

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING
MAY 25, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: Vincent Amoruccio, Theresa Quell, PhD, R.N.; Norman Weinberger, M.D.

STAFF: Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health; Megan Faugno, Project Coordinator; Brian Weeks, Epidemiologist

OTHERS:

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 27, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

**** DR. WEINBERGER MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 27, 2021 MEETING.**

**** MS. QUELL SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 27, 2021 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one who wished to address the Board at this time.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. D'Amore said that there was a new Contract Tracer on staff. The Department received funding from the State Health Department under the ELC funding for this. Ms. D'Amore is working on filling another contract tracer position.

Ms. D'Amore then gave a quick description of a new part time Advanced Practice Physician's Assistant position that had been posted for the last month.

The position of Assistant Director of Environmental Health has been filled by Bill Mooney who was promoted and will be starting in June. Mr. Closter retired earlier in the year, but stayed on to provide assistance until the position was filled. Ms. D'Amore said Mr. Closter had been with the Department for about 40 years and will be greatly missed.

The Health Educator position will be posted soon. The job description is now being reviewed and updated.

City Hall is now open to the general public without appointments and the Health Department is updating their visitor process. Masking is still required indoors because they are a health care facility.

The Department is preparing for re-instating WIC in-person visits, which have been done virtually during the pandemic.

Both Ms. Argondezzi and Mr. Weeks have been assisting with funding applications. The partnership with the Family and Children's Agency has been great. Ms. D'Amore said that they were hoping to continue working with Community Health Workers in terms of Chronic Disease Prevention along with other health promotion activities.

COVID – 19 UPDATE

Mr. Weeks presented a PowerPoint report on the Norwalk's COVID Status. He displayed a chart on screen and reviewed the data with the Board Members. He noted that right now, all the counties in Connecticut are currently in the low secondary indicator status. As of May 13th, the City was at 10.0 cases per 100.000 population. Previously, the City was at 11.6.

Other general data included: the breakout in terms of age groups; vaccination efforts at approximately 57.71% for all ages as of May 19th; and travel requirement updates.

Ms. Quell thanked Mr. Weeks for his report and said that she appreciated the presentation of the data.

Mr. Amoruccio asked about the recent outbreak of a new COVID strain in India and if there was an anticipated third wave expected. Discussion followed.

Mr. Weeks said that COVID would always be there and they have to consider whether booster shots would be needed. They are expecting that there may be an increase in the fall, but there will be more people vaccinated by then.

Mr. Weeks displayed some charts on screen showing the information that the City of Norwalk was posting on the web for the general public awareness.

Ms. D'Amore said that the vaccination clinic was held at the Maritime Aquarium and another will be held there on the 26th. They will continue to use this location for clinics on Wednesday evenings through June.

The bedbound program has been implemented, with 60 individuals deemed eligible for the program and 47 have received their vaccinations. Ten more are scheduled for the 27th. This has been a great partnership with Norwalk EMS. The new Public Health nurse has been coordinating this program with Norwalk EMS.

Ms. D'Amore explained that the Equity Partnership program vaccine sites were underway. They are working with the Norwalk Community Health Center, Community Health Center, Inc., the Norwalk Family and Children's Agency and Americares. This has been helpful in providing information as to where the vaccine clinics will be offered. The State Health Department is providing a mobile unit at the Norwalk Library and the Carver Center.

FEMA was in Norwalk to administer approximately 527 doses of either the Pfizer and J&J vaccine. There were over 100 walk ups at the last clinic.

Ms. Faugno said that the Maritime and the movie theaters have been wonderful in welcoming the staff to their locations for vaccination distribution. BowTie Cinema has been particularly helpful with this.

Dr. Weinberger said that there had been many vaccinations distributed through the school system as well in partnership with Norwalk Community Health Center.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. D'Amore adjourned the meeting at 8:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services