

Norwalk Health Department Board of Health Actions

April 11, 2006

8:00 AM

Library

Call to order at 8:05 AM

Present: Board of Health – Ken Lalime, RPH, Martha Lemmon, PE, John McNamara, MD, and Edward Tracey, MD
Staff – Tim Callahan

Minutes of February 14, 2006 and March 14, 2006 meetings Meeting

The March 14, 2006 were amended as follows Emergency Response Planning, SNS drill in Westport is scheduled for April 19, 2006 not April 16, 2006. A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Mr. Lalime, seconded by Dr. Tracey and passed unanimously.

Follow up on Pandemic & Avian Influenza Symposium

Dr. McNamara, Dr. Tracey and Mr. Callahan updated the Board on the information presented at the Fairfield County Medical Association Symposium on pandemic and avian influenza. There is uncertainty as to if and when avian influenza will be founding the United States. Currently, the time to develop a vaccine is 6 months. Protein Sciences Company is working on a process, which shortens the development to 6 weeks. Tamiflu may not provide resistance to avian flu. A shortage of ventilators is predicted. Since there will not be enough vaccine to immunize the entire population, mass vaccinations clinics will not be staged. Rather vaccine will be provided by appointment to risk groups identified by the state and federal authorities. Risk communications will be key in the response. Public concern is beginning to be aroused. Mr. Lalime was contacted by a parent concerned about the risks posed to children who play soccer on fields littered with geese waste at Veterans Park. Mr. Callahan will follow up with Mike Mocciae, the Parks and Recreation Director, to determine if this unsanitary situation can be eliminated.

Westport Weston Health District Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Drill

A drill will take place at Bedford Middle School on April 19, 2006 from 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Several Norwalk Health Department staff members are scheduled to participate. The infectious agent is plague. A mass dispensing clinic will operate. Students from Fairfield University will film the event. Mr. Callahan will acquire a copy and show it at a future board meeting.

Well Child and Immunization Clinic

There is a shortage of pediatric providers at the Norwalk Community Health Center (NCHC). Patients are being rescheduled. Mr. Callahan stated that a delay in well child care, physical assessments and the administration of childhood immunizations, is a concern. The Board discussed the Health Department's role in providing assistance. There was agreement that the Health Department could provide immunizations and

physicals for infants to 12 months. Mr. Callahan will meet with NCHC Executive Director Larry Cross to determine their needs and the role of the Health Department.

Adjourn 9:10 AM

