

Norwalk Health Department Board of Health Actions

Board of Health Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2008

8:00 AM

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Call to order at 8:05 AM

Present: Board of Health – Ken Lalime, RPH, Theresa Quell, PhD, RN, Sheldon Miller, Edward Tracey, MD, and John McNamara, MD (phone)

Staff – Tim Callahan, Director of Health

Guests - Mark Masselli, CEO, Margaret Flinter, Vice President and Clinical Director and Adele Gordon, Norwalk Dental Clinic Director, Community Health Centers Inc

Minutes of December 11, 2007 meeting – A motion to approve was made by Ms Quell, seconded by Mr. Lalime, and approved unanimously.

Welcome Sheldon Miller

The Board members and Mr. Callahan welcomed Sheldon Miller to the Board of Health. Mr. Miller, a long time Norwalk resident, is a retired businessman. He owned a collections agency and his health care clients included Norwalk Hospital and private physicians offices. Mr. Miller spoke of his desire to give back to the community and said he is looking forward to serving on the Board of Health.

Community Health Centers Inc – Mark Masselli, CEO

Mr. Masselli and a group of interested community persons founded Community Health Centers Inc in Middletown Connecticut in 1972. In 1992 CHC was awarded federal funds to help defray the costs of providing health care to all without regard to ability to pay. CHC operates health centers from Groton to Stamford to Enfield. The services include medical in a family practice model, dentistry, behavioral health and social services. In 2007 70,000 patients were served and 225,000 encounters were recorded.

Mr. Masselli highlighted several model and unique services and approaches to providing health care. CHC employs a fully electronic medical record. Upon entering care patients work with an Access to Care Coordinator to assess needs and decide on a provider. Walgreen's operates pharmacies in the health centers and provides up to 50% discounts on prescription drugs to the uninsured. Advanced Access Scheduling provides appointments within 3 weeks and cut the no show rate from 40% to 7%. The staff operates n pods and works as a team to address all aspects of the patients care.

CHC came to Norwalk several years ago via dental care to the city's Head Start programs. Since then dental services have expanded to Brien McMahan high school, a small clinic in the Norwalk Health Department building and a 5,00 square foot facility on Day St which employs 3 dentists and 3 dental hygienists.

After reviewing hospital emergency room information, morbidity and mortality data and as a result of experiences with the provision of dental care, Mr. Masselli said CHC is planning to take steps necessary to get approval from the federal government to provide primary care in Norwalk.

A discussion ensued and the Board members reiterated their desire to ensure all Norwalk residents have access to health care. The Board thanked Mr. Masselli and his staff for a very informative presentation.

Other Business

Strategic Planning sessions are scheduled for April 22, 2008 and May 6, 2008 from 4:00 to 6:00 PM.

Adjourn at 9:40 AM

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Adjourn 9:15 AM

