



Town Of Fairfield

BOARD OF HEALTH

~ M I N U T E S ~

June 11, 2012

The Board of Health of the Town of Fairfield held a meeting on June 11, 2012 in the First Floor Conference Room of Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, Connecticut.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dr. Jacob Hen, Carolyn Shea, Sue Brand, Dr. Ronald Blumenfeld, Kevin Lennon and Denise Walsh, PhD, RN.

ALSO PRESENT: Sands Cleary, Director of Health, Joanne Ryan, Nursing Supervisor, Stamford Health Department Medical Advisor Dr. Henry Yoon, and Terry Delmoor, Recording Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER BY THE CHAIRMAN

Dr. Jacob Hen called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

II. MINUTES – BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING – May 14, 2012

Clerical Corrections: Page 1, first sentence: April 09, 2012 should read as May 14, 2012; also Page 2, Section 2, in paragraph entitled “Salmonella Outbreak”, the word “it” should be omitted in line 5.

Dr. Ron Blumenfeld moved and Carolyn Shea seconded the motion to approve the Minutes of May 14, 2012 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

III. REPORTS

A. DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

1. COMMITTEES, COMMISSIONS, BOARDS & MEETINGS:

Budget: Sands Cleary attended the First Selectman's budget meeting to discuss the impacts of the RTM budget reduction and reported that there would be no reductions in the Health Department budget in the next fiscal year.

Regional Coordination Center: The Town of Fairfield serves as the Regional Coordination Center (RCC) for CT DEMHS Region 1. The RCC works with other health departments when an emergency arises to assess their needs and arranges to meet those needs when the department is overwhelmed and in need of additional resources. An RCC exercise was held on May 22nd, which resulted in a 100% participation/response rate. Sands reported that there were a couple of minor glitches, which have been worked through. There will be larger scale unannounced state-wide RCC exercise sometime in the next week or so.

Commissioner's Semi-Annual Meeting: Sands recently attended the Department of Public Health State Commissioner's semi-annual meeting, where one of the topics involved a white-powder incident in Meriden, where the Meriden Health Director was asked to close down a State courthouse. This brought up many questions about the roles of local health departments as the primary decision-maker when dealing with white powder incidents at public buildings. The speaker, an FBI agent acting as the WMD coordinator for the State of Connecticut, verified that it is the local Health Director's decision to close down or re-occupy public buildings when a white-powder or unknown substance is discovered in his or her health district.

Community Health Assessments: Sands has been serving on the data committee with the state wide CADH/CHA group and the Bridgeport area Primary Care Action Group, which is trying to identify a recommended standardized set of health indicators to be collected when conducting a community health assessment such that data can be compared between jurisdictions or catchment areas. He reported that a group of interns from the area hospitals and health department /districts have been collecting data for the Town, and have been entering data into two different digital repositories which enables everyone to access the information. Sands said they hope to final template created for the State and have it wrapped up by the end of August. Sands said that under the new Affordable Health Care Act, all hospitals are required to conduct community health assessments.

2. HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

PBC Issue - Osborne Hill School: It was reported that routine testing of asbestos, lead and PBC levels prior to a window replacement project revealed levels of PCB from the window caulking and glazing above the EPA action level requiring further steps to be taken. These additional steps are being taken by the Fairfield Public Schools. It was not necessary to close or evacuate the rooms per EPA guidelines, and the area was cleaned thoroughly and re-tested. The results from the re-test have not been received yet.

Beach Closures: Lake Mohegan was closed to swimming pre-emptively for one day after 1.22" of rain fell in a 24 hour period. It was also closed two days later after water testing results showed slightly elevated levels of E-coli. Sands reported that the circulators were not installed in the lake at that time, but are operating now. All of the salt water beaches have remained open.

Goals & Objectives: Sands will be meeting with Joanne Ryan to discuss the upcoming First Selectman's meeting on the Health Department's goals & objectives for the 2012-2013 year. Topics to be discussed will be getting new school nurse's data base up and running, steps to take in preparing for accreditation, community health assessment, improvement plans and strategic plan review, among others.

3. MRC - EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Training Exercise: The tent city training exercise for the mass-dispensing of an antibiotic will be held on June 26, 2012 at Sherwood Island. New equipment will also be tested out at that time.

CERT Team: There will be a shelter tabletop exercise on June 30th with the CERT Teams and some MRC members. The Town is re-writing the shelter plans to clarify the roles of the Town, the MRC, CERT and the Health Department when setting up an emergency shelter during a natural disaster.

4. CONDEMNATION

(None)

B. PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SUPERVISOR:

1. MEDICATION REGULATIONS

Joanne Ryan attended a meeting at Central Office on June 4th regarding the regulations for dispensing of medication to students during extracurricular school trips. It was determined that nurses cannot delegate medication administration to teachers or other staff. Central Office is working to identify which school trips will be classified as extracurricular.

2. SCHOOL YEAR/PAPERWORK

Joanne reported that the nurses were wrapping up the school year, which ends on June 21st. She also reported that the Board of Ed had approved financing for 10 hours of clerical support for each school to assist the nurses with the heavy paperwork load in the beginning of the 2012-2013 school year. Denise Walsh suggested that Joanne consider using DNP nursing students in the graduate programs from Fairfield University and Sacred Heart to intern at the schools assisting the school nurses. Joanne thought that it was a good idea and agreed to look into it.

C. SUE BRAND, BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Sue reported that a Healthy Lunch vote was coming up soon, as criteria for the school lunches will be greater in the 2014-2015 school year. They will be reviewing the budget for this as well. There will also be a RYASAP report as well. This past year there was an educational presentation on the impact of drugs and alcohol use in sports that went very well.

IV. COMMUNICATIONS

Sands Cleary distributed copies of the 2012 2nd quarterly volume of the *NALBOH (National Association of Local Boards of Health) News Brief* to all in attendance at the meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Hookah Lounges: Denise Walsh raised questions about age regulations pertaining to hookah lounges. Sands replied that he thought the age restriction was over 18 years, but ID's are usually not checked. There is no specific state or local regulation in place right now to regulate the industry and only violations of existing local ordinances can be cited such as overcrowding per the Fire Marshall or nuisance noise per the Police. A moratorium to ban new lounges from opening was proposed at the State but it did not pass. Sands mentioned some documentation indicating that one 2-hour hookah session using tobacco-based products equaled the equivalent of smoking 200 cigarettes.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

(None)

Dr. Ron Blumenfeld moved and Carolyn Shea seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Delmoor
Recording Secretary