated that the initiative last year was to have all children who enter kindergarten to be immunized. **ATTACHMENT C.**

Lynn Schoeff, Director of Community Health, informed the committee about the Children's Dental Project. In 1994-1995 a baseline study was done on the dental health of children. Forty-four percent of grade one students had cavities with thirty percent of the cavities not treated. This study, she said, found that existing treatment services were inadequate to service the needs of the youth of the city. Funding for the Children's Dental Project is received from the Bullock Fund. In the fall of 1997 the Children's Dental Health Project began. It initially screened 3,000 children. In July 1999, a new dental clinic was opened at the Windsor Street Health Center, she said. Dental education is provided in the classroom by a dental hygienist, and dental hygienists and dentists conduct screening. A report of the dental screening is done and referral is sent to the parent of the child. The Program Coordinator will contact the parents of the children who require urgent care. The program showed that 51% of children screened needed no treatment; 41% had a need for dental care and 7% were in urgent need of dental care. **ATTACHMENT D.**

Jeff Nussbaum, Coordinator, Healthy Homes Program, stated that the program provides free home assessments for families with young children with asthma and provides asthma education to families. He informed the committee that over the last twenty years asthma rates have risen 70%. In Cambridge seven percent of school children in grades kindergarten through eighth grade have asthma or an asthma related diagnosis. He stated that rodent, or mouse droppings, cockroaches and excessive mold are all asthma triggers. He stated that the home assessment results indicated that 56% of homes have rodents; 44% of homes have cockroaches; 39% of homes have mold and 33% of homes have broken smoke detectors. **ATTACHMENT E.**

Councillor Born asked if there was any attempt to strengthen the Smoking Ordinance. Mr. Cox responded that he wanted to evaluate and assess the current ordinance. There are 84 establishments that allow smoking and over the next year the ordinance will be evaluated. Councillor Born stated that she received a complaint about

a coffeehouse that would not allow children in because it wanted to be an establishment that allows smoking. Councillor Davis asked if smoking is permitted in restaurants if there is a ban. Ms. Doyle responded in the negative.

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00HEALTHANDENVIRONMENT.000511.PUBLICHEALTHASSESSMENT

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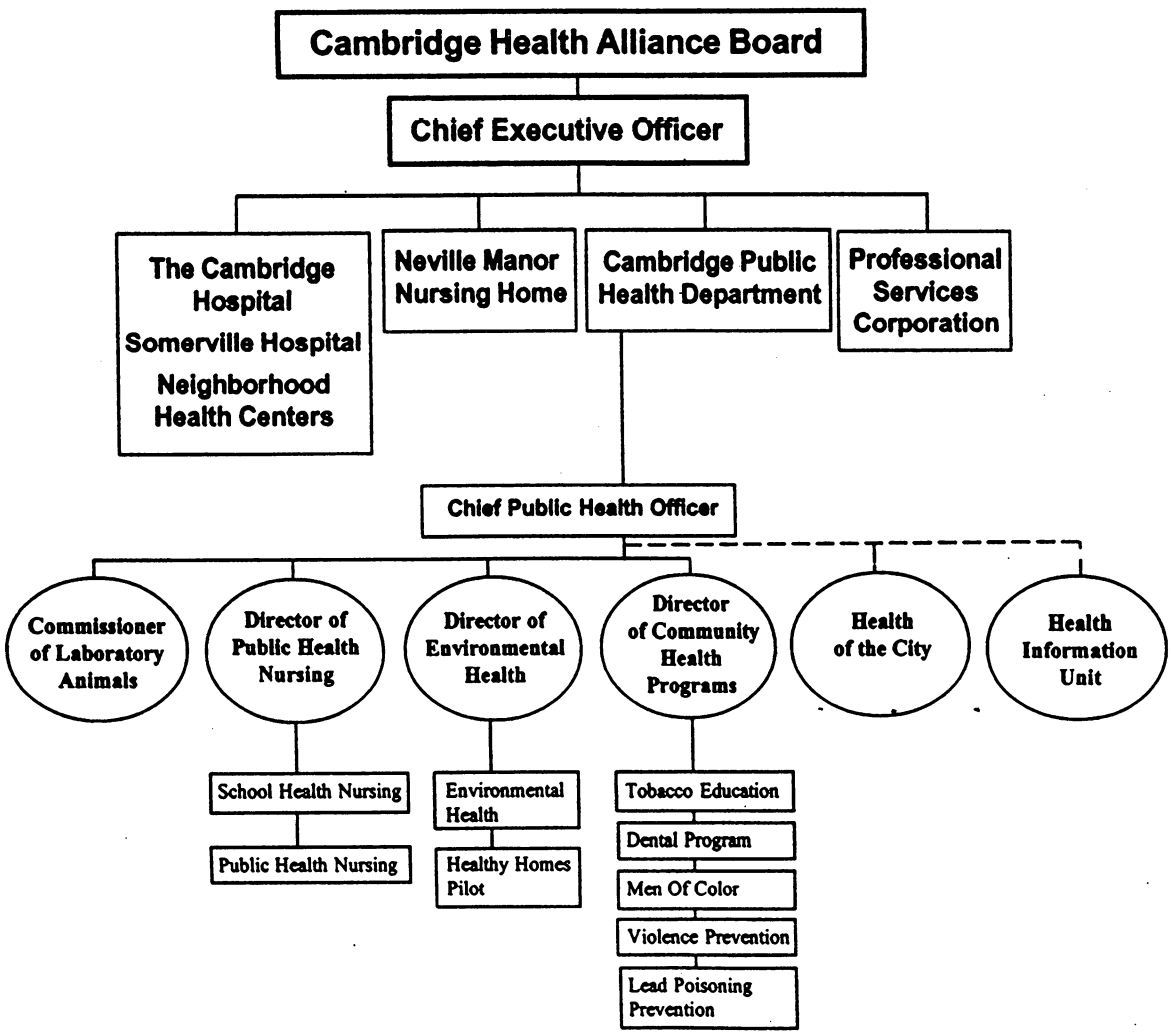

