

Norwalk Health Department Board of Health Actions

May 9, 2006
8:00 AM in 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, Rhonda Collins, Health Educator, Bill Mooney, Sanitarian and Craig Shoop, EAP Coordinator

Minutes of April 11, 2006 meeting

Correction as follows: Follow up on Pandemic & Avian Influenza Symposium, second sentence, should read “ There is uncertainty as to if and when avian influenza will be found in the United States.” A motion to approve the minutes as corrected was made by Mr. Lalime, seconded by Dr. Tracey and passed unanimously.

Pandemic & Avian Influenza Update

Mr. Callahan reviewed the presentations made to the local health directors by James Hadler, MD and Matt Carter, MD at the semi annual meeting with the state health commissioner, Robert Galvin, MD. The spread of avian influenza, the threat to Connecticut citizens and the preparation for bird and human cases was discussed. The response from Michael Moccia, Parks Director, to Mr. Lalime inquiry regarding the risks posed to children who play soccer on fields littered with geese waste at Veterans Park was discussed. Board members agreed the City has a responsibility to better control the geese extending the dog patrol's season. Reducing the numbers of geese is especially important since concerns about bird flu will be on the rise. Mr. Callahan will follow up with Mr. Moccia.

Well Child and Immunization Clinic

Mr. Callahan met with NCHC Executive Director Larry Cross to determine their needs and the role of the Health Department. Mr. Cross has hired a locum tenens Pediatrician through August 2006. A search is underway to hire an experienced Pediatrician and a recent graduate. Desirable candidates for each position have been identified. Mr. Cross said he is confident that the needs of pediatric patients are being met.

Employees Assistance Program

The Police and Fire Departments will have an additional EAP provider to choose from. Police Chief Harry Rilling proposed to the Common Council's Personnel Committee the addition of Public Service EAP. The Common Council is expected to approve this request at their meeting this evening. Mr. Lalime asked about the provider network and suggested following up to find out about the availability of professionals.

Health Lifestyles Program Update

Rhonda Collins, Health Educator, gave an update on the NorWalker project. After 3 years

11 walking routes have been developed. There are plans to add two more routes this year. The maps are in demand. The project has received state and national recognition and interest. The Board discussed ideas for sustaining the project since the state grant is ending. Mr. Callahan will explore the idea of seeking sponsorships to cover the map printing and advertising costs.

Adjourn 9:40 AM

