

Norwalk Health Department Board of Health Actions

January 9, 2007

8:00 AM

Library

Call to order at 8:10 AM

Present: Board of Health – Ken Lalime, RPH, Martha Lemmon PE, and Edward Tracey, MD

Staff – Tim Callahan, Director of Health, David Reed MD, MPH, Medical Director and Patricia Carey, APRN

Guest – Anthony Allison, Program Officer, Norwalk Children’s Foundation

Minutes of December 12, 2006 meeting

A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Mr. Lalime, seconded by Dr. Tracey and passed unanimously.

Norwalk ACTS

Anthony Allison, Program Officer of the Norwalk Children’s Foundation spoke about the Foundation and the Norwalk ACTS project. Mr. Allison told the Board that Norwalk ACTS is a group of concerned city leaders working collectively to directly improve the lives and futures of Norwalk youth. This nearly two-year old group is coordinating the efforts of agencies that have an influence on children at home, in the community and in the schools. Three goals are to insure all children attend a quality pre school program, all children are healthy and the parents get the information they need to raise their children. The majority of work to date is focused on improving pre school education by improving programs and increasing the number of quality openings in pre schools. The health component is being developed and the Health Director is working with the organizers. Mr. Lalime commended Mr. Allison for the clearly defined and well-written strategic plan. A motion to endorse Norwalk ACTS and encourage the organizers to develop a methodology to measure the impact of their efforts in helping children to succeed. Dr. Tracey seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Vaccines

Zostavax: David Reed, MD, MPH and Patricia Carey, APRN presented information on Zostavax. Zostavax is a vaccine indicated for the prevention of herpes zoster (shingles) in individuals 60 years of age and older. This is a single dose vaccine. Ms Carey said she has received numerous inquiries for this vaccine.

Gardasil: David Reed, MD, MPH and Patricia Carey, APRN presented information on Gardasil. This vaccine helps protect against diseases such as cervical cancer, abnormal and pre-cancerous cervical lesions, vaginal lesions and vulvar lesions and genital warts caused by Human Papillomavirus (HPV). Gardasil is for girls and women ages 9 – 26 years. This vaccine will be offered in the Travel clinic and the State sponsored Vaccines for Children program.

A motion to approve the use of Zostavax and Gardasil was made by Mr. Lalime, seconded by Ms. Lemmon and passed unanimously.

Geese

The Board revisited this matter and discussed the article, which asserts geese feces are not pathogenic for humans. The Board concluded that it is important to consider other views. However, geese feces harbor pathogens such as salmonella and e coli which are human pathogens. The geese population continues to increase and developing a plan to address this situation is timely and important. Dr. Tracey Asked Mr. Callahan to speak with his counterpart in Greenwich to find out how effective their efforts has been. Mr. Callahan will report back to the Board in February.

Other Business

Bed Bugs

The calls for information and assistance in eliminating infestations of bed bugs continue to increase. Rhonda Collins, Health Educator and Tom Closter, Director of Environmental Health developed an information sheet, which is available in print and on the web site.

Women Infants and Children's (WIC) Program

The Connecticut Department of Public Health, the administrative agency for this program, is going to reduce the number of contracts statewide. The Norwalk Stamford regions are being consolidated. Mr. Callahan and Johnnie Lee, MD, Stamford Health Director met and have agreed to submit one proposal. Stamford will serve as the lead agency and Norwalk will sub contract from Stamford and serve the greater Norwalk area.

Adjourn 9:40 AM

