

MINUTES

Board of Health Meeting
January 25, 2021 via ZOOM

Present: Robert Carangelo, Esq., Chair; Dr. Andrew Bronin, Ann Fountain; Dr. Sarah Gamble, Lauren O’Keefe, APRN, FNP-BC; Maryann Ramos, MPH, PA-C Emeritus; Vick Sandhu, Esq.;

Staff: Joanna Lipson, Operations Administrator; Carline Baisley, Director of Health

The Meeting was called to order by Robert Carangelo at 6:34 P.M.

Minutes

The minutes of November 23, 2020 were presented. Ms. Ramos requested a correction of the word, “previews” to “previously” and the date of the GEMS Proposed Budget dates to read: 2020-2021. Minutes were approved and accepted as corrected

(Motion: Sandhu / Second: Ramos / Vote: 7 in favor – 0 opposed)

Department of Health Annual Report: Caroline Baisley, Director of Health:

Caroline noted that Covid-19 cases in Connecticut were now 243,632 with deaths around 6,900. There were 1068 hospitalizations as of 1/24/21 in CT. in Greenwich, 3190 cases are being monitored. She noted that peak times for the viral illness came in January at around the 5th day after exposure from the holiday. She also noted that quarantine options for close contacts have been revised to 10 days, or 7 days with a negative test on or after day 5, when 14 day is not feasible or causes hardship.

Director Baisley noted that Greenwich Town Hall is open from 8 AM to 1 PM weekdays and masks, goggles and possibly face shields have been utilized for safe interactions.

Department of Health Operational Plan 2021-2022: Caroline Baisley, Director of Health:

Director Baisley noted the Operational Plan is slightly abridged. She plans to add the graphs soon. The DOH has been utilizing its 22 employees in setting up vaccination clinics. There has been a 14-day average rate of about 50 cases daily plus outside contact tracing to help identify people that those who have the disease might have exposed. There are 32 people with Covid-19 in the hospital with 4 in the intensive care unit.

School cases are usually due to contact with sports. It should be noted that there has neither been total nor virtual in-person learning in Greenwich. Last spring there were hundreds of cases.

A new strain of Covid-19 has been noted in the UK, China, and other places. The new strain is no more lethal, but it is more contagious. So, the focus is still on masking, washing hands, social distancing.

Many nursing home patients have been vaccinated, but she doesn’t know the percentages of those vaccinated. The vaccines given were about 46,000 per week. Though there are more vaccinations done, the Director noted that production isn’t up to demand. She believes that production will be increased by the spring and early summer months. She is looking forward to the latest vaccine that does not require a second shot. It will be one shot rather than 2.

Greenwich Department of Health will initiate a vaccination clinic here in Town Hall that will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays beginning tomorrow: January 26, 2021. This clinic will be reservation only, no walk-ins. The appointments will be made via the web-based Vaccine Administration Management System (VAMS). They work

with the senior center to help those without computers or computer skills to make appointments. Providers have to use that system.

Operational Plan p6 – Projected goals. This is based on the 10 essential elements of Public Health. Most important are the goals. There are graphs for a goal for each part of the Department of Health. And 2 graphs for contact tracing. We'll graph the number of cases from spring to date. We received financial assistance from the State. We spent some on supplies and contact tracing. We replaced an old freezer and have another newer one in a different location here so that storing vaccines isn't a problem.

The non-traditional VAMS appointment system would be better for local residents.

Mr. Carangelo asked about the planned number of vaccinations. Ms. Baisley replied that 500 per week in February is anticipated. There may be some confusion with the accounting system. Residents appreciate our assistance with vaccination information and other health questions.

The Director stated that we are very happy that Greenwich Emergency Medical Service (GEMS) will provide a medic for each clinic. All GEMS personnel have been trained in vaccinating. Tomorrow (1/26/21) there will be 5 stations open.

Motion to adjourn requested. Motion made and seconded. Lauren O'Keefe.

Respectfully submitted,

Maryann Ramos, MPH, PA-C Emeritus

DOH Secretary

1/26/2021