

Board of Health

May 10, 2011

8:00 AM

Library

Minutes

Call to order at 8:10 AM

Present: Board of Health – Matt Brovender, Esq., Greg Burnett, Kenneth Lalime, RPh, Theresa Quell, PhD, RN, Edward Tracey, MD

Staff – Tim Callahan, Director of Health, David Reed, MD, Medical Advisor

Approval of April 12, 2011 meeting minutes

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Mr. Lalime, seconded by Dr. Quell and passed unanimously.

Building Improvement Projects – Capital Budget

Interior Renovations – A walk through with the contractor and architect is scheduled for this morning. A punch list of incomplete and or unacceptable work will follow. Project completion is likely by May 31, 2011.

Capital budget 2012 – Exterior improvements make up the final phase of the building renovation project. The estimated cost to repoint the brick façade, address structural cracks and replace the stairs on the East Ave side is \$785,452. Funds equal to this amount are included in the 2012 capital budget. In order to maintain momentum and complete the exterior work by December 2011, Gill & Gill, the architects overseeing the current phase of interior work, are being retained to complete the exterior phase. The process to amend their contract is underway.

Influenza Program Review

Mr. Callahan presented the results of the Influenza Immunization Quality Improvement Initiative. Attendance at health department sponsored clinics was down by 26% when compared to the previous year. A survey of patients not receiving flu shots from the health department this year found the vast majority received a flu shot from another source. Their doctor or a pharmacy provided most the flu shot. People sited convenience and early availability of the shot as the reasons for going to an alternative source. For next year, the health department will try to get vaccine earlier, better inform patients and the public of the program, participate with more health insurance companies and further develop niche markets. Dr Reed spoke about the coordinated effort to immunize Stamford residents. Stamford Hospital, the Stamford Health Department and several community providers work together to publicize the importance of the flu shot as a preventive measure, offer vaccine at multiple sites and track the number of people immunized. The Board recommended initiating a similar program in Norwalk.

Childhood Immunization Action Plan Update

The Connecticut Department of Public Health administers the Childhood Immunization Registry (CIRT) an electronic tracking of the immunization status of children. The Norwalk Health Department coordinates enrollment and updating of immunization records for area residents. Thanks to the efforts of Pam Bates, RN, Eileen Musso, RN and Judy Brown, Outreach Worker, Norwalk maintains one of the highest ratings for age appropriately immunized 2 year olds. In 2010, 86% of the Norwalk children enrolled in CIRTs were properly immunized at age 2. This is the second highest rate in Connecticut. New Britain reached a score of 87% to rank first.

Norwalk Health Department staff goes to Norwalk Hospital several times each week to visit mothers of newborns. Staff emphasizes the importance of childhood immunizations and encourages parents to enroll their children in CIRTs. Staff also visits the 12 pediatric practices at least monthly to collect immunization information on CIRTs enrollees. Staff also input this information into the CIRTs database.

Environmental Software Program

Garrison Enterprises is under contract to provide software to support the environmental programs. Development and implementation of the software is a continuing challenge. Most recently, the leadership at Garrison Enterprises changed. Norwalk Health Department staff Tim Callahan, Tom Closter, Environmental Health Director, Pat DiPietro, Business Manager and Al Kao, Laboratory Director continue to spend considerable time with Maureen Elizabeth, Garrison Enterprises Program manager. A schedule to complete the development of the various modules is set. However Garrison Enterprises track record is to deviate from the agreed upon schedule and not deliver a working product. The Corporation Counsel is aware of this situation and is researching the City's options.

Other Business

Fit Kids Program

Fit Kids is a physical activity and nutrition education program for elementary level students enrolled in several after school programs. Exercise Physiology students from Sacred Heart University volunteer to assist in delivering the curriculum developed by Helena Milmeister, Healthy Lifestyles Associate at the health department. The program was accepted for inclusion in the Healthy People 2020 and Education for Health Successful Practices Initiative sponsored by the Association for Prevention Teaching and Research Healthy People Curriculum Task Force. The Fit Kids Program was chosen for the innovative approach used to teach prevention and public health. Dr Quell recommended the Health Department make the local media aware of this honor.

Adjourn at 906 AM