

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: Theresa Quell, Ph.D., R.N.; Janet Karpiak, M.D.; Norman Weinberger, M.D., Joan McNeil, D.N.P.; Ken Lalime, R.Ph. (8:10 a.m.)

OTHERS: Deanna D'Amore, Director of Health; Megan Faugno, Special Projects Manager; Brian Weeks, Program Director of Epidemiology & Informatics; Aniella Fignon, Project Coordinator

This meeting was held via teleconference.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

• January 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes

**** DR. WEINBERGER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 24, 2023 MEETING.**

**** MS. QUELL SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 24, 2023 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. D'Amore stated that the Health Department had started the budget process and that the City's proposed budget included all the items that were requested. She reviewed the details, which included additional funding for costs associated with relocation due to a housing unit or residence being deemed uninhabitable.

Ms. D'Amore said that she was in D.C. for a national conference and benefitted from learning about best practices from other attendees.

Interviews for the receptionist position continue and the Health Department is looking to bring on an advanced practice provider.

The Health Department was selected to participate in the National Network of Public Health Institutes' Strategic Scholars Program 2023 cohort, focused on resource management. Ms. D'Amore thanked everyone who helped with the application and gave a brief overview of how they would be leveraging the program.

Mr. Lalime joined the meeting at 8:10 a.m.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Ms. D'Amore then narrated a PowerPoint slide deck on how the Health Department has updated its Vision and Value statements and work plans, along with equity and climate change priorities. She outlined the workforce development strategic priority workplan as an example. Attention is also being given to other strategic priorities of Community Awareness and Trust; Evaluation of Programs and Services; Foundational Infrastructure Improvements; and Technology.

Ms. Quell said that the presentation looked great. Ms. D'Amore thanked everyone who helped with the strategic planning process.

EPIDEMIOLOGY UPDATES

Mr. Weeks reported that Fairfield County has been in low status for COVID-19 for the last two weeks. He then reviewed the precautionary recommendations. Due to connectivity issues, the report was truncated.

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

Ms. Fignon presented on the Health Department's recent quality improvement (QI) efforts. She said that formal QI activities, on pause due to the pandemic, have been resumed. The QI workgroup has been reinvigorated with new members and is working to update the QI Plan. Introduction to QI training is also being delivered in person to new staff and staff that were onboarded between 2020-2022.

EPIDEMIOLOGY UPDATES CONT'D

Mr. Weeks rejoined the meeting. He said the COVID-19 wastewater monitoring results are also trending downward. Statewide, Fairfield and New London counties are ranked in the low category, while the remaining counties are currently ranked at the medium level.

The number of Flu case are still high in the D.C. area, along with New York City and Puerto Rico. However, the number of R.S.V. cases has dropped to an acceptable level.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

ADJOURNMENT

**** DR. WEINBERGER MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MS. QUELL SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S.L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services.