

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 28, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Janet Karpiak, M.D.; Ken Lalime, Theresa Quell, PhD, R.N.; Norman Weinberger, M.D.

OTHERS: Deanna D’Amore, Director of Health; Theresa Argondezzi, Assistant Director of Community Health; Bill Mooney, Assistant Director of Environmental Health; Brian Weeks, Program Director of Epidemiologist; Aniella Fignon, Public Health Program Associate

This meeting was held via teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. D’Amore called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

• August 30, 2022 Meeting Minutes

**** MS. QUELL MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 30, 2022 MEETING.**

**** DR. KARPIAK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 30, 2022 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Ms. D’Amore said that there were two flu clinics scheduled, one at the Norwalk Senior Center on October 20th, from 10 AM -12 PM, and one at Brien McMahon High School on November 3rd, from 5 PM -7 PM. Registration links will be posted on the Health Departments website.

Ms. Fignon has been participating in a Climate Change Health Equity and Public Health Law Learning Collaborative with the Network of Public Health Law. She has been a very active member in that group and because of her participation they have asked her to attend their summit next month. She will be presenting Climate Change and Health Equity. She also gave a recent presentation on the Heat Sensor Project the City has partnered with the Connecticut Institute for Resilience and Climate Adaptation (CIRCA) on.

COVID-19/MONKEYPOX UPDATES

a. Surveillance

Mr. Weeks presented information from the City of Norwalk COVID-19 Data Hub showing a three tier level for the community. He noted that Fairfield County had been in the lowest tier, but has now moved to the medium level. He showed the top seven towns with the number of reported cases. He noted that home tests are not reported. The increase in cases could be attributed to the Labor Day weekend and the recent chilly weather. Mr. Weeks also reviewed the COVID-19 vaccination rates. There is also COVID wastewater monitoring underway.

Mr. Weeks then gave a brief overview of the status of monkeypox. Connecticut has 125 cases currently. He reviewed the various statistical groups, such as male/female, age groups and race/ethnicity.

The group that has been monitoring the COVID wastewater is also monitoring for polio. There have been five positive West Nile virus cases and two of those cases were identified in Greenwich and Stamford.

Dr. Karpiak asked about the number of Enterovirus cases. Mr. Weeks reviewed the details with her.

b. Immunizations and Outreach

Ms. Argondezzi narrated a COVID-19 Outreach and Education Update PowerPoint presentation. They are using data to drive the activities, partnering with existing organizations and events, using traditional and non-traditional educational materials, along with serving as a resource and connector for other groups and resources such as information on monkeypox and COVID. She said that the quarterly report ending June 30th was available. The next quarter will end on Friday. The CAP program receives funding from the State of Connecticut through June of 2023.

BODY CARE TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Mr. Mooney reviewed the recent standard changes from the State, including the licensing of nail technicians. They are also working on eyelash technicians. The tattoo licensing has changed in terms of physician's oversight sign offs, which is no longer required.

Mr. Mooney then reviewed some of the information Ms. Quell had asked for, including information on the sanitary sinks for janitors. He gave a brief overview of the handling sharps, which are basically only used by tattoo technicians. A discussion followed about receptacles vs. refuse containers and the settings for hot water faucet temperatures.

**** MR. LALIME MOVED TO APPROVE THE BODY CARE TECHNICAL STANDARDS AS AMENDED.**

**** MS. QUELL SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Ms. D'Amore then narrated a PowerPoint presentation on the Strategic Planning Update. She reviewed the update of the Vision Statement, "Healthy Norwalkers thriving a vibrant community." She explained that they were also reviewing the Environmental Scan, which is an analysis of meaningful data. The Department completed a SWOT analysis. The staff is considering the Strategic Priorities and the Areas of Focus.

Mr. Lalime said that workforce retention has become a major issue in the business world. Finding competent help has become more difficult, so staff retention is critical. He recommended that this be included within the strategic plan. Discussion followed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one from the public present to comment at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. D'Amore adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service