MINUTES
Board of Health Meeting
March 30, 2015

Present: Robert Carangelo, Esq.; Dr. Marilyn Ross Cahn; Dr. Andrew Bronin; Julia Chiappetta; Kurt Schaffir; Caroline C. Baisley, Director

Absent: Dr. Robert Ailleo; Dr. Michael Franco

Guests: Art Romano, Deputy Executive Director; John Strong, Fiscal Officer, GEMS
A.J. DeGrado, high school student

Staff: Ann Augustine; Joanna Lipson; Deborah Travers

Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

MINUTES

The minutes of the February 23, 2015 meeting were approved unanimously.
(Motion: Bronin / Second: Schaffir / Vote: – 5 in favor - 0 opposed)

GEMS QUARTERLY REPORT

John Strong offered the following financial report:

- Call volume was over budget by 73 calls for the fiscal nine months ending January 31, 2015. Budgeted calls were based on a multi-year historical experience and are consistent with the prior year fiscal 2014 budget.

- Total receivables for the fiscal nine months ending January 31, 2015 were higher than at the end of fiscal 2014, reflecting Town fee timing. Patient receivables were over the end of fiscal 2014 by $70,000

- Payables and accrued expenses were under the prior year end balances

- The change in net assets for GEMS’ funds was higher by $443,000, largely resulting from capital purchases; the change in operating net assets for the unrestricted fund was positive by $289,000 for the fiscal nine months ending January 31, 2015

- Contributions from donors to be used for capital purchases totaled $431,000 for the fiscal nine months ending January 31, 2015. A new ambulance was paid for in July with donated funds accounting for the largest part of capital acquisitions for fiscal year to date.

- Patient care service revenue was $1,784,000 for the fiscal nine months ending January 31, 2015 - under budget by $14,000 due to volume and reductions in allowed billing rates

- Total operating expenses were under budget by $134,000 for the fiscal nine months ending January 31, 2015. Personnel expenses were favorable to budget
Mr. Strong reported that the lease at GEMS’ headquarters at 1111 E. Putnam Avenue expires on September 30, 2016 and there are no plans to relocate. Art Romano, Deputy Executive Director, stated that a tabletop emergency preparedness exercise was held at the Police Safety Complex which was attended by Police, Fire and GEMS personnel. Mr. Romano noted that the exercise introduced three potential problems to handle:

1. A power outage in a Town-owned building in mid-winter
2. Tanker carrying hazardous materials overturned on I-95
3. A shooter in a public building

Mr. Romano stated that the exercise was very well done. Discussion ensued about new BeSafe Software for all public schools and two private schools in which floor plans would be available to all emergency responders through Cloud technology. Chairman thanked Mr. Strong and Mr. Romano for their reports.

**MEMORANDA OF UNDERSTANDING**

Joanna Lipson, Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, explained that a Memorandum of Understanding or MOU is a very common agreement between emergency response agencies and agencies that service at-risk populations. The purpose of a MOU is to outline responsibilities, share information, data or sometimes resources. Most MOUs are with local human service organizations or Town department programs such as the Department of Public Works. MOUs are informal, voluntary and not legally binding. Another example is a Mutual Aid Agreement, which is an agreement between the first responder agencies to lend assistance across jurisdictional boundaries. It is a mutual benefit agreement. MOUs are simple, have very few components and do not normally require exchange of resources. Brief discussion ensued about the tabletop exercise referred to in the GEMS presentation and Chairman asked Director Baisley to contact the Chief of Police regarding participation in future exercises. Chairman thanked Ms. Lipson for her report.

**DIVISION OF FAMILY HEALTH**

Deb Travers, Director of Family Health, provided an overview of surveillance activities conducted by the Division of Family Health.

- **Influenza:** She noted that influenza activity is winding down. During this flu season, the Division received 300 confirmed reports of Influenza cases in Greenwich. Ms. Travers noted that follow up is done over the phone to determine the extent of illness within the family and/or community. Public, private and early childhood programs are requested to send in weekly illness surveys in an effort to determine the trend of illness in the school community.

- **Measles:** There is a multi-state outbreak of measles involving 178 people in 17 states. 74% of the cases are related to the Disneyland situation. In 2015 there were no cases of measles in Connecticut and there were 5 measles cases in Connecticut in 2014, including one in Greenwich.
The Connecticut Department of Public Health annually requests preschool programs to complete a survey of how many children were immunized against flu and measles. 31 of 32 reports were returned. There are exemptions for religious and medical reasons for not being immunized. Out of 1,850 children under 5 years, 93% were vaccinated against flu. There were 38 children in the preschool group who received exemptions for measles vaccination.

- **Tuberculosis**: March 24th was World TB Day and the Communicable Disease Nurse distributed information and answered questions in the Town Hall Lobby on that day.

- **Ebola**: Sierra Leone is working on a new vaccine trial against Ebola. As of March 28, 2015, 25,000 cases of Ebola have been reported in three affected countries.

Discussion ensued about measles, immunization exemptions, network activities among infection control professionals and the Division’s relationship with school nurses and the elimination of the School Health Supervisor position. Chairman thanked Ms. Travers for her report.

**Other Business**

**Melanoma Awareness Program**: Ms. Baisley stated that Dr. Bronin is developing a pilot program to introduce his project about melanoma awareness among body care professionals. Dr. Bronin will give his talk to a large hair salon in Greenwich. The Department will assist Dr. Bronin with a flyer to advertise the awareness program for a Townwide application.

**Cos Cob Park**: Chairman noted that the new park at the Cos Cob Power Plant site has just opened and he questioned whether it was safe in light of past contamination at the site. Brief discussion ensued and Chairman requested that Michael Long give a presentation about how the Town has been made the park safe at the April meeting.

**Private Drinking Water Program**: Director Baisley noted that an educational program has been launched to inform residents about the importance of testing their well water and a mailing has gone out to 2,700 well owners. Homeowners have expressed interest in testing their wells.

There being no further regular business, Dr. Ross Cahn moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:55 PM.

(Motion: Ross Cahn/ Second: Chiappetta /Vote: Unanimous - 4 in favor - 0 opposed [Dr. Bronin left the meeting at 7:45 PM])

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Ross Cahn, M.D.
Secretary Pro Tem