



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Norwalk Health Department

Norwalk Board of Health

March 28, 2017

8:00 AM

Library

Minutes

Call to order at 8:07 AM

Present: Board of Health – Vincent Amoruccio, MS, MA, Janet Karpiak, MD, Theresa Quell, PhD, Edward Tracey, MD, Kenneth Lalime, RPH (phone), and Matthew Brovender, Esq

Staff – Tim Callahan, Director of Health, Tom Closter, Environmental Director, Megan DiMeglio, Project Coordinator, David Reed M.D., Medical Director, (phone), Darleen Hoffler, Supervisor of Clinical Services, Patricia DiPietro Laboratory Technician, Theresa Argondezzi, Health Educator, Brian McCann, Assistant Corporation Counsel

Norwalk Police- Officer Kyle Lipeika, Officer Mark Suda, Lieutenant James Walsh

Approval of the February 28, 2017 meeting minutes

Dr. Quell moved and Mr. Amoruccio seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The minutes passed unanimously.

Emerald Day Spa Massage Permit Review

Mr. Callahan reviewed a synopsis of events:

Synopsis of Events

- 4/6/16 Shangquan Jin applies for a permit to operate a Massage Establishment. This is a change in ownership and name, Nirvana to Emerald Day Spa.
- 4/25/16 Officer Arthur Weisgerler, Norwalk Police Department, provides a conditional approval on the background check for Mr. Jin. Final approval is pending the outcome of the Connecticut and FBI background checks.
- 4/26/16 Norwalk Health Department issues Massage Establishment permit to Mr. Jin
- 7/13/16 Norwalk Police raid the Emerald Day Spa and arrest Meilan Huang for practicing massage therapy without a license a violation of CTGS 20-206 a-c and prostitution CTGS 53a-82. Seong Hae Kim, a CT and Norwalk licensed Massage Therapist is arrested for promoting prostitution CTGS 53a-87 and permitting prostitution, CTGS 53a-89. Norwalk Police inform the Norwalk Health Director Tim Callahan. A review of the police records show on 2/11/16 and 6/3/16 employees at Nirvana were charged with practicing massage therapy without a license required by CT statutes.

- 7/28/16 Norwalk Health Department Sanitarian Elizabeth Rusk inspects the Emerald Day Spa and finds violations of the Norwalk Code of Ordinances - sleeping/living quarters within the massage establishment.
- 8/9/16 Norwalk Board of Health meets and suspends the permit to operate a massage establishment for violation of CT GS 20-206a-c, providing massage therapy by an unlicensed massage therapist.
- 8/15/16 Mr. Jin files an appeal, staying the suspension.
- 8/24/16 Letter sent to Mr. Jin from Mr. Callahan setting the hearing for September 27, 2016 at 9:00 AM at the Norwalk Health Department
- 9/16/16 Mr. Park contacts Mr. Callahan. Mr. Park will represent Mr. Jin at the hearing
- 9/20/16 Mr. Callahan contacts Mr. Park and advises Mr. Park to have Mr. Jin attend the hearing.
- 9/26/16 Norwalk Health Department Sanitarian Liz Rusk inspects Emerald Day Spa.
- 9/27/16 Hearing with the Board of Health attended by Mr. Jin and Mr. Park. The Board of Health restores the massage establishment permit and advises the owner that for the next 6 months any violation of the Norwalk Massage ordinance may result in suspension or revocation of the Massage Establishment permit.
- 11/7/16 Norwalk Health Department Sanitarian Liz Rusk inspects Emerald Day Spa. No violations. Guishin Li, a CT and Norwalk licensed massage therapist is the only person present.
- 12/14/16 Norwalk Health Department Sanitarian Liz Rusk inspects Emerald Day Spa. Li Shun Hua, receptionist/cleaner is present and has not applied to the Norwalk Police Department. Otherwise no violations of the Massage ordinance found.
- 2/23/17 Norwalk Health Department Sanitarian Liz Rusk inspects Emerald Day Spa. No violations. Guishin Li, a CT and Norwalk licensed massage therapist is the only person present
- 3/22/17 Norwalk Police raid the Emerald Day Spa and arrest Guishin Li, Massage Therapist, for prostitution.
Norwalk Health Department Sanitarian Liz Rusk inspects Emerald Day Spa. No violations. Guishin Li, a CT and Norwalk licensed massage therapist is the only person present

Mr. Callahan informed the group that Sanitarian Liz Rusk visited Emerald Day Spa on March 27, 2017 and the spa was closed. Mr. Callahan asked Lieutenant Walsh for an overview of the pending cases against Ms. Li and Ms. Huang. Lieutenant Walsh said Ms. Huang is due in court on April 3rd and Ms. Li on April 6th. Lieutenant Walsh explained both case have been continued due to changing lawyers and extensions. Lieutenant Walsh stated the judge and prosecutors overseeing these cases are concerned this is a human trafficking problem and action is needed immediately.

Mr. Callahan asked for Attorney McCann's opinion on courses of action the Board of Health might pursue. Attorney McCann stated the Emerald Day Spa is violating the City of Norwalk Massage Ordinance, sections 65-13 and 65-20. Attorney McCann also referred to the Board of Health action on September 27, 2017. At that time the Board of Health restored the massage establishment permit and instituted a 6 month probation period. During the probation any violations of the ordinance might result in the revocation or suspension of the license. After a lengthy discussion Dr. Quell moved and Dr. Karpiak seconded a motion to revoke the massage establishment permit for violations of the Norwalk Massage Establishments ordinance section 65-9 D-E, non-licensed employee without a background check and section 65-21-I endangering the public health, safety,

and welfare. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Callahan will notify the owner of the permit revocation and the date for a hearing on this matter.

