

MINUTES

Board of Health Meeting

April 25, 2016

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

Staff: Linda Conti; Carol Dixon; Jeannie Schnakenberg; Deborah Travers

Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:42 PM.

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 28, 2016 meeting were approved unanimously.

(Motion: Bronin / Second: Ross Cahn / Vote: – 6 in favor - 0 opposed – 1 abstention [Dr. Ailleo not at March meeting])

PRESENTATION ON DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM

Linda Conti, Public Health Dental Hygienist, provided an overview of the school program, which includes students in the 11 elementary schools, 3 middle schools and the preschools. Mrs. Conti advised that there are still 2 schools left to check before the end of this school year, accounting for an additional 1000 students, so the totals are not yet complete. So far this year the program has:

- screened 5,607 students with a 99% compliance rate
- a fluoride participation rate of 83%
- referred 863 for dental treatment (up 15% from last year)
- 71 completed treatments by a dentist from this year and additional 257 from last year
- 128 dental first aids provided (accident, fractured tooth, orthodontic appliance breaking, loose tooth)

Mrs. Conti stated that the school nurses have all been given tutorials on how to handle a tooth that has come out, but in the case of a fractured tooth the dental hygienists are called and, if available, will go to the student for evaluation.

Mrs. Conti also noted if a child is referred for follow up dental care and the family has no dentist, the hygienists help them find one. Unlike previous years, Greenwich now has several dentists who are HUSKY providers, so there are more options than ever before for dental care in children.

Mrs. Conti also discussed the division's customer service goals as mandated by the First Selectman in his Community First program. The customer service goal that Mrs. Conti and Mrs. Schnakenberg focused on this year was to increase the number of conferences held with parents, nurses, teachers, volunteers and staff in relation to the school dental health program and to make the dental health program more accessible to parents and Board of Education staff. To this end the dental team has made the fluoride dental forms more visible in the front office and included the form in all new student packets. Children in need of a dental

provider were given a list of HUSKY providers, including orthodontists and their families were walked through the Husky application process, as needed. Parents were notified immediately if their child experienced a dental emergency at school or needed dental treatment. The hygienists made themselves available to essential staff members such as social workers, speech pathologists and volunteers at the schools.

The team's operational goal this year was to improve the efficiency of records. The permission forms have been printed in English on one side and Spanish on the other side. The annual report has been streamlined for easier viewing. The worksheets have been streamlined, and a mail merge was created for kindergarten dental records. All forms have been created using a translation process for posting on the website. The permission forms are posted on the website in English, Japanese, Portuguese and Spanish. Brief discussion ensued and Chairman thanked Mrs. Conti and Mrs. Schnakenberg for their reports.

VISION SCREENING IN PRESCHOOLS

Deborah Travers, Director of Family Health, reported on a new joint venture between the Lion's Club and the Division of Family Health. In an effort to improve the vision screening of preschool children, the two organizations have joined forces. The Lion's Club has the equipment, which costs \$7000.00, and provides the personnel to do the testing. The Division of Family Health works closely with the preschool directors and parents to interpret the results, since they already provide services to the preschools. Since December testing has been done in four facilities with a total of 213 three and four year olds tested. The testing has resulted in 16 referrals for a comprehensive eye exam, and 8 of those are now wearing glasses. Discussion ensued and Chairman thanked Mrs. Travers for her report.

Other Business

Chairman noted that the Director of Environmental Services, Mr. Long, provided him with a draft document outlining how the Division functions, the kind of records/files that are kept and how the staff get their assignments. Mr. Long noted that the Director of Health will meet with the Town Attorney to discuss which information can be released to the public. Once this is done a procedure for releasing information in the Division will be designed.

Chairman referenced an article that appeared in the Greenwich Sentinel. The story did a very good job of promoting Dr. Bronin's program on melanoma awareness, which is being offered to licensed body care facility professionals to learn about possible melanoma on clients.

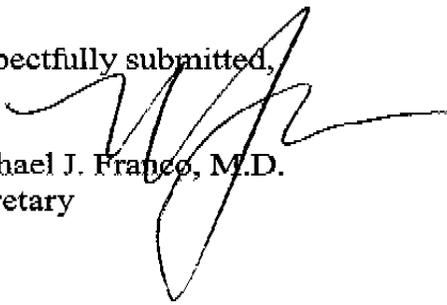
On a sad note, Chairman reported that Mary Delany, widow of our former Board member Forbes Delany, M.D., passed away in March, just shy of her 91st birthday.

Dr. Ross Cahn mentioned a newspaper article reporting that someone (member of the public) had obtained a soil sample from Western Middle School property for testing. The article claims that test results indicated elevated levels of arsenic and lead. The Director noted that the Department of Health will continue its consultative role to the Board of Education once a plan of action for the school property has been decided on by the Board of Education. The Department cannot, however, comment on the testing results referred to in the newspaper since the sample was not obtained using chain-of-custody protocols.

In a follow up on the Zika virus, Dr. Ross Cahn advised that the CDC has concluded that the virus does cause microcephaly, a serious birth defect. Ms. Baisley stated that she gave a presentation on Zika Virus Disease to the GEMS Board this evening.

There being no further regular business, Dr. Ailleo moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:44 PM.
(Motion: Ailleo/ Second: Bronin /Vote: Unanimous - 7 in favor - 0 opposed)

Respectfully submitted,


Michael J. Franco, M.D.
Secretary