

***Norwalk Health Department Board of Health Actions***

**October 12, 2004**

**8:00 AM**

**Library**

Call to order at 8:00 AM

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

Staff – Mr. Callahan

Minutes of September 14, 2004 Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of these meetings was made by Dr Tracey, seconded by Dr. McNamara and was passed by a unanimous vote.

Influenza Program

Three thousand doses of vaccine were ordered from Chiron. This order will not be filled. A back up order for 2,000 doses was placed with Aventus. The status of the back up order is unknown. All of the clinics are on hold until more information is known about the availability of influenza vaccine.

Pediatrics in Norwalk

The Board discussed the state of pediatric health care in Norwalk.

Dr. Jorge Elias closed his practice. His patients are transferring to the Norwalk Community Health Center and to Dr. Shah.

Dr. Shah's sentencing was postponed. At some future date Dr. Shah will be sentenced and at that time she will lose the ability to bill state sponsored and administered insurance programs.

The Norwalk Community Health Center is planning to hire a full time equivalent physician to replace the 3 Pediatricians who are helping out. Several leads were discussed. Dr. McNamara is going to follow up with Dr. Mitchell Kresch, Chairman of Pediatrics, and Norwalk Hospital.

The Health Center is receiving 30 – 40 new patients per week.

Grant Awards

The local health grant FY 04 final report and the FY 05 application were reviewed. A motion was made to approve the FY 05 proposal by Mr. Lalime, seconded by Dr. McNamara and passed unanimously.

Web Site Utilization

A report showing web site utilization during the months June 2004 – September 2004 was reviewed. There was a dramatic increase in visits to the web page when the Food Establishment Rating System was added.

Youth Services Department

Mayor Alex Knopp is proposing a review of the Youth Services Department to determine

type of services that best meet the needs of Norwalk youth. This project will include a review of other programs to identify best practices and an analysis of the direct counseling services to determine if they might be more effective if out sourced. A Blue Ribbon Commission will be appointed. Ken Lalime has volunteered to serve on this committee.

Adjourn 9:15 AM

