

# DRAFT - Subject to Board of Health Approval

## MINUTES

### Board of Health Meeting

March 25, 2019

Present: Robert Carangelo, Esq.; Dr. Marilyn Ross Cahn; Dr. Andrew Bronin;  
Lauren O'Keefe, APRN, FNP-BC

Absent: PA-C Maryann Ramos; Julia Chiappetta; Vick Sandhu, Esq.

Guests: Tracy Schietinger, GEMS Executive Director; Michael Niekamp, GEMS Director of Finance;  
Ingrid Gillespie, Executive Director, Communities4Action; Deb Katz, Director of Outreach and  
Community Initiatives, Kids in Crisis

Staff: Caroline Baisley, Director of Health; Joanna Lipson, Operations Administrator; Michael Long,  
Director Division of Environmental Services; Deborah Travers, Director Division of Family  
Health

Mr. Carangelo called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

### Minutes

The minutes of the February 25, 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

**(Motion: Bronin / Second: Cahn / Vote: 4 in favor – 0 opposed)**

### GEMS Quarterly Report

Mr. Niekamp offered the following financial updates:

- GEMS is in the process of revising their investment policy, which is expected to be approved and signed in a few days.
- The agency is also reviewing agreements with their collection agencies in an effort to reduce costs. The Director of Finance was able to negotiate a fee reduction with one of the agencies and the second agency's agreement is presently under review.
- GEMS quarter to date calls as of January 2019 are over budget by 133. Year to date calls are over budget by 538. These results are consistent with prior years.
- GEMS quarter to date billable transport calls as of January 2019 are over budget by 9 and year to date billable transport calls are over budget by 29. Ms. Schietinger, GEMS Executive Director, noted that only the calls resulting in transport can be billed and are reimbursable.
- As of January 31, 2019, the year to date change in net assets for GEMS is a positive.

## DRAFT - Subject to Board of Health Approval

- Year to date income from training, stand-by revenue from special events, and interest income combined is over budget. Training classes are over budget by \$39,000.
- Operating expenses are over budget for the nine months ended January 31, 2019, largely in the supplies and materials, bad debt and employee benefits line items. Ms. Schietinger noted that 12K increase in expenses was driven by the CPR e-cards cost increase from \$2 to \$17. The overages are being offset by savings in Paramedic and EMT salary expenses which continue to run under budget.
- Cash collections on patient receivables for the quarter ended January 31, 2019 were \$14k higher than for the quarter ended January 31, 2018.

Ms. Schietinger offered the following operational updates:

- GEMS is a recipient of the Workers' Compensation Safety Award and Trust grant, which allowed the agency to retrofit stretchers with equipment that allows for safer transport of larger patients.
- The calls of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter included 12 cardiac arrests (5 patients revived on the scene), 26 transport for chest pain, 65 calls for shortness of breath and 236 calls for trauma. The volume of calls during the flu season was similar to the previous year.
- One of the ambulances caught on fire due to a malfunctioning heater, resulting in a total loss of the ambulance. The insurance claim is pending.

### **Greenwich Youth Survey Results**

Ms. Gillespe and Ms. Katz presented the results of the Greenwich Youth Survey. The presentation offered the following:

- Greenwich Prevention Council (GPC) convened in January of 2016 and comprises of 52 members.
- The purpose of the GPC is to mobilize community members to strengthen developmental assets, promote mental health, reduce risky behavior and strengthen healthy choices.

## DRAFT - Subject to Board of Health Approval

- Purpose of the Youth Survey was to provide an assessment of the community of Greenwich with respect to the numbers of developmental assets as well as thriving and risky behaviors among our youth.
- This was an online surveys administered to Greenwich Youth (grades 7-12 in 11 Greenwich schools) in February 2018
- The Alcohol Tabaco and Other Drugs and Gambling Addendum (ATODG) Survey asked 22 questions regarding youth's usage of alcohol, tobacco & other drugs, perceptions of risk of alcohol, tobacco, e-cigarettes and other drugs, perception of their parent's views of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, frequency of gambling/participation in fantasy sports and experience of bullying in last 12 months.
- The key takeaways from the survey include:
  - Increasing the number of assets positively impacts thriving behavior.
  - Perception of risk and parental disapproval affect use.
  - Increase use with increasing age is primarily in marijuana, alcohol and e-cigarettes.
  - Although smoking rates are low, vaping has become prevalent.
  - Stimulants are the most common prescription drug use.
  - Consistent increases in use of alcohol, e-cigarettes and marijuana are seen Grade 8 to 9 and Grade 9 to 10.

The Chairman thanked Ms. Gillespie and Ms. Katz for the very informative presentation.

### **Division of Environmental Services Update**

Mr. Long offered the following updates:

- The Department is currently waiting to hear on the approval of the new Qualified Food Operators (QFO) State regulations that go along with the FDA Food Code. Once they are approved, letters will be mailed to the establishments that do not have current QFO certificates.
- The Division is working with the IT Department to review Laboratory database applications, which will help to gain efficiency throughout the testing process.
- The Division is also working with other land use agencies to place permitting information on the website for homeowners looking to take out permits for pools, additions and decks, in an effort to make the process more uniform and customer friendly.

## DRAFT - Subject to Board of Health Approval

- The Greenwich High School entered into a Voluntary Remediation Plan and will work with CT DEEP to get additional information on the site. Additional investigations may be necessary. A regulatory review is anticipated in the fall and early 2019.
- Consultants are working on a remedial action plan for Western Middle School to address the remediation of the contaminated soils following additional soil testing over the summer. When completed, the plan will be submitted to the EPA and CT DEEP for approval. Less than half of the field (area closest to school) has been opened for use prior to the beginning of the school year. The remaining area will remain closed until after the remediation has been completed.

### **Revisions to Department's 2019/2020 Proposed Budget**

Mr. Chairman informed the Board that even though the BET Human Resources committee approved the supplemental funds for the much needed Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator's position, which is funded partially by a federal grant, the BET Budget Committee reduced the budget by \$15,608. Chairman also noted that in addition to what was already taken from the budget to offset this expense, could amount to over \$20,000. This puts the Director of Health in a very difficult position in determining what programs would be cut. Chairman noted that these reductions will most likely increase the risk to the public.

There being no further business, Mr. Chairman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM.

**(Motion: Bronin/ Second: Cahn/Vote: Unanimous – 4 in favor - 0 opposed)**

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Bronin, M.D.