

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF HEALTH
REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2022**

ATTENDANCE: Ken Lalime, RPh; Theresa Quell, PhD, 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; Aniella Fignon, Public Health Program Associate; Brian Weeks, Epidemiologist

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES

• **November 23, 2021**

**** DR. WEINBERGER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 23, 2021.**

**** MS. QUELL SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 23, 2021 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. D'Amore said that the WIC program was now fully staffed with the addition of some new staff members.

Ms. D'Amore said that in the past they had discussed the mental health aspect for staff members. A meeting was recently held to update the staff on the various services available to the staff.

Work on updating the policies and procedures is underway. The updated documents will be sent to the Board Members for review when it is completed.

The walk in flu clinics are continuing and have been combined with the booster vaccination clinics on Thursday afternoons. There has not been as large of a demand for flu vaccine as there was in the past. Ms. Argondezzi said that when residents are coming in for their booster shot, they are also offered a flu shot, which many have been accepting. Discussion followed.

REACCREDITATION UPDATES

Ms. Faugno updated the Board Members on the Reaccreditation status. She displayed a PowerPoint presentation. Norwalk is one of four accredited Health Departments in the State. The Department was first accredited in 2014 and applied for reaccreditation in 2019. After delays due to COVID-19, the onsite visit was completed in December of 2021. The visit went well and a report was submitted to the Accreditation Team in January 2022. A decision is expected in March 2022.

There are 12 Domain areas that are included in the review. The Department met all of the measures in the domains. There were a number of areas that were determined as Areas of Excellence. The Department was also commended for their commitment to the reaccreditation efforts during the pandemic.

Ms. Quell congratulated the staff for all their hard work. Mr. Lalime agreed.

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT UPDATES

Ms. Argondezzi updated the Board on the recent staff hiring and aligning the work that was underway with community health.

In late fall 2021, the Healthy for Life project members came back together to align their goals. Many of the issues were centered on food access. The group is also interested in chronic disease and prevention. They have also started looking at family support and early childhood intervention.

Ms. Argondezzi spoke about a recent statewide effort to strengthen the statewide data infrastructure. This will look at the community needs and data collection. This will bring groups around the state together to combine data and enhance the data infrastructure statewide.

Ms. Argondezzi then updated the Board Members about the program at the Norwalk Library that is focused on helping individuals attain their New Year resolutions.

There were 100 home radon test kits available. January and February is the ideal time to do the testing. There have been 100 requests for kits, and the Department will be mailing the kits to the residents.

COVID-19 UPDATES

Mr. Weeks then presented his PowerPoint report on the COVID-19 updates. He said that 99% of all the counties in the U.S. are in the red in terms of activity. He reviewed the statistics with the Board Members and noted that the majority of cases were the Omicron variant, although there are still some Delta cases out there. There has been a gradual, slow decline.

Mr. Weeks said that there was still a vaccine gap for the 5 to 11 year old residents, and this is partly attributable to the recent release of their age group vaccine.

Mr. Weeks reviewed flu activity and there were some strong areas that were affected in the South and Southwest. He encouraged everyone to ensure that masks were being worn properly. He displayed a slide showing the effectiveness of the various types of masks. He encouraged the use of the N-95 mask and suggested that cloth masks be supplemented with surgical masks.

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

Mr. Lalime asked if there were any updates on kits. Ms. D'Amore said that there had been two large distribution events and the second one had a registration system that worked out well. Now the Department is promoting the recent Federal government efforts for test kits to be mailed to their residences.

Ms. Argondezzi said that there was an updated webpage on the Department site that gives the residents some guidance on what to do if they have a positive home test result.

Mr. Lalime said that the next distribution will be for masks and the Community Health Centers will be one of the distribution points. Ms. D'Amore said the Department would not be part of that but added that the pharmacies would be part of the distribution network.

Ms. Quell said that she wanted to compliment the staff on the test kit distribution because when she went, things were moving smoothly.

Ms. Argondezzi gave a shout out to the front desk staff for handling all the inquires and directing the callers to the proper resources.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. D'Amore adjourned the meeting at 8:47 a.m.
Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Service