

## **MINUTES**

### **BOARD OF HEALTH-TOWN OF FAIRFIELD**

**March 14, 2011**

The Board of Health of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on Monday, March 14, 2011 in the First Floor Conference Room of Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lynda Bluestein, Ron Blumenfeld, Tom Braun, Doug DeFauw, 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 7:35 p.m.

#### **MINUTES – BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING – February 14, 2011**

On page 4, in the second to last sentence in Section 3 under New Business, “Ellen Brand” should be replaced with “Ellen Marks.” Tom Braun moved and Jacob Hen seconded approval of the February 14, 2011 minutes as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

#### **II. REPORTS**

##### **A. Director of Health**

##### **1. Preparedness Issues:**

Mr. Cleary reported that the State preparedness contract deliverables are requiring all health departments in each of the State’s 5 regions to work on Project Public Health Ready (PPHR). PPHR is a competency-based accreditation program that assesses preparedness of local health departments or regional groups of health departments. As a part of this process and the Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI), the local health departments have to participate in an assessment of the mass dispensing plans for an anthrax attack. Mr. Cleary and Mari Jo Panettieri spent six hours with the state hired consultants reviewing current plans. Scores went up from the last assessment. A Corrective Action report will be issued in the near future.

Mr. Cleary reported that he and Mari Jo Panettieri attended a three-day Command Post Training with representatives from Fairfield Police and Fire Departments, Public Works, Fairfield Public Schools, Fairfield University and the First Selectman’s Office. The training was designed to assist towns to respond to

critical incidents. The training focused on the seven essential task needed to be addressed when responding to any critical incident. The exercise component addressed issues such as an active shooter, a school bus accident, a chemical spill, a stolen truck with bomb making materials, HAZMAT response and school evacuation.

At the request of the CT Department of Public Health, Mr. Cleary organized two meetings with representatives from Columbia University and area public health professionals. These meetings were focused on the development of public health preparedness training programs which Columbia has been funded by the CDC to provide. Both Harvard and Columbia received such funding and will offer training for the public health workforce. Both entities are now in the process of conducting needs assessments and these meeting were part of that process.

Another meeting was attended to discuss a regional CRI drill being developed for all health departments in the region; this will be a mass dispensing exercise in June. Each town will be providing a planner/evaluator to the planning committee. The drill will assess communication capacity and volunteer and work force notification processes. This is part of a 3 year contract that is funded through CDC's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Cooperative Agreement.

Mr. Cleary is working with other Regional Representative to initiate a Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan (LTC MAP). This is essentially an evacuation plan for nursing homes and assisted living residences where they will assist each other as needed in the time of a disaster. Assistance can be in the form of providing pre-designated evacuation locations for patients during a disaster; and/or providing or sharing supplies, equipment, transportation, staff or pharmaceuticals to a facility when a disaster overwhelms their own community or exceeds the capability of internal emergency operations plans. Mr. Cleary is working with a consulting company on this multi-year project and attempting to secure funding from regional funding sources.

2. **Bed Bugs:** Mr. Cleary reported that our inspector continues to see minor activity at the facilities mentioned last month. Multiple attempts to contact the building owners have not been responded to and the owner have failed to comply with other violations. An arrest warrant for the owners of the building will be issued to compel them to comply.
3. **2011-2012 Budget:** Mr. Cleary reported that the budget was reviewed by both the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectmen. The First Selectman asked for a \$15,000 cut to the proposed budget. Mr. Cleary presented why certain line items should not be cut and the Selectman agreed to restore \$10,000 to the budget. The Board of Selectmen must vote to put this amount back in and then it needs to be approved by the Board of Finance.

## **B. Public Health Nursing Supervisor**

1. **Medication Regulations:** Ms. Ryan reported that she met with the policy subcommittee. She will work with Andrea Leonardi to put together the presentation for the March 29<sup>th</sup> BOE meeting.
2. **Immunization Regulations:** Ms. Ryan reported that last week she received the new immunization regulations from the State. She is working with the Board of Education to inform parents of the new regulations. An upgrade to the current computer system is needed to review student records and identify those who will not be in compliance for entry into school in the Fall of 2011.
3. **Nursing Services:** Ms. Ryan reported that the Fairfield Montessori Preschool (Great Beginnings) informed her that they would be expanding to include elementary school grades and would be requiring nursing services at the school. Ms. Ryan will be working with the school on the required services.
4. **Union Negotiations:** Ms. Ryan reported that they have started contract negotiations with the Union.

## **III COMMUNICATIONS**

Mr. Cleary distributed the NALBOH *Newsbrief* to the members and the NALBOH Survey to the Chairman.

## **IV OLD BUSINESS**

**Skin Cancer/Indoor Tanning Presentation:** Mr. Cleary presented the Norwalk Health Department's presentation, which was prepared by Theresa Argondezzi, Health Educator and Deanna D'Amore, Project Coordinator. After the presentation, there was a discussion on whether or not Fairfield would be interested in implementing an ordinance for tanning facilities. Mr. DeFauw inquired about the financial impact of regulating tanning salons. Lynda Bluestein will review proposed Senate Bill 972 and the matter will again be discussed at next months meeting.

## **V NEW BUSINESS**

- 1 **Meeting Schedule Change:** Mr. Cleary requested that the August 8, 2011 meeting be changed to July 11, 2011. A motion to approve the change to the Meeting Schedule was made by Ellen Marks and seconded by Jacob Hen. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,