

**CITY OF NORWALK
NORWALK BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 30, 2024**

ATTENDANCE: Dr. Frank Ehrlich, MD, Janet Karpiak, MD, Ken Lalime, RPh, Joan McNeil, DNP, Terry Quell, PhD, MSN, RN, Norman Weinberger, MD

STAFF: Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health, Megan Faugno,
Special Projects Manager, Darleen Hoffler, Clinical Supervisor,
Brian Weeks, Program Director of Epidemiology and Informatics

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• March 26, 2024 Minutes

**** DR. EHRLICH MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 26, 2024 MEETING.**

**** DR. KARPIAK SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE March 26, 2024 MEETING MINUTES AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

ACTIVE TB POLICY.

Ms. Hoffler said the staff had reviewed the current TB policy and they had made some language changes in the policy, updated some of the definitions, appendices and updated the flow chart. She thanked Ms. Quell for her suggestions and feedback.

Ms. Quell said that there were some small updates and noted that there were two screening protocol titles that were almost identical. She asked if they were including email for sending out reports. Ms. Hoffler said that the State had indicated that they should use the postal service and faxing to send documents to them rather than using email due to security reasons.

Dr. Ehrlich asked how many active cases of TB the City has in a year. Ms. Hoffler said that they usually had about three cases, but that five had been reported this year.

**** DR. WEINBERGER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ACTIVE TB POLICY WITH ADDITIONAL CHANGES AS NOTED.**

**** MS. QUELL SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RAPID COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Ms. Faugno, the Special Projects Manager, then narrated a PowerPoint presentation on the Rapid Community Assessment (RCA). This is a process for collecting community insights about a public health issue. She listed the various staff members who are members of the RCA team, representing all the different divisions in the department. When this process is underway, staff members will conduct community-based interviews, surveys, and other interactive sessions as part of RCA. Upon completion of RCA, the report will be shared with the community.

Ms. Faugno said that they have been focused on childhood vaccination and they are working on data collection and analysis. Then they will review and evaluate their effectiveness. The RCA process can be applied to any public health concern. The survey is on social media and there is a QR code that will link the viewer with the actual survey, both in English and Spanish.

Ms. Faugno showed some photos and listed a number of sites where the Department had tables or held listening sessions. They also will interview community members, the School District and childcare providers. When the Department determines what the perceived barriers to vaccinations are, they can begin to address the issues.

EPIDEMIOLOGY UPDATE

Mr. Weeks presented his report and said that the number of reported RSV cases have been mostly low across the country. COVID is almost at baseline levels. There is still some respiratory illness in the county.

Mr. Weeks then spoke about Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (H5N1) and said that it was concentrated in the south and Midwest where the workers are exposed to poultry and dairy animals. This includes wildlife. It will be important to take the proper precautions and wear the proper PPE. There has only been one human case located in Texas at this time.

The next topic was exposure to improperly handled or counterfeit Botulinum Toxin injections (Botox). There have been twenty-two cases throughout the United States, including New York and New Jersey.

Dr. Ehrlich asked if there were any changes regarding measles. Mr. Weeks said that there have not been any changes for Norwalk. The Health Department is prepared to address any cases if they come up.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. D'Amore highlighted a number of events including the Earth Day Festival and the NorWALKER events at the Green, where the Department will have a presence.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one present from the Public who wished to comment at this time.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Lalime noted that one of the coyotes had ended up on his neighbor's deck. He asked if there were any protocols for reporting these incidents. Ms. McNeil said that she had a bobcat that had ended up on her deck. When she contacted DEEP, she was told that there was not anything that they could do about wildlife other than tracking the sightings. Ms. Quell pointed out that since people now have cameras recording their property, there have been more reports. Prior to that, the animals may have been there but no one saw these animals since they are nocturnal. Dr. Ehrlich said that if people are seeing these animals during the day, the animal may be rabid. Discussion followed about providing informational resources to the public.

There was a brief discussion regarding possibilities of Board of Health members joining the Rapid Response Team.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. D'Amore adjourned the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services