



Norwalk Board of Health
September 25, 2018
8:30 AM
Library
Monthly Meeting
Minutes

Call to order at 8:33 AM Present:

Board of Health – Matthew Brovender, Esq (phone), Janet Karpiak, MD, Theresa Quell, PhD, RN, Vincent Amoruccio, MA (phone)

Staff –Theresa Argondezzi, Health Educator, Tom Closter, Environmental Director, Deanna D’Amore, Director of Health, Megan DiMeglio, Project Coordinator, Dr. David Reed, Medical Director (phone)

Approval of the June 26, 2018 meeting minutes – Dr. Karpiak moved and Mr. Brovender seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The minutes passed unanimously.

Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Program

Ms. D’Amore explained the Norwalk Health Department has held a subcontract with Stamford Health Department to offer the WIC program in Norwalk. Stamford Health Department has held the main contract with the Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH). She explained that the Stamford Health Department recently voluntarily relinquished their contract to provide the program. Ms. D’Amore gave an overview of recent policy changes and flat funding within the WIC program. She reported that Optimus Healthcare has been granted the contract to provide the WIC program in the Stamford region, in addition to Bridgeport which they have held for years. The Mayor and Health Department worked together to establish a new subcontract with Optimus to provide the program within the Norwalk region.

Immunization Action Plan (IAP) Program

Ms. D’Amore explained that Western CT Home Care relinquished their contract with the state health department to provide the IAP program in their region. The State IAP Program contacted Norwalk to help them cover some of the large region that they will now have to cover. The health department has agreed to provide the program in Ridgefield and Danbury. The State will increase our funding.

Vaccination Clinics

Flu Clinic

Community Flu Clinics will be held on Thursday 10/11 from 10 am – 12 pm and Tuesday 10/16 from 5 pm – 7 pm. Walk- in will be held on Thursdays, 1 pm - 3 pm, starting 10/18.

Hepatitis A Clinic

CT DPH has a new initiative around Hepatitis A vaccination. DPH is partnering with local health departments to vaccinate at risk populations, including people experiencing homelessness and people who use drugs, in order to prevent a Hepatitis A outbreak in CT. The Health Department has received vaccine from the State and are holding community clinics targeting those populations.

Health Enhancement Communities

Ms. Argondezzi presented an update on the Health Enhancement Communities (HEC) Grant the Health Department received from the State. She said since the last time she reported to the Board the group has participated in two deep dive sessions and multiple webinars/calls. Ms. Argondezzi also mentioned that the project was presented to the Mayor. Mr. Lalime and Dr. Weinberger recommended last month that the Board of Health write a letter of support to submit with the final report to the State. Ms. Argondezzi drafted a letter for the Board to review. The Board reviewed and voted on the letter of support. Dr. Karpiak moved and Dr. Quell seconded a motion to approve the letter of support.

Personnel Changes

Ms. D'Amore gave an update on positions at the health department, including a new posting for a full-time Nurse Practitioner, the Disease Intervention Specialist – HIV & Hepatitis C, and a new part time laboratory staff position in development.

Grant Funding

Ms. D'Amore reviewed grant funding for the Health Department.

- Per Capita grant was cut by 10%
- The Health Department received a \$27,000 dollar grant from Campbell's Soup. Funds will go towards the Garden Program, Eat Well, and a Food Access initiative.
- The Health Department received a \$3,000 dollar grant from United Way. Funds will go towards Fit Kids Move More in Schools.
- The Health Department may receive limited CDC Supplemental Funding for lead poisoning prevention.

Oyster Festival

Mr. Closter reviewed the After Action Report for the 2018 Oyster Festival.

Garbage & Odor

Ms. D'Amore mentioned complaints the health department have received over the summer related to garbage and odor. She described the collaboration between the Health Department and Department of Public Works on addressing these issues and the response.

Public Health Preparedness

Ms. D'Amore gave an update on the Emergency Preparedness division.

- Points of Dispensing (POD) Set-up Drill in August included 20 volunteers from the Emergency Response Team and 16 health department staff. The set up took place at Norwalk High School and was completed within an hour and 18 minutes. She said the drill was successful and identified many areas for improvement.
- Ms. D'Amore also mentioned September is Preparedness Month and the health department and the City have been sending out press releases.
- The Health Department Emergency Preparedness division will be participating in the Open House event September 29th.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has sent out new recommendations to focus plans on emerging infectious diseases events. This coming year the health department will work on updating plans.

Other Business

Ms. D'Amore gave updates on the following items.

- The noise variance for the SoNo Mall Collection was extended to November 2018.
- The Water Quality Committee is starting back up again.
- City Reorganization- New positions have been posted on the City's website. There are no changes to the Health Department right now.
- Communication/Summer Meetings/Future Schedule- There was a discussion around changing meeting times for 2019.
- CT DPH Updates- Ms. D'Amore attended the semi-annual directors of health meeting and gave updates from the state level.
- Washington Village- Ms. D'Amore gave an update on the inspections the health department has done.
- IT – HIPAA training- Health Department staff provided a HIPAA training to the IT Department.
- CT Public Health Association –Kaitlin Latham, Health Education Associate, will be presenting at the annual conference in November 2018 on the Fit Kids program.

Adjourn at 9:30 AM