

Norwalk Health Department Board of Health Actions

Board of Health Monthly Meeting Minutes

January 11, 2005

8:00 AM

Library

Call to order at 8:10 AM

Present: Board of Health – Ms Burke, Mr. Lalime, Dr McNamara, & Dr. Tracey

Staff – Mr. Callahan

Minutes of December 14, 2004 Meeting

Item - Influenza Program – clarification - Dr Tracey recommended that in the event of shortages in the future a more equitable distribution system be developed to insure delivery of vaccine to physicians who serve the highest risk people. A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Mr. Lalime, seconded by Dr Tracey and was passed by a unanimous vote.

Welcome New Board Members

Ivy Burke was welcomed to the Board. Ms Burke serves as the Director of the After School Alliance.

Influenza Program

The Health Department gave 1,574 flu shots, which are about 1,000 fewer than in the average year. The Health Department used all of the vaccine purchased. Requests for flu shots are few and callers are being referred to a regional clinic that will take place in the near future at Sacred Heart University.

Patients expressed high levels of satisfaction with the system. Particularly, patients were amazed at the speed with which they were processed and received a shot and with the ease of access from the reserved parking area. Health Department staff will develop a plan to continue appointment only clinics but for a much larger number of patients.

Health District Task Force

The Task Force met December 16, 2004 at the New Canaan Town Hall. The State mandated local public health services were presented, explained and discussed. Service levels for each of the environmental areas and some clinical areas were reviewed. The Task Force is scheduled to meet again on January 13, 2005 at the Norwalk Health Department to review financial considerations.

Personnel

Two finalists were identified for the WIC Program Coordinator position. The top candidate declined the job offer and, when contacted, the second candidate indicated that she was no longer interested.

Obesity Study

A report titled “Childhood Obesity Committee Update – January 2005” was reviewed. Several recommendations were made.

Committee Makeup – Strategies to sell the program are critical. A marketing person should be included in the group.

Goals – Consider a percentage change in the obesity rates rather than an absolute number. The Board recommended a 25% reduction in obesity and at risk for obesity rates of pre-school and school-age children in Norwalk.

Objectives - # 2 Include as an outcome a more successful career. This is a logical next step after academic performance.

General Comments

Pediatric groups do employ Nutritionists. They should be kept advised of the committees work.

Whenever possible use statistics to prove points.

Potential funding sources are baby formula and pharmaceutical companies.

The movie “Supersize Me” is a resource.

Adjourn: 9:45 AM

