

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 22, 2025**

ATTENDANCE: Frank Ehrlich, MD, Janet Karpiak, MD, Ken Lalime, RPh,
Joan McNeil, DNP, Anthony Santella, DrPH,
Norman Weinberger, MD

OTHERS: Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health, Brian Weeks,
Program Director of Epidemiology & Informatics,
Theresa Argondezzi, Assistant Director of Health, Community Health,
Aniella Fignon, Project Coordinator, David Reed, Medical Director

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. D'Amore called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Ms. D'Amore called the roll and announced that a quorum was present.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Regular Meeting: March 25, 2025

**** MR. SANTELLA MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2025 MEETING.**

**** MS. MCNEIL SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 25, 2025
REGULAR MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Diane Lauricella greeted the Board of Health. She said that she had lived in Norwalk for over 40 years and has often brought forward issues on environmental health. She said that this was Earth Day and she wished to challenge the Board in light of what is going on in Washington, to be bolder and challenge environmental issues. There are some environmental challenges in Norwalk that are not being addressed. She mentioned that Norwalk has seven artificial turf fields and has only removed one. Now there are a number of studies about the environmental damage caused by artificial turf fields. Norwalk is proposing three more artificial turf fields which will bring the total to ten. She said that this would impact epidemiology, and the Health Department should be addressing this.

EPIDEMIOLOGY UPDATES

Mr. Weeks greeted everyone and gave an update on the Respiratory Illness data nationwide. COVID, RSV and flu are all low or very low. CT is experiencing low COVID levels. The Wastewater viral activity is moderate. It is on the downtrend. Hand hygiene is important. There is a lot of pollen in the air.

Mr. Weeks then reviewed the status of the measles outbreak.. In 2025, there has been a total of 800 cases in the U.S., most of which are pediatric. 96% of these cases are either unvaccinated or vaccine status is unknown. There have been two deaths and one unconfirmed death. In 2024, there were 285 cases in the country. He displayed the Measles webpage on the Norwalk Health Department website. As of now, there have been no reported cases of measles in Connecticut this year. Mr. Weeks advised that individuals should check their vaccination status to ensure they are protected against vaccine-preventable diseases.

Tick season is underway, and Mr. Weeks then displayed a chart from the CT Agricultural Experiment Station. Norwalk had some positive Lyme's Disease cases. He also reviewed the information on the Norwalk Health Department webpage regarding ticks and precautions.

Mr. Santella said that the website referred to the 2022 Summer tick submissions and suggested that this be updated.

BUDGET UPDATES

Ms. D'Amore then displayed a PowerPoint Update on the Budget.

She gave an overview of the Community Services Department that includes the Health Department, Human Services Department, and the Public Library. There are a number of drivers and considerations to the Health Department budget including state and local mandates, community needs, level funding or reduced funding for the grants and taxpayer contributions.

The next slide illustrated the various departments and the budget categories and Ms. D'Amore gave the details regarding staffing and contractual obligations.

Ms. D'Amore then reviewed the Capital Budget requests, which involved painting the second floor offices and this has been approved. There is also a City wide online permitting project underway.

Ms. D'Amore said that this fiscal year, the Department has been managing 10 grants either as the primary recipient or as a subcontractor. Of those 10 grants, 8 are from Federal funding sources. She said that over time, grants vary and that in March, the Federal government cancelled a large number of grants allocated to states across the country. She updated the Board members on the status of the grant funding and noted that this was the first time the Department had not been notified in advance. The cancellation of the grants resulted in the loss of three staff members, two full-time positions and one part-time position. The Department is continuing to monitor the

court cases against the Federal government and navigate the changing landscape. The City has been very supportive of the Department during these times.

NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK

Ms. D'Amore then narrated a PowerPoint slide deck on National Public Health Week 2025, which was April 7th – 13th. This is the 30th anniversary celebration and the goal is to improve local community health. The Health Department promotes the health of all Norwalk residents. There was social media communication during the week, and a presentation and award given to the Mayor for his support. Dr. Ehrlich and Mr. Lalime spoke at the ceremony. Ms. D'Amore then gave an overview of all the various activities that Mayor Rilling has supported. Mayor Rilling read a Proclamation.

REPORTS

A. Director's Report

Ms. D'Amore then spoke about STI Awareness Week and explained there were some additional hours devoted to Sexual Health services in the clinic. She thanked the staff for organizing this. There was an increase in the number of patients.

ADJOURNMENT

**** THERE WAS A MOTION TO ADJOURN.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services.