

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Ken Lalime, R.Ph., Janet Karpiak, M.D.; Theresa Quell, Ph.D., R.N.; Norman Weinberger, M.D.

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES

• January 25, 2022 Meeting Minutes

**** DR. WEINBERGER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2022 MEETING.**

**** MS. QUELL SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 25, 2022 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. D'Amore updated the Board Members on the status of clinical services. World TB Day is on March 24th and American Heart Month is underway. A discussion followed about childhood vaccines. Ms. D'Amore will try to schedule an update on the status of referral resources for childhood vaccines next month.

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER INITIATIVE

Ms. Argondezzi then narrated a PowerPoint presentation about the Community Health Worker initiative and the role of Community Health Workers (CHW). She spoke about a Norwalk Health Department/Family & Children's Agency Community Health Worker partnership that was formed during the COVID epidemic. Additional funding support has been secured.

Ms. Argondezzi then reviewed the CHW duties that involved contract tracing and monitoring. Many of the CHWs were able to provide support to clients with phone calls during quarantine

and isolation periods along with case management. There were also some in-person educational events about masks, testing, and vaccine information. Door hangers were distributed and CHWs went to laundromats and salons to hand out educational materials. This allowed the CHWs to build individual relationships with community members.

Ms. Argondezzi reviewed the CHW outcomes and evaluation results. The CHWs also distributed surveys to various clients and almost 81% of the respondents indicated that their needs were met. The CHWs were rated very highly by the respondents.

The partnership continues and is being funded by the CDC. Three additional CHWs have been hired by the Health Department to support COVID immunization outreach. Ms. Argondezzi said that she would continue to update the Board Members on this outreach effort.

Mr. Lalime said that he thought there were some new legislative bills about this topic. He asked if there was a lobbyist that was advocating for the CHWs. Ms. D'Amore said that the Norwalk Health Department has memberships in a number of organizations who are monitoring this topic. Discussion followed.

**** MR. LALIME MOVED TO LOOK INTO OPPORTUNITIES TO ENHANCE THE COMMUNICATION AND/OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS AND THEIR IMPACT ON THIS STATE'S HEALTH.**

**** DR. WEINBERGER SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

COVID-19 UPDATES

Mr. Weeks presented his report to the Board Members. He displayed a U.S. map showing areas where COVID cases have dropped into the low category. He also showed some charts that indicated the breakout of the types of COVID variant strains and the case activity in the State, the county, and Norwalk. He said that booster shots were important to maintaining lower rates of cases and hospitalizations.

Flu incidence has decreased significantly on the East Coast and is down to a minimal level.

This information will be included in the Mayor's weekly update on the City website.

Mr. Lalime asked what would happen in the fall and if there was going to be a Round 2 for the vaccine. Omicron has changed the game and there have been discussions about a fourth booster shot. As the weather cools, there are anticipations that there will be an increase because it appears to be seasonal. Discussion followed about how often boosters would be needed, future mitigation procedures, and recent State guidance for schools.

Ms. D'Amore said that on February 18th the State released two statements regarding the guidance documents for COVID. These documents will be discussed with the Superintendent and Board of Education.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

ADJOURNMENT

**** DR. WEINBERGER MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
**** MS. QUELL SECONDED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service