MINUTES
Board of Health Meeting
April 30, 2018

Present: Robert Carangelo, Esq.; Dr. Marilyn Ross Cahn; Dr. Andrew Bronin; Kurt Schaffer; Julia Chiappetta; Dr. Mark Armstrong; Vick Sandhu, Esq.

Guests: Daniel Warzoha, Emergency Management Director

Staff: Deborah Travers; Joanna Lipson; Caroline Baisley

Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

Minutes

The minutes of the March 26, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.
(Motion: Bronin / Second: Chiappetta/ Vote: 6 in favor - 0 opposed – 1 abstaining)

Local Emergency Management Update

Mr. Warzoha offered the following updates:

- The month of March was a very busy month for emergency response due to several significant storms.
- The March 2nd storm was particularly difficult due to many downed trees, power and telephone lines. Many of the trees are privately owned.
- The first 48 to 72 hours after the strong storm are almost always the busiest and most difficult for responders due to downed trees, power lines and the unavailability of utility crews. Most line crews are now outsourced by Eversource and come from other states and Canada. As a result, crews are unavailable within the first days of response.
- During the March 2nd storm, three frail and elderly residents were evaluated and transported by GEMS to Nathaniel Witherell for temporary sheltering due to power loss in their homes.
• GEMS also responded to several medical emergencies during the March 2nd storm, including an accident on the Merritt Parkway and a cardiac arrest in town.

• There is local training and an exercise being scheduled in the near future with the exercise scenario to be determined.

Division of Family Health Update

Ms. Travers offered the following updates:

• Greenwich Prevention Council (GPC) – Youth Asset Survey
  
  o Survey of community youth administered across Greenwich in public and private schools – middle and high school grades.
  
  o Survey provides a profile of activities and youth assets– included questions about alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and prescription drugs.
  
  o Once the data is compiled and analyzed by the researcher, the council will create a PowerPoint presentation of key finding.
  
  o Findings will be used to prioritize an action plan within the community to increase awareness and to provide education.

Chairman Carangelo requested that results of the survey be presented to the Board, preferably at May’s meeting, if available.

• Presentation of Family Health FY 2017-18 Operational Goal: To Increase the Percentage of Greenwich Children Who Receive Annual Lead Tests by Age 3.
  
  o In general, there is a low incidence of lead poisoning in children in Greenwich. However, the reporting statistics show a decline in screening activity. If this is the case, then children with elevations may be missed.
  
  o In 2014, 82% of Greenwich children between the ages 9 months and two years were tested
  
  o In 2015, the above decreased to 71%.
  
  o The process to increase the percentage of children tested includes:
    ▪ Monthly review of Greenwich Lead Reports in CT DPH database.
    ▪ Letter(s) to parents regarding appropriate follow up for elevations.
    ▪ Information sheet to parents with possible sources of lead, nutritional intervention, CT Birth to Three resource and information regarding the CT
Regulations (CGS Section 19a-110) and schedule for screening and confirmation of elevated blood lead samples.

- Follow up with parents as needed, to determine status of confirmatory blood test.
- Referral to local health care providers for follow up on elevated blood lead tests.
- Follow up with local health care providers as needed, if there is a delay in confirmatory blood test.
- If led blood levels elevated, home visit by public health nurse and environmental health to assess environment and determine possible source(s).

Activities undertaken to increase community and provider awareness:

- Memo with materials sent to Greenwich Early Childhood Education Directors to share with parents of students in program.
- Memo with materials sent to School Health Supervisor to distribute to school nurses for reference and to share with parents Lead information packets.
- Distribution of lead poisoning prevention materials during Poison Prevention Week – WIC program
- Table in Lobby of Town Hall with information and handouts on sources/prevention/screening and Department of Health lead testing program information.
- Distribution of lead poisoning prevention materials through Passport to Health program in “end of year” bag (300+ students).

**National Public Health Accreditation Overview**

The Director offered the following:

- The first National Accreditation Program for all levels of government health departments was developed with the support from CDC and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and participation of hundreds of public health practitioners and technical experts.

- Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) was incorporated in 2007 and in 2011, the organization launched the national, voluntary public health accreditation program for state, tribal, local and territorial public health departments.
• During 2013-2016, over 90% health departments that had been accredited for 1 year reported that accreditation has stimulated quality and performance improvement opportunities, increased accountability, transparency and improvement management processes.
• Other benefits reported include improved credibility and reputation among peers and stakeholders, strengthened management processes and improved ability to identify weaknesses.
• The seven steps of accreditation process include: preparation, registration and application, documentation selection and submission, site visit, accreditation decision, reports and reaccreditation.
• The public health accreditation is an extensive, 2-year process that requires a Strategic Plan, a Community Health Assessment Plan and a Community Health Assessment Implementation Plan.

The Director reported that a consultant, who is a former Director of Health, was hired to work with the Department to familiarize them on the accreditation process, prepare the Department for making an application and to assist with the development of a departmental strategic plan.

Resolution Regarding Barbara Ward Bilek, RN

Mr. Chairman set forth a Resolution Regarding Barbara Ward Bilek, RN, a former Director of the Division of Family Health and an employee of the Department for 33 years, who passed away on April 10, 2018, in recognition of her significant contribution to field of nursing and to the field of public health.

The resolution was approved unanimously.

(Motion: Bronin / Second: Chiappetta/ Vote: 7 in favor - 0 opposed)

Other Business

Mr. Chairman made a reference to the April 27, 2018 Greenwich Time article regarding well water testing in the northwestern section of Greenwich to determine if polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) migrated into the ground water supply servicing public and private wells. He noted that the testing survey was initiated by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH), in cooperation with the
Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the U.S Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as a result of this chemical being identified in nearby NY State water supplies. The Director explained that PFAS are man-made chemicals and are used in variety of products and applications including, but not limited to, clothing, food packaging and firefighting foam used to extinguish petroleum fires. Two of the eight private well water supplies that were sampled did exceed the State’s Drinking Water Action Level during the sample collection in February 2018. At that time, homeowners were advised not to drink or cook with their water. Confirmation of several well water sample results were conducted in April 2018. An informational session on the overall well water testing project will be arranged sometime in May 2018 for residents of private wells and community well water suppliers who have been impacted by PFAS being released into the environment. The Department of Health will continue to work closely with the DPH and DEEP on this important matter.

Mr. Chairman also reported that the drinking water reservoirs are 100% at capacity; however, Greenwich Aquarion and the Town have agreed to keep restrictions in place for 2018.

Dr. Cahn noted that there were two measles cases reported in the State and inquired whether any action by the Department is needed. Ms. Baisley reported that the two cases are from New Haven County, are from the same household and who have traveled prior to coming down with the disease. No other cases at this time were reported and as a result, no further action is required.

Ms. Chiappetta noted that off the leash dogs are a problem at Greenwich Point and stronger enforcement is needed as several bites have been reported. Ms. Baisley agreed that this issue is important and should be discussed by the Board in the future.

There being no further business, Dr. Armstrong moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM. (Motion: Armstrong/ Second: Chiappetta /Vote: Unanimous - 6 in favor - 0 opposed)

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Bronin, M.D.
Secretary