



Prevent • Promote • Protect

Environmental Health Division

1675 W. Garden of the Gods Rd., Suite 2044
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
(719) 578-3199 *phone*
(719) 578-3188 *fax*
www.elpasocountyhealth.org

July 17, 2017 (1:30-3 PM): Body Art Advisory Group (BAAG) Minutes

Facilities Represented: Sinister Tattoos, Fallen Heroes Tattoos, Divine Graphics, Bearded Lady Custom Tattoo

Also in attendance: EPCPH Body Art Program Manager and Body Art Program Environmental Health Specialists

Discussion:

1) "Body Art Excellence Program":

Criteria to meet the "Body Art Excellence Program" will continue, as agreed upon, to be no critical violations cited on the two most recent regular inspections. Flexibility was discussed to give two business days to submit documentation for certification requirements if certification is pending and/or not updated onsite, but has been completed. However, if any certification(s) has/have not been renewed by the time of the inspection, the violation will still be cited and the facility is not eligible for this designation. Attendance/participation to BAAG meeting(s)/with BAAG will not be required as part of this criteria.

Discussed opportunity for the community to form their own coalition/networking opportunities that we could support through attending, hosting, and helping with outreach.

2) Complaint Procedures - Update

We have not received many facility-based ("brick and mortar") complaints this year. We have responded to complaints regarding artists working out of unlicensed facilities (such as private residences). EPCPH responds to complaints depending on the amount and accuracy of information received from the complainant. For general implications, a more general complaint notice is sent to the location of concern, and code enforcement may be copied on this correspondence. More formal notice of noncompliance may be issued with clear, first-hand evidence, and needs an accurate (legal) name and physical address to appropriately deliver this communication. In either instance, having only a phone number is not enough information to respond to a complaint.

3) Inspection Approaches – Feedback/Approaches

Discussed the idea of having a scheduled inspection with owners/operators, in tandem with a structural, facility-based inspection, to reduce interruptions/inconvenience during body art

procedures. In addition, we discussed that we have not cited many violations due to noncompliance during an actual procedure, and sometimes aren't seeing procedures during inspections. The body art community present agreed that they value and want the inspections to continue as unannounced, and that management (or "person in charge") should be prepared for an inspection at any time during operating hours.

Discussed opportunity to work together (EPCPH and body artists) to develop a helpful resource, such as a binder with templates, checklists, and information, to assist with pre-operational inspections, and to help facilitate organization for facilities that could use assistance. Discussed possibility of conducting scheduled follow-up inspections, as needed, for required follow-up inspections, to utilize these resources. Discussed possibility of working on this as a project during a future BAAG meeting.

4) Other topics/concerns/issues

Concern was expressed regarding the lack of professional discretion used when performing body art/piercing on some minors (<18 years of age). Current documentation, procedures, and parental/guardian consent required was discussed.

Concern was expressed regarding body art supply shops selling to individuals who are not affiliated with a licensed facility.