



**Norwalk Board of Health**  
**April 24, 2018**  
**8:30 AM**  
**Library**  
**Monthly Meeting**  
**Minutes**

Call to order at 8:33 AM

Present:

**Board of Health** – Theresa Quell, PhD, RN, Norman Weinberger, MD, Vincent Amoruccio, MA, Matthew Brovender, Esq., Janet Karpiak, M.D.

**Staff** – Tom Closter, Environmental Director, Deanna D’Amore, Director of Health, Megan DiMeglio, Project Coordinator, David Reed, Medical Director, (phone)

**Approval of the March 27, 2018 meeting minutes** – Dr. Weinberger moved and Mr. Brovender seconded a motion to approve the minutes. The minutes passed unanimously.

**Accountable Health Communities**

Ms. D’Amore presented an overview of the Accountable Health Communities Program. Danbury Hospital was 1 of 20 national awardees and has received \$4.5 million from CMS to use over five years. Norwalk Hospital, New Milford Hospital, Griffin Hospital, St. Vincent’s Medical Center, and Middlesex Hospital are also participating. The program focus on the social determinates of health, including housing instability, food insecurity, utility needs, interpersonal violence, transportation, and substance use. CMS patients will be screened throughout the region, including at Norwalk Hospital and Norwalk Community Health Center. The purpose of the Accountable Health Communities Model 5 year program is to test whether systematically identifying and addressing the health-related social needs of the community-dwelling Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries impacts health care quality, utilization and costs.

**State Legislative & Regulatory Updates**

Ms. D’Amore presented State legislative and regulatory updates:

- The Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH) introduced legislation to push back implementation of the FDA Food Code to January 2019.
- CT DPH has introduced legislation to revise the requirements to become a Director of Health. Ms. D’Amore presented the amendment and will keep the board updated on whether the legislation passes or not.
- A proposed bill related to changing the legal age of buying tobacco, e-cigarettes or vapor products to 21 years of age is under consideration by the General Assembly.

## **Reaccreditation**

Ms. DiMeglio presented on accreditation and the upcoming reaccreditation the health department will be going through. Ms. DiMeglio explained that accreditation is a five year process, and the health department's deadline to apply for reaccreditation is June 30, 2019. Ms. DiMeglio reviewed the work that has been happening since initial accreditation in June 2014 and explained how the department is preparing for reaccreditation.

## **Operating and Capital Budgets**

Ms. D'Amore provided an update on the operating and capital budget requests and approvals.

## **Emerging Activities**

- Ms. D'Amore informed the Board that the health department received a \$30,000 grant from the CT Office of Health Strategy for the CT State Innovation Model (SIM) Health Enhancement Communities (HEC) Grant. The HEC initiative aims to address root causes of poor health by fostering community-wide, multi-sector collaboration and accountability.
- The health department has recently received a few complaints from people concerned with the air quality in a mixed residential and industrial area. Ms. D'Amore explained that inspectors have been out to investigate the area and instructed facilities to implement control measures. The department is also following up with CT DPH and the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.
- Ms. D'Amore informed the Board the City is looking to update the noise ordinance. As it is written now, the police department is in charge of enforcing the ordinance. The Director of Health can grant noise variances.

Adjourn at 9:15 AM