



Town Of Fairfield

Minutes of the Board of Health of the Town of Fairfield meeting held on January 14, 2013 in the First Floor Conference Room of Sullivan Independence Hall, 725 Old Post Road, Fairfield, Connecticut.

1. Call to Order at 7:30pm by Chairperson: Dr. Hen

Members Present: Dr. Hen, Sue Brand, Carolyn Shea, Denise Walsh,

Members Absent: Kevin Lennon, Thomas Braun, Ron Blumenfeld

Also Present: Dr. Henry Yoon, Medical Advisor to the City of Stamford and Resident of Fairfield, Joanne Ryan, Nursing Supervisor, Sands Cleary Director of Health.

2. Approval of Minutes:

Sue Brand motioned, seconded by Denise Walsh to approve the December 10th 2012 regular meeting minutes with a correction on second page under Food Safety to read contacted not contact. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Reports:

a) Director of Health – Sands Cleary

Budget Development:

Sands went over next year's proposed budget in detail. He feels it is a lean budget as the proposal is \$4,400 less than last year's budget (aside from contractual salary and benefit increases) with some funds being reallocated from one line to another. These reallocations include funds for clerical support for the Condemnation Board, an increase Education and Membership line to reflect usage and contractual obligations and fuel line increase based upon usage. The First Selectman did request 4 items to be clarified justifying certain budget line increases. Sands did respond by submitting a 4 page document. Sands felt it the explanations were received well at the second meeting with Robert Mayer Chief of Staff.

Illness/Outbreaks:

Sands reported GI and Respiratory outbreaks at 3 Nursing Homes have been reported and staff have responded and are monitoring them ensuring proper steps are being implemented to control the issues. Flu is currently widespread in the community. Sands said additional requests came in for Flu vaccinations since the news reported flu was peaking and last day of clinic is tomorrow Jan 15th 2013 from 3pm to 5pm. If demand is there they will order more. Sands went over the debrief he had with the Dept of Public Health and Food Protection Program on the Fairfield University data.

Community Health Assessment Survey:

The online survey is closing tomorrow and has collected about 300 responses. This is a regional effort and when completed there will be a report to the board.

Grants:

The Health Department was awarded a \$4,000 Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) Capacity Building Award, and are still waiting to hear back regarding a second grant application for a competitive MRC grant.

Preparedness:

We are continuing to work on the Long Term Care Mutual Aid Plan through the Regional Emergency Planning Team.

b) Public Health Nursing Supervisor: Joanne Ryan

Joanne reported she met with the BOE Policy sub- committee, which Sue Brand attended, regarding delegation of Glucagon administration and blood glucose self- testing. There is still discussion on the language and how it should be integrated into the medication policy. Sue Brand noted the policy will go back to Central Office.

Joanne went over in great detail with the new computer health module that will be used by nursing staff. Training will begin shortly. This program is part of the Infinite Campus data base that will be in use in our school district beginning in February. The Health module component will be phased into our public schools by the end of this school year with a tentative plan to incorporate the private schools by the beginning of the 2013-14 school year.

A discussion ensued regarding private medical practices being required to purchase vaccines through the state effective Jan 1st 2013 and the impact it will have on the medical practices in town. Denise Walsh asked about the workings of the Town of Fairfield Well Child Clinic. Joanne and Sands went over the functionality and how it is run by appointment only.

4. Communications:

Dr. Hen received a letter from CT Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Jewel Mullen and another from First Selectman Michael Tetreau, both approving Sands as the Director for another 4 year term.

5. Old Business: Enforcement Procedures Discussion

Sands went over with the board in detail the activity this past month regarding the issue enforcement procedures for food establishments affected by hurricanes and other issues. Sands met with the Probate Judge a few times and had a series of discussions with the CT Department of Public Health (DPH). He continued these discussions with an attorney from the Legal Office at DPH which essentially did not recommend that the Health Department pursue enforcement action at this time. There was a discussion about the Board establishing some clarified rules and procedures related to establishments experiencing a loss of services in conjunction with storms or at any time. Sands expressed that his staff will propose new policy or code language for the Board to consider. Once these are approved, the department can work to educate the establishments about the new policies/code prior to the next hurricane season and then have clearer enforcement procedures in place.

6. New Business:

Denise Walsh continued the conversation regarding the possibility of having a Town operated medical home, focusing chronic care for the elderly. Denise went over with the board some research regarding an elder medical home run by Medical and APRN students at the surrounding universities.

Sands said usually if the private sector does not provide a necessary service creating a gap between what is needed and what is provided in the community that the Town would then look to ways to meet that need. Sue Brand broached the questions of funding, location and liability. Denise Walsh cited a trend being seen of Physicians no longer accepting Medicare which may result in a gap in services for the elderly.

There was general agreement that an assessment of need would be the first step in this process. The discussion ended and no action was taken at this time by the board.

Being no further business, Sue Brand motioned to adjourn, seconded by Denise Walsh at 9:04pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Jude Fitzgerald
Secretary