



Prevent • Promote • Protect

Environmental Health Division

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October 16, 2017 (1:30-3 PM): Body Art Advisory Group (BAAG) Minutes

Facilities/Businesses Represented: Fallen Heroes Tattoos, Bearded Lady Custom Tattoo, Sacred Skin Tattoo Supply, The Hive, This Is Piercing

Also in attendance: EPCPH Body Art Program Manager, Body Art Program Environmental Health Specialists, and Tom Gonzales, Deputy Director (Environmental Health Division)

Discussion:

1) Proposed fee schedule for 2018 (body art fee increases):

Mr. Gonzales discussed the proposed, minimal increase to body art fees for 2018 to adjust for inflation and staff time associated with fulfilling requirements of the program, including complaint investigations. Compared to other counties in Colorado, the proposed fees are similar to other counties' fees. Questions were asked regarding how the increases were assessed and whether or not they should expect additional services from the body art program; it was explained that these fees were directly related to inflation and increased staff time necessary for conducting the program. The group discussed the temporary event fee and how temporary events are being overseen with plan review and vendor fees. EPCPH staff asked for written feedback from body artists regarding proposed overall program fee increases to demonstrate transparency during this process. Most artists verbally agreed they did not oppose the minimal fee increase.

2) Local community partner update - Sacred Skin Tattoo Supply (Owner, TJ Hemingway)

The owner of Sacred Skin Tattoo Supply (TJ Hemingway) introduced himself and reiterated his business mission to this industry, which is an intention to only sell supplies to artists/facilities who are licensed and operating legally. The group discussed ways for Mr. Hemingway to verify current employment from artists while selling supplies. Mr. Hemingway is currently working to establish working relationships with shop owners/operators to help prevent "scratchers" from getting supplies and tattooing out of unlicensed areas. He discussed using shops' business phones (land lines) to verify employment during sales. His store is located on 8th Street and will be fully stocked soon. He will offer same-day and next-day delivery options, and will be on Fox 21 News in the near future to advertise his new business.

3) Compliance procedures - update

The body art team is continuing to work on and update compliance procedures, including more direction around when follow-up inspections should be conducted.

4) Other topics/concerns/issues

Artists from This is Piercing brought up concerns about low-grade and non-approved jewelry being used in shops. The owner stated that he has removed many unapproved pieces of jewelry from clients who told him they got the piercing from other licensed shops.

Artists who are piercers (This Is Piercing/The Hive) discussed wanting to provide a community training on how to determine what jewelry is allowed in our regulations, things to be aware of as a consumer, and what is considered “junk jewelry.”

The group discussed improper aftercare procedures, and Mr. Hemingway informed the artists that he would carry and supply them with their preferred aftercare items.

Artists also discussed wanting to help with an onsite training specifically for EPCPH staff for educational purposes, to learn more about jewelry standards, opportunities for cross-contamination during procedures, etc.

The group discussed alternative, local options for more cost efficient sharps removal.

The group discussed interest in creating a PSA for the public to help with communicating risk around safe/unsafe practices in their industry. EPCPH will look into how we could try to support this effort.