

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 27, 2021**

ATTENDANCE: Ken Lalime, RPH; Theresa Quell, PhD, RN; Norman Weinberger, MD.; Vincent Amoruccio, PhD, Janet Karpiak, MD

STAFF: Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health; Theresa Argondezzi, Assistant Director of Health for Community Health; Megan Faugno, Project Coordinator; Brian Weeks, Epidemiologist

OTHERS: None

This meeting was conducted by Zoom/Teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. D'Amore called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 23, 2021 MEETING MINUTES

**** DR. WEINBERGER MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 23, 2021 MEETING.**

**** MS. QUELL SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 23, 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 reported that the Appropriations Committee released their proposed budget and has included increased funding for local health departments. Local health departments and districts with populations greater than 50,000 are eligible for funding, as well as districts who serve three or more towns. Ms. D'Amore said that she was pleased to see the increase in funding proposed, and they will be following the budget through the process to see if the increase is in the final budget.

The Governor released his plan for the American Rescue Act and it did include \$5 million in funding for 2 years, but there is a local match required. Local health departments are waiting for more information about this funding.

Ms. D'Amore said that they had put together a proposal for Vaccine Equity Work. This is to support the home bound and bed bound residents. The model for vaccination for many will be shifting from mass vaccination to getting out into the community more.

Ms. Argondezzi is working in partnership with the Family and Children's Agency. Ms. Argondezzi said that they are working on maximizing opportunities in order to reach out to the community.

The Mayor will be hosting a Town Hall on Zoom focused on Mental Health.

COVID-19 UPDATES

Ms. D'Amore introduced Mr. Weeks and said that Mr. Weeks hit the ground running. She said that they have administered more than 10,000 doses of the vaccine. They are continuing the clinics at the Bow Tie Cinema and have been holding clinics in the evening. They also have been able to allow walk-ups and administered 119 vaccines for walk-up patients at the last clinic.

Last week was Vaccine Week and the Griffin mobile unit was able to come to Norwalk. They were able to offer walk up vaccines at the Library Main Branch, and the South Norwalk Branch along with other locations. She thanked the Library staff, the National Guard and Griffin Hospital.

Dr. Weinberger asked what the participation rate was for the health department clinics. Ms. D'Amore said that one clinic filled up with 15 minutes while another filled within three hours. She said that they were now seeing an increase in the younger, working population in the evening.

Mr. Lalime said that he thought that in the next few years, the vaccines would be combined and all together. Dr. Amoruccio said that he had seen a long line for vaccines at a local drug store.

Mr. Lalime asked what percentage of the vaccines were getting to the black and brown communities. He said that the overall State vaccine rate was at the 20%, but it needed to be higher. Ms. D'Amore said that the State was working on compiling the information by race/ethnicity for Norwalk and other municipalities.

Mr. Weeks displayed a PowerPoint report showing the various counties, infection rates and the tracking of the COVID variants. He reviewed the information with the Board Members. He said that the data was current up to April 21st. Norwalk has a 41% vaccine rate. He encouraged people to remember the prevention measures particularly as the weather warms up.

Dr. Quell asked about the differentiation regarding the number of cases vs. the number of tests. Mr. Weeks said that the State has figures of the number of tests versus the number of people tested and gave a brief overview.

Mr. Lalime asked if there was a break out for ethnicity. Mr. Weeks said that the State would provide them with that information.

Ms. D'Amore said that both she and Mr. Weeks had been working closely with the Mayor's Officer regarding presenting the information to the public and how to improve the data moving forward.

Mr. Lalime congratulated Ms. D'Amore on her recent proclamation which was announced by the Mayor. Ms. D'Amore said that she appreciated how much everyone has volunteered and stepped up to assist during this pandemic.

PERSONNEL UPDATES

Ms. D'Amore said that they were interviewing for the Assistant Director of Health for Environmental Health position. The City will also be posting a Public Health Program Associate position. It will be submitted to the unions first before being posted to the general public. The resumes for the Health Operations Manager position are being reviewed. The Department will also be backfilling the Health Educator position. The job description is being reviewed for updates by Ms. Argondezzi.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. D'Amore adjourned the meeting at 8:39 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services