



Norwalk Board of Health
September 24, 2019
8:00 AM
Library

Monthly Meeting
Minutes

Call to order at 8:05 AM Present:

Board of Health –Theresa Quell, PhD, RN, Matthew Brovender, Esq, Kenneth Lalime, RPH, (phone)
Janet Karpiak, MD (phone)

Staff –Deanna D’Amore, Director of Health, Megan DiMeglio, Project Coordinator, Theresa Argondezzi,
Health Educator, Tom Closter, Environmental Director, Darleen Hoffler, Clinical Supervisor

Public: Christopher Szoke, University of Bridgeport Nursing Student, Linda Ku University of Bridgeport
Nursing Student

Approval of the August 27, 2019 Meeting Minutes- Dr. Quell motioned to approve the August minutes at
the October meeting.

Director’s Report

- Ms. D’Amore mentioned the appointment of the Chief of Community Services is on the agenda for (9/24) Common Council meeting.
- Ms. D’Amore mentioned the State DPH PFAS taskforce she has been participating in. The taskforce is working on a plan and will be looking for public comment. Ms. D’Amore asked if the Board would like her to draft a letter and present it from the Board and the Health Department. Board members agreed and Ms. D’Amore will bring it to a future meeting.

Anticipated Reaccreditation Timeline

Ms. DiMeglio gave an update on the progress for meeting reaccreditation. Ms. DiMeglio reviewed the timeline for the review process and site visit. Early next year 2020, a PHAB site visit team will be assigned to Norwalk. Ms. DiMeglio and Ms. D’Amore will keep the board updated in the months to come.

Oyster Festival

Mr. Closter reviewed the After Action Report for the 2019 Oyster Festival. Mr. Closter gave a summary of the event.

- Total number of food booths
- Reviewed the top three strengths of the department’s involvement
- Top three issues that arose during the event inspections
- Areas of improvement

Food Establishment Inspections

Ms. D'Amore asked for Mr. Closter to attend this month's meeting to discuss Dr. Quell concerns on the Lighthouse rating system and restaurants who consistently have lower ratings. Mr. Closter explained the rating system, how inspections are conducted, and how scores are calculated. Mr. Closter will be working on updating the rating system in the next few months to match the new FDA food code. As the FDA food code does not have a score and our current rating system is based on the score from each inspection, Mr. Closter is working with other area health departments to come up with a uniformed rating system.

School Physicals

Ms. Hoffler gave an update on the school physicals this year and the need to have additional clinics. Last year the health department offered two days of clinics, and this year the health department has held five clinics and are scheduling additional exams to help close the gap. To date the health department gave 75 school physicals and over 385 vaccines to children entering Norwalk Public Schools. There continues to be a waitlist and the health department will be working with community partners to assist in this access to care. Last year the health department provided eleven school physicals.

Flu Clinics

Ms. Argondezzi informed the board of the 2019 Flu clinics.

The community clinics are as followed:

- October 17th, 10AM-12PM
- October 22nd, 5PM-7PM
- With additional walk ins every Tuesday afternoon after the 22nd

Additional clinics are scheduled for worksites, Board of Education for Norwalk and New Canaan. Flu clinic promotion this year was by postcard mailings and social media posts.

Opioid Grant

Ms. DiMeglio gave an update on an opioid prevention grant the health department received. Ms. DiMeglio reviewed the activities conducted over the last few months around prevention. Ms. DiMeglio submitted the final report last week to the State Health Department. Ms. D'Amore and Ms. DiMeglio are reviewing a new grant that was released to see if the health department will apply. Ms. DiMeglio and Ms. D'Amore will keep the board updated in the months to come.

Health Enhancement Communities (HEC) Request for Proposals

Ms. Argondezzi gave an update on a new Health Enhancement Communities (HEC) application. The Health Department and the Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance organization are planning to apply together. Ms. Argondezzi explained the partnership the health department currently has with Mid-Fairfield Child Guidance and how we felt it would be a great collaboration. The proposal will focus on youth more so then adults which the last HEC application did. The proposal is due next week. Ms. Argondezzi will keep the board updated in the months to come.

Adjourn at 9:03 AM