

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

**ATTENDANCE:** Ken Lalime, R.Ph.; Theresa Quell, Ph.D., R.N.; Norman Weinberger, M.D.; Joan McNeil, D.N.P.

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

This meeting was held via teleconference.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. D'Amore called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. A quorum was present.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**• February 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

**\*\* DR. WEINBERGER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 2023 MEETING.**

**\*\* MS. QUELL SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 28, 2023 MEETING AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. D'Amore announced that the Health Department had received some exciting news from the state health department regarding the workforce development funding from the CDC. They expect the funding of \$300,000 to be awarded in November of 2023.

The Health Department also received notification of \$295,000 in immunization funding. The funding must be spent by 2025.

Ms. D'Amore stated that the Environmental Health division has been working to adopt the FDA Food Code, including learning the new system.

Ms. D'Amore also stated that the annual reaccreditation report is due and thanked staff members involved.

Mr. Lalime congratulated the Department about the grant funding.

### **IMMUNIZATION UPDATES**

Ms. Faugno presented immunization updates and said that the community health workers had attended 82 events in the area, including the Danbury area, to share knowledge. They were able to help almost 200 people to make vaccine appointments via the vaccine phone line. There have been a number of clinics hosted in the past months, such as at the campus of Western Connecticut State University. Many of the flyers and handouts have been translated into Haitian Creole in addition to Spanish and, for the Danbury area, there is a need for Portuguese as well.

Ms. Hoffer spoke about the childhood immunization program. She said that many families had delayed visits to their doctors due to the pandemic and there are many new families in the community. Norwalk Public Schools informed the Health Department that many children were behind on their vaccine schedules, which delayed their entry into the school system, so the Health Department has increased the frequency of vaccine clinics it offers and now has a capacity of 48 regular monthly appointments.

The Health Department has been working with Norwalk Public Schools to help the families find a medical home. Many of the families have difficulty completing the forms, so reception staff and community health workers are providing assistance. The Emergency Response Team will also be providing support in this area.

### **EPIDEMIOLOGY UPDATES**

Mr. Weeks said that there had been a recent URL change to from “norwalkct.org” to “norwalkct.gov”.

Mr. Weeks then presented his epidemiology report and said that there had been a decrease in COVID-19 cases. The majority of the country is now in the low category. Influenza hospitalizations have been low but there have been some deaths in Connecticut. He encouraged everyone to continue to track COVID-19 with testing and encouraged continued masking. The monkeypox cases remain low but there remains a risk of transmission. There is a vaccination available for those who have contact with individuals who have monkeypox. He reviewed the symptoms and said that patients have about a five day window for treatment.

Mr. Weeks also spoke about mosquito and tick-borne diseases that have been increasing due to the warmer weather. It is important to inspect pets following outside trips.

### **BUDGET UPDATE**

Ms. D'Amore said that they had been working with the BET and the Mayor's Office regarding the budget to make additional cuts to the Health Department's request. The BET has been looking closely at the line items due to the recent increases in gas prices and limiting the increase to 3.5%. Discussion followed about having a mental health update.

### **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No one from the public was present.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Service