

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

**November 8, 2005**

**8:00 AM**

Library

Call to order at 8:05 AM

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

Staff – Mr. Callahan

Minutes of September 13, 2005 and October 11, 2005 Meetings

Correction to the October 11, 2005 – Dr Tracey was absent, Dr McNamara was present.

A motion to approve the September 13, 2005 and October 11, 2005 as corrected was made by Mr. Lalime, seconded by Dr. Tracey and passed unanimously.

Review and Action on Strategic Plan

The plan was reviewed and the following changes made. On the Balanced Scorecard goals in the Financial section the second item; Obtain at least one additional grant. Under Operational goals the public education will focus on public health and additionally on the differences between public health and health care.

A motion to approve the plan as amended was made by Mr. Lalime, seconded by Ms. Burke and passed unanimously.

Personnel

Darleen Hoffler, RN, Clinical Services Supervisor, started her family leave today.

Barbara Alvord, RN, will act as supervisor during Ms. Hoffler's absence, which is expected to be 12 weeks.

Yolanda Sierra and Leroy McIntosh, AIDS Program Outreach workers resigned. Due to a reduction in grant funds, these positions were reduced to part time without benefits. These changes led to the employees seeking and finding other employment. A search to fill these positions is underway.

Anthony Capuano Sr., a former and long time Housing Code Supervisor passed away last week. ACAP's survivors include son, Tony Capuano Jr., a Housing Inspector and daughter in law Rhonda Collins, Health Educator. Mr. Lalime requested that the condolences of the Board be extended to the Capuano Family and that if the family named a charity, the Health Department make a contribution.

WIC Program

The WIC Program is funded by the Department of Agriculture. Funds are passed through the Connecticut Department of Public Health to local programs. The Norwalk Health Department is the local provider of services. Per notification by the CT DPH WIC Program Director, funding for Norwalk will remain at the FY 05 level, \$202,500, for FY

06 and FY 07. After factoring in the costs for full time staff with benefits, there is a \$30,000 shortfall for FY 06. Mr. Callahan described an action plan, which includes requesting additional funds from the CT DPH, identifying other sources of funds and considering a reduction in staff. Mr. Lalime questioned the high cost for health insurance benefits. Mr. Callahan explained that the rates are set by the City Finance Department. Mr. Lalime asked for an explanation of the method used to calculate the cost. Mr. Callahan will follow up.

#### Other Business

Ms Burke spoke about the Norwalk Housing Authority's Health Hire Program. The project provides an opportunity for Norwalk high school students to learn about and begin training for careers in health. The Housing Authority is working to identify internships for program enrollees. Mr. Callahan will discuss this project with health department staff and identify opportunities for internships.

Mr. Lalime spoke about a Regional Health Information Organization (RHIO) currently being formed in Connecticut. Representatives from all sections of the health care industry are represented on the committee charged with the development of this organization. Mr. Lalime said CT Public Health Commissioner Robert Galvin, MD is on the committee. Mr. Lalime was not clear if other representatives from the public health sector are involved. Dr Tracey suggested contacting Pamela Kilbey-Fox, the Director of Local Health Administration for the CT DPH. Mr. Callahan will follow up with Ms Kilbey-Fox.

#### Public Participation

Diane Lauricella, representing the Norwalk League of Women Voters requested an opportunity to address the Board. Ms. Lauricella said the League supports rationalization of services. Per Ms Lauricella, the League endorses public process and is interested in being involved in any future discussion of a regional health district.

Adjourn: 9:10 AM