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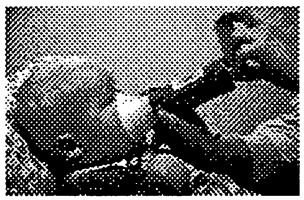

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City of Cambridge

HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT
Councillor Henrietta Davis, Chair
Councillor Kathleen L. Born
Councillor Jim Braude

In City Council June 5, 2000

The Health and Environment Committee held a public hearing on Thursday, May 11, 2000, beginning at five o'clock and forty-five minutes P.M. in the Sullivan Chamber.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Public Health Assessment.

Present at the hearing were Councillor Henrietta Davis, Chair of the Committee, Councillor Kathleen L. Born, Councillor Jim Braude, Councillor Marjorie Decker, John O'Brien, Chief Executive Officer of the Public Health Alliance, Joan Marconi, Executive Assistant to the CEO, Harold Cox, Chief Public Health Officer, Sam Lipson, Director of Environmental Health, Carol Cerf, Chair, Cambridge Public Health Subcommittee and Member of the Joint Public Health Board and the Cambridge Health Alliance Joint Hospital Board, Virginia Chomitz, Assistant Director, Health of the City, Lynn Schoeff, Director of Community Health, Jeff Nussbaum, Coordinator, Healthy Homes Project, Dr. Melvin Chalfen, Member Cambridge Health Alliance Joint Hospital Board and Cambridge Public Health Subcommittee, Robin Harris, Member, Cambridge Public Health Subcommittee and Joint Public Health Board, Jill Herold, Assistant City Manager for Human Services and Member of the Cambridge Public Health Subcommittee and Joint Public Health Board, Allyson Doyle, Director, Five City Tobacco Collaborative, Ricki Lacy, Director, Public Health Nursing, Dan Curley, Executive Director, Cambridge Cares About AIDS and Donna P. Lopez, Deputy City Clerk.

Councillor Davis convened the hearing and stated that the Public Health Assessment was presented to the City Council in January. The City Council referred it to this committee for a public hearing and the results of the hearing will be reported to the full City Council.

John O'Brien gave the committee an overview of the Public Health Assessment. The Cambridge Health Alliance, he stated, continues to go through changes and navigate its way through the public health system and to invest in public health improvements. The Alliance currently has 2700 full and part time employees and has an operating budget of $270 million. The Public Health Alliance staff has been successful in bringing in new resources and grant resources in a health care environment in which hospitals in Massachusetts will continue to close. He requested support from the City Council in the area of advocacy in state government. There is an

Committee Report #5 1625

A report received from Councillor Davis, Chair of the Health and Environment Committee, for a public hearing heldo n May 11, 2000, for the purpose of discussing the Public Health Assessment.

S-162

In City Council June 5, 2000

Report Accepted.
Placed on file.