

# DRAFT - Subject to Board of Health Approval

## MINUTES

Board of Health Meeting

May 20, 2019

Present: Robert Carangelo, Esq.; Dr. Marilyn Ross Cahn; Lauren O'Keefe, APRN, FNP-BC;  
Julia Chiappetta; Vick Sandhu, Esq.

Absent: Dr. Andrew Bronin; PA-C Maryann Ramos;

Guests: Eve Berry, Eve Berry and Partners, LLC, National Public Health Accreditation Consultant; Dr. Ailleo,  
Dentist of Record

Staff: Caroline Baisley, Director of Health; Joanna Lipson, Operations Administrator;  
Deborah Travers, Director Division of Family Health; Linda Conti, Public Health Dental Hygienist;  
Jeannie Schnakenberg, Public Health Dental Hygienist

Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

### Minutes

The minutes of the April 29, 2019 meeting were accepted.

**(Motion: O'Keefe / Second: Sandhu / Vote: Unanimous; 4-in favor, 1-abstained)**

### Dental Health Program Update

Ms. Conti and Ms. Schnakenberg provided the following updates on the activities of Department's Dental Program:

- The Dental Health Program strives to prevent oral disease in persons of all ages and identifies those who do not appear to have sufficient access to adequate, quality oral health care.
- The Program offers oral health screenings for early detection of dental health problems that includes coordination an appropriate referral mechanism for treatment.
- Ms. Conti and Ms. Schnakenberg provide age appropriate health education to Greenwich students that includes disease prevention, human growth and nutrition, good oral health habits, substance abuse, oral piercing, safety and accident prevention and tobacco use.
- A power-point presentation called "To Vape or Not to Vape" was created by the Dental staff, after thorough research determined that vaping and tobacco use among high school and middle school students was a significant issue and needed to be addressed. "To Vape or Not to Vape" was presented to 200 ninth graders in Greenwich High School during the 2018/2019 school year.
- On February 27, 2019, Children's Dental Health month was celebrated by presenting "The Whole Tooth and Nothing but the Tooth" to approximately 150 students at the Boys and Girls Club. A power point presentation on oral health was given, along with a nutrition game and a puppet show about visiting the dentist. Also in honor of Children's Dental Health Month, the Town Hall display window was decorated with colorful puppets, balloons and posters to celebrate the event.

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- On May 16, 2019, the Department hygienists presented an educational program through a power-point presentation called “Pregnancy and your Dental Health” and “Oral Health for Infants” to the expecting mothers at the Greenwich Hospital Outpatient Clinic.
- On May 21, 2019, “The Oral Health Systemic Connection” presentation will take place in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Ms. Conti, Ms. Schnakenberg and a well-recognized local cardiologist, Dr. Robert Stark, will provide information that links oral health with systemic health conditions. The presentation will include information on how conditions of the oral cavity have a strong relationship with several diseases including heart disease, stroke, diabetes and some cancers. The program will also include information on oral health care and oral health aids. The lunch and learn event will be presented in collaboration with the Greenwich Community Health Improvement Partnership, Greenwich Hospital and the Greenwich Department of Health. This collaborative partnership also provides vital information to the community in an effort to achieve the goal on access to dental care.
- The Dental Health Program’s 2018/2019 customer service goal is to increase public health education efforts among kindergarten students on the need to eat healthy snacks that will reduce dental caries. A food game was created to assist children in recognizing healthy snacks from unhealthy snacks. A “Hidden Sugar” display was used as an aid to show the children how much sugar is in various foods. A brochure called “What’s in Your Child’s Snack” which includes pictures of various foods and their sugar content was also created by the Department’s hygienists. This brochure was sent home to the parents of the kindergarten classes.

The members of the Board thanked Ms. Conti and Ms. Schnakenberg for the informative presentation and commended them for the very important work that they do.

### **Introduction to the National Public Health Accreditation**

Ms. Berry, the Department’s Public Health Accreditation consultant explained the benefits of the National Public Health Accreditation. She stated that the work of state and local public health departments touches every community in the United States and often work in the background to assure that conditions in their communities can remain healthy. This is achieved by preventing diseases and injuries, promoting healthy behaviors, preparing for and responding to public health emergencies and ensuring access to safe food, water and clean air. Through the efforts of a national accrediting program, governmental public health departments have their work reviewed against national standards, bringing new levels of transparency, credibility, and recognition to their mission in public health. Ms. Berry further stated that to receive national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), a local health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets or exceeds a set of public health quality standards and measures. She explained that the benefits of achieving accreditation through PHAB are far-reaching and according to a survey conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago, the experience is a follows:

- Stimulates quality improvement and performance management opportunities,
- Stimulates greater accountability and transparency,
- Strengthens management processes,
- Improves internal collaboration,

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- Strengthens collaboration and partnerships with the community,
- Helps health departments document their capacity to deliver critical public health services to their communities and
- Makes health departments more competitive in seeking funding.

Ms. Berry also presented the Board with a project timeline and action steps that the Department of Health has started, has completed and will need to be accomplished in order to become accredited. She emphasized that this multistep process is very rigorous and includes the development or revision of several major plans, policies, procedures and processes as well as gathering and uploading close to two thousand evidence based documents for accreditation.

The members of the Board thanked Ms. Berry for the overview of the National Public Health Accreditation and stated that they are in a full support of the Department continuing with the process of becoming accredited.

### **Other Business**

Dr. Cahn inquired about an update on the Measles outbreak. Ms. Travers, the Director of Family Health, stated that there have not been any major changes and that the Department will follow the subject closely.

There being no further business, The Chairman moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:38 PM.

**(Motion: Sandhu/ Second: O'Keefe /Vote: Unanimous; 5-in favor, 0 abstentions)**

Respectfully submitted for Dr. Bronin,

Marilyn Ross Cahn, M.D.