

**CITY OF NORWALK
NORWALK BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 25, 2024**

ATTENDANCE: Dr. Frank Ehrlich, MD, Janet Karpiak, MD, Ken Lalime, RPh, Joan McNeil, DNP, Norman Weinberger, MD

STAFF: Deanna D’Amore, Director of Health, Megan Faugno, Special Projects Manager, Aniella Fignon, Project Coordinator; Bill Mooney, Assistant Director of Health, Environmental Health, Brian Weeks, Program Director of Epidemiology and Informatics, Jahliah Green, Health Education Associate

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. D’Amore called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• May 28, 2024 Meeting Minutes

**** DR. EHRLICH MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 28, 2024 MEETING.**

**** MS. MCNEIL SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 28, 2024 MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

BEACH MONITORING & CLOSURE POLICY

Ms. D’Amore said that Mr. Mooney was on the call to present the various policies. Mr. Mooney said that the Department has been monitoring the beach waters for about 29 years or more. They have numerous sampling sites, and interns collect the samples every Monday morning. He described the testing process and noted that if they get high readings, they retest on Wednesday and again on Friday if necessary. If the second reading is high, they will close

Dr. Ehrlich asked whether the Rowayton Yacht Club was a sampling site. Mr. Mooney said that they did sample from Rowayton, but not necessarily the Yacht Club.

Mr. Lalime asked what happens if a private beach chooses to ignore a closure. Mr. Mooney said that he had not had this come up in the years that he had been doing it. The community seems to enjoy having this service.

Ms. D’Amore said that Terry had a number of clarifications on the language of the policy that they will work to incorporate.

**** DR. WEINBERGER MOVED TO APPROVE THE BEACH MONITORING AND CLOSURE POLICY WITH THE MODIFICATIONS SUBMITTED BY MS. QUELL.**
**** MR. LALIME SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMPLAINT POLICY

Mr. Mooney said that anyone can call in, email or walk in to submit a complaint. The Department will then send out the sanitarian or the housing inspector within two days. If they find a violation, then they will work with the group or person to rectify the situation.

Ms. Fignon said that they would be working to develop a separate, general complaint policy that is not related to environmental health.

**** DR. KARPIAK MOVED TO APPROVE THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMPLAINT POLICY WITH THE MODIFICATIONS SUBMITTED BY MS. QUELL.**
**** DR. WEINBERGER SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FILE SYSTEM POLICY

Mr. Mooney said that they have an extensive filing system, but most of it is on paper. They are working on transferring it to electronic storage. He said that right now they have a special card with the various inspectors' names on them so if someone is looking for a physical file they will know who has it.

Ms. Fignon gave a brief overview and said that some of the historical information on this project is being stored in an appendix.

Dr. Ehrlich asked where the Health Department is in terms of converting the files to digital storage. Ms. D'Amore said that the City was working on an RFP for an electronic permitting software program. Then all the files that are not scanned will be scanned and stored.

Discussion followed.

**** DR. WEINBERGER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FILE SYSTEM POLICY WITH THE MODIFICATIONS SUBMITTED BY MS. QUELL AND MR. LALIME.**
**** MS. MCNEIL SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COMMUNITY HEALTH SUMMER PROGRAMS

Ms. Green, the Health Education Associate, greeted the Board Members. Ms. D'Amore said that Ms. Green had worked with the Department for almost 5 years.

Ms. Green then shared a PowerPoint slide deck and reviewed the key items in the Community Health program. They are working on promoting Fit Kids, which runs for 4 weeks, with a 1-hour session and is appropriate for preschool through 2nd grade. They teach the children physical education and nutritional education. She reviewed the details of the program.

They have partnered with NPS, Carver Afterschool, Camp ELLI School Readiness Program., Camp ELLI Aftercare and the Preschools. She reviewed the details of the program.

Ms. Green then displayed a slide highlighting the data and explained that the teachers do an evaluation with their students in relation to the 5, 4, 3, 2, 1 GO! Chart.

Ms. Green then spoke about the Growing Gardens, Growing Health program which focuses on nutrition education, cooking lessons, physical activity and hands on gardening lessons. She said that this was open to families who have children enrolled in the Norwalk Public Schools and it is focused on family activities. The parents get nutritional education while the children have activities. The goal is to increase fruit and vegetable consumption. Each family has an assigned plot at Fodor Farm. If children help with the cooking, they are more likely to consume it. They partner with Master Gardeners, UCONN Expanded Food and Nutrition Education program, volunteers, and Norwalk Recreation and Parks Department.

Last year, nine families completed the program, and they do a pre-survey and post-survey. 89% of the families reported that they had improved their diet quality. The program currently has ten families, and they are currently in Week 2 of the program.

Ms. Green then gave an overview of the NorWALKER Program. There are walking maps available in both English and Spanish for different areas of Norwalk. Each map has three or four routes. There are paper maps available, and they are also accessible on people's phones. There are many hosted walks, and Ms. Green said that she would love to partner with everyone who wishes to do this.

She said that having appealing and safe walks are important. She then showed a list of the various goals that the NorWALKER program had achieved.

Mr. Lalime asked who would be the person that someone who had an issue with a walk should contact. Ms. Green said that she would be the person to contact because they are auditing the maps.

Ms. McNeil said that she had been on the Norwalk River Valley Trail, and it was beautiful. Ms. Green said that the Health Department does partner with the RNVF and all the pieces in Norwalk have been connected.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. D'Amore thanked the Board of Health for their support upon her joining the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health. She has concluded her term as the immediate past president and would be taking some time off from the Board. She says it was a great opportunity.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. D'Amore said that the public comment was limited to three minutes and must pertain to an item on the agenda.

Ms. Lauricella greeted the Board and said that she was in the process of doing research in how to file complaints. She said that she would be offering her thoughts in writing about the Environmental Health Policy. She said that back in the 1980's there was a way to provide a complaint anonymously to the State. She would like to see this type of anonymous filing be added to their complaint policy. Ms. Lauricella said that it would be important to have access to that historical information to make copies so they can identify "bad actors" through the file retention. While there is not much industry in Norwalk, noise is a pollutant and there are HVAC systems that need to be reviewed. She said that she was looking forward to working with Ms. D'Amore and Mr. Mooney on these types of complaint policy and file retention issues.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. D'Amore adjourned the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes Telesco Secretarial Services