Performance Management Presentations

Preventable Diseases

Ms. Hoffler presented the Preventable disease division performance measures dashboard. Six of the performance measures met or exceeded the target, and six fell short.

Met Target

- 96 % average over four quarters. In Q1 84% (11/13) of STD patients completing treatment for diagnosis of gonorrhea, chlamydia, and/or syphilis, two of the patients completed treatment outside the Health Department. In a Q2, Q3, Q4 all patients completed treatment at the Health Department.
- 100 % (3/3) active TB patients completing Directly Observed Therapy (DOT) treatment
- 100 % (3/3) of contact investigations conducted for active TB cases
- 90 % children completing age-appropriate immunizations by their second birthday
- 100 % (1/1) epidemiological interviews completed for children with blood lead levels greater than fifteen micrograms per deciliter
- 6.55% Prevalence of anemia among children enrolled in the WIC Program for at least one year

Short of the target

- 23 % of qualifying STD patients completing full series of HPV, Hepatitis A, and Hepatitis B vaccinations
- 79 % (Q1- 30/40, Q2- 45/53, Q3- 32/40, Q4- 30/40) of critical fields completed properly within STD patient records
- 45 % (Q1- 45/100, Q2- 15/94, Q3- 52/100, Q4- 40/60) of critical fields completed properly within Travel & Adult Immunization patient records
- 54 % (Q1- 21/26, Q2- 6/10, Q3- 4/6, Q4- 1/11) foodborne illness reports where follow-up has been initiated within 48 business hours
- 1 “Flu & You” outreach programs conducted in Norwalk schools
- 33.5 % of WIC eligible pregnant women enrolled within the first trimester of pregnancy
- One of the measures, number of new patients who attend the Travel & Adult Immunization Clinic, wasn’t tracked because a QI project has been in progress that aims to increase the number of patients attending the program. Several components of the project have yet to be completed, so data evaluating improvements hasn’t been collected yet.

Ms. Hoffler reviewed the opportunities for improvement and next steps:

- Completion of critical fields in the EMR
- Better use of technology to remind patients of future doses in vaccine series
- Use of newly hired personnel to carry out program activities and aid in meeting targets
- Explore addition of required fields in the electronic medical record
- Institute a protocol for the use of the Chexout system to remind patients of follow-up doses
- Train staff to perform program activities
- Collect data to track attendance at the Travel & Adult Immunization Clinic
- Explore available data for WIC to be included in FY 16-17 dashboard

Laboratory

Ms. DiPietro presented the Laboratory division performance measures dashboard. Five of the five performance measures in this division met the targets.

- 339 beach water tests/analyses performed
- 100% (15/15 all four quarters) CAP (College of American Pathologists) proficiency score for clinical license
- 100% (12/12) Environmental proficiency score, maintain Laboratory license for environmental testing, and maintain CLIA (Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988) laboratory license.

Health Education

Ms. Argondezzi presented the Health Education division performance measures dashboard.

Met Target

- Delivered Fit Kids in nine sites (not including summer camps).
- Held one Growing Gardens, Growing Health cohort.
- 100% (15/15) of Growing Gardens, Growing Health participants were overall satisfied with the program.
- Distributed 25 press releases
- 245 “likes” on the Health Department Facebook page
- 196 Twitter followers
- Completed all action plan activities for the NorWalker project

Short of the target

- 55% (22/40) of Fit Kids students improved their nutrition scores by at least 10%. The goal was 60%.
- Attended 15 general outreach events. The target was 16.
- 70% (21/30) of afterschool staff was overall satisfied with Fit Kids. The target was 90%.
- 75% (8/11) of the action plan activities were completed for the Eat Well Initiative.

Ms. Argondezzi presented opportunities for improvement:

- Improve after school provider satisfaction with Fit Kids.
- Improve the Fit Kids evaluation tool for nutrition knowledge.
- Develop a way to generate/schedule more press releases and web posts as well as more meaningful engagement with the press.
- Eliminate bottlenecks in implementing the Eat Well Healthy Restaurant initiative.

Ms. Argondezzi presented next steps:

- To improve after school provider satisfaction rates with Fit Kids, the Health Educator and Health Education Associate will schedule Fit Kids activities in FY16-17 and possibly FY17-18 to focus more on fidelity checks, technical assistance, and support for the schools who are already delivering Fit Kids on their own. This could require a reduction in the number of “new” schools trained or sites in which Fit Kids is delivered by Health Department staff.
- To improve the Fit Kids evaluation tool, the Health Educator and Health Education Associate will assess the current tool, shorten it, replace or eliminate questions where appropriate, and simplify the language wherever possible. They will also assess whether other evaluation methods (hand grip dynamometry, jump height, and BMI) might be eliminated to allow for more time to work with students on the survey.
- To improve communications/press outreach, the Health Educator will review the External Communications plan and determined if revisions or retraining need to occur.

- To improve productivity in the Eat Well Initiative, the Health Educator will work with partners in the region to allocate more resources to the program and/or utilize quality improvement techniques.

Personnel Changes

Mr. Callahan provided an update on new staff that joined the Preventable Diseases division:

- Keir Abrew, WIC Program Bilingual Program Assistant
- Nicole Phillips, Part-time Nurse Practitioner

Executive Session

Other Business

Adjourn at 9:30 AM