MINUTES
Board of Health Meeting
May 21, 2018

Present: Dr. Marilyn Ross Cahn; Dr. Andrew Bronin; Kurt Schaffir; Julia Chiappetta; Vick Sandhu, Esq.

Absent: Robert Carangelo, Esq.; Dr. Mark Armstrong

Staff: Joanna Lipