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(Approved minutes)

BOARD OF HEALTH

PUBLIC HEARING OF JULY 29, 2010 NEWINGTON TOWN HALL

Minutes

A public hearing on proposed amendments to the Central Connecticut Health District Sanitary Code, Chapter 5 Salons was held by the Central Connecticut Health District Board of Health on July 29, 2010. The hearing was convened at 5:00 p.m. in Room 3 of the Newington Town Hall.

Kevin Borrup, Board Chairperson, chaired the hearing. He introduced Paul Hutcheon, Director of Health and two members of the Board who were present to receive testimony, Judith Sartucci, a Rocky Hill representative on the Board and Carolyn Wysocki, a Berlin representative.

The meeting was recorded (audio).

The purpose of the hearing was to receive comments from the public on the proposed amendments to the Central Connecticut Health District's Salon Ordinance. Kevin Borrup entered into the record a copy of the Public Hearing Notice dated August 29, 2010 that was sent out to the Town clerks in each member town and to the Hartford Courant and a copy of the proposed amendments. A copy of each is attached.

Kevin Borrup then asked Paul Hutcheon to provide an overview of the proposed amendments to the salon ordinance and why it was being proposed at this time.

Kevin Borrup provided instructions to the audience for providing testimony and asked that written testimony be submitted if available. He then invited members of the public to come forward to address the Board.

Approximately 5 members of the public were present.

Ms. Rosemarie Nelson of Hair Innovators, asked for more clarification about the change being made to the salon ordinance. Paul Hutcheon said if an existing nail salon sells their business they would be allowed to make the sale without making any changes to their HVAC system or bringing that system up to the local standards of current building code. This would not apply to establishments that don't currently have nail technician services and who want to add those services.

Mrs. Nelson said that she no longer provided nail services in her salon and but wondered what would happen if in the future she contracted with a nail technician to provide these services. She raised concern that some towns are being inspected and some aren't.

Carolyn Wysocki read the following testimony opposing the proposed changes into the record:

To: Central Connecticut Health District Board of Health

Proceedings of Public Hearing dated July 29, 2010

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From: Carolyn Wysocki, Berlin Representative, and member of the CCHD Board

Date: July 29, 2010

Re: Proposed Changes to CCHD Salon Ordinance.

For the Record: My name is Carolyn Wysocki and I am participating in this public hearing on the proposed changes in the salon ordinance as a member of the Central Connecticut District Board. I am very concern that the proposed changes in the Salon Ordinance Section 5.12 G regarding Process Ventilation will not serve and protect the health of the employees and consumers of Salons

There are several factors that I would like the Health District Board to consider:

1. There is more than enough evidence that demonstrate that many of the toxic chemicals used in salons and particularly nail products are potentially hazardous to the health and safety of workers and customers. We do know that exposure to the chemicals with which they work has been linked to asthma, cancer, dermatitis and cognitive dysfunction,
2. It is not unusual for Salons to inhabit spaces that were not designed to handle the air quality and safety issues and salon ownership may be handed on from one salon owner to another.
3. Workers may not be trained in health and safety hazards of toxic chemicals or familiar with their potential health risks.
4. In addition there is a large population of immigrant workers, especially in nail salons, that do not have English as their first language and may not have regulatory or basic health and safety information in their native language.

The combination of hazardous chemicals exposures, inadequate ventilation, language and cultural barriers, make promoting safe salons both necessary and particularly challenging.

The Health District's 2007 Salon Ordinance was an attempt to have safety practices and regulations in place to protect the health and safety risks of salon employees and consumers. Preventing health and environmental impacts is a responsibility of the Health District.

By adding the following section to the current salon ordinance

“(5) Salons providing nail technician services, in operation prior to [insert revision date], may transfer ownership without compliance with the new construction, nail salon ventilation standards of the CT Building Code”,

to the Salon ordinance, the Health District is being irresponsible to its mission. In essence there would be 2 different sets criteria for nail salons: one for newly constructed salons to be compliant with the building code and another allowing non compliance for those salons that simply have had a change of ownership. It would appear to be a disparity in protection of the health of those employees and patrons under the new salon construction criteria while allowing toxic chemical exposures within current salons is acceptable.

These and other factors contributed to my decision to oppose adding Section 5 to the current Salon Ordinance.

By maintaining the current ordinance, and the public health and safety standards, the Health District can continue to remain true to its mission:

“To preserve, protect, promote and improve the quality of life in a healthy environment through the prevention of diseases, ongoing health education opportunities and the enhancement of the well being of its citizens.”

Judy Sartucci asked Paul Hutcheon to identify for those present the number of salons actually licensed by the Health District in its 4 member towns. He said that there were about 160 licensed. She then asked how many of those providing nail services were “grandfathered in” under the current salon ordinance and therefore did not meet the ventilation standards. Mr. Hutcheon said he thought that of the 40 to 60 salons providing nail services, all were “grandfathered in” and that none of these currently met the ventilation standards required by the state building code.

Ms. Sartucci asked those present who owned or worked in nail salons how their salons were ventilated. Several offered that they had air-conditioning with air re-circulation and/or windows for ventilation.

No other oral or written testimony was presented and no written letters were received.

Kevin Borrup advised those present that copies of tonight’s proceedings could be obtained from the Health District. The board is scheduled to act on the proposed amendments at the Board meeting scheduled for August 19, 2010 and members of the public are invited to attend.

There being no further comment from the public or from the Board, the Public Hearing was closed at 5:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Hutcheon, M.P.H., R.S.
Secretary of the Board and
Director of Health

