

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF HEALTH-TOWN OF FAIRFIELD

January 11, 2010

The Board of Health of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on Monday, January 11, 2010 in the First Floor conference room of Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lynda Bluestein, Doug Dauw, Jacob Hen and Ellen Marks.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Sands Cleary, Director of Health, Joanne Ryan, Nursing Supervisor and Diane Hughes, Secretary.

#### I. CALL TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN

Lynda Bluestein, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and welcomed Mr. Dauw to the Board.

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Ellen Fuchs moved and Jacob Hen seconded approval of the December 14, 2009 minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

#### II. REPORTS

##### A. Director of Health

1. **Order Letters:** Mr. Cleary reported that it has been a busy few weeks for order letters. Last week they issued six and a few the week before, all dealing with overcrowding issues at beach properties. Now that H1N1 has calmed down, they are more fully able to address overcrowding complaints. The inspections have been completed but the landlords have not submitted the applications for rental certificates, which would provide the names of individuals renting the property. Mr. Cleary expects the order letters to be appealed, which will then go to Hartford, who in turn will refer them back to the local Housing Court since this is a local code, not a State code.
2. **Environmental Issues:** Mr. Cleary reported that they are working on another cluttering issue. In this case, the owner is residing at the property and has been given a few weeks to hire someone to come out and clean up the property. If he has not made significant progress in this area by the end of the week, they will have to declare the home unfit, remove him and start the process of bringing in outside services to clean up the property.

3. **Health Department Budget:** Mr. Cleary reported he met with the First Selectman and the budget submitted is the same as last year, with the exception of the mandated increases in salary and health care costs. Mr. Cleary is waiting for comments from Mr. Flatto and he hopes to have a finalized budget to present to the Board next month.
4. **Governor's Council on Public Health Regionalization:** Mr. Cleary reported that the Governor's Council has come up with its draft recommendation. The essence of the recommendation is accreditation for Health Departments by 2012. There will be a standard group of services that municipalities and districts should be providing and those that cannot get accredited will have to join a district that does meet the standard. Those municipalities and districts that fail to meet the standards will no longer get their "per capita" funding from the State. The recommendation is less arbitrary than expected and focuses on services. Everyone in Connecticut should have access to a Health Department that provides the same services, regardless of the town. The Public Health Accreditation Board has started Beta testing for the accreditation standards, and plans to launch the full program in 2011. This will give municipalities and districts two years to meet the accreditation standards. Mr. Cleary plans to work with the senior staff to review the standards in the next year, to find areas where clarification or improvement may be necessary and then begin to formalize processes and procedures for an application for accreditation. There was a discussion on funding, services, recommendations and standards and Mr. Cleary responded to Board questions.
5. **Staffing:** Mr. Cleary reported that interviews for a new secretary will begin tomorrow. The offer for one of the vacant Sanitarian positions has been accepted, with an anticipated start date of February 8, 2010. The search for the second position has been narrowed down and they hope to make an offer before the end of the week.
6. **Flu Clinics:** Mr. Cleary reported that they received an additional 300 doses from the State so they will be holding the last seasonal flu clinic tomorrow. They have 160 appointments scheduled. After this clinic [To date], they will have administered 1660 doses of seasonal flu vaccine.

Fairfield is leading a Regional H1N1 clinic, which will be held at Sacred Heart University on January 14<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. This clinic will be run as a regional mass dispensing exercise with staff from Greenwich, Stratford, Bridgeport, Monroe, Trumbull and Fairfield and Sacred Heart University Nursing Programs. Each town will staff a vaccination station or two as well as providing non-medical staff to assist with flow and forms. Fairfield will provide the space, signage and supplemental staff. To date, 3600 doses of the H1N1 vaccine have been given.

Once these clinics are completed, the remaining stock will be made available to town residents, who can come to the Nursing Offices during regularly scheduled clinic hours.

Absenteeism is back to normal levels for both students and staff. They will be watching for the first wave of the seasonal flu.

7. **Osborne Hill School:** Mr. Cleary wanted the Board to know that a faulty exterior natural gas relief valve has been causing odor issues. The situation started in September, when the valve was hit by a contractor, which activated the valve in such a way that some contamination got into the valve. Southern CT Gas and the Fire Department have been to the school and assured the Board of Education that it is not a safety issue. It is the natural gas relief valve doing what it is supposed to do. The odor will continue until all the debris has been freed.

**B. Public Health Nursing Supervisor**

1. Ms. Ryan stated that she doesn't anticipate any policy changes for the next few months. She reported that things are running well and there are no outstanding issues.

**IV COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board has been invited to become members of the National Association of Local Boards of Health. Ms. Bluestein stated she looked at their website and it seems to be a resource for Boards of Health. A discussion on the benefits of joining followed. It was decided to become members for one year and if found to be a valuable resource, the annual dues can be put in the budget for the following year.

**V OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business to discuss.

**VI NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business to discuss.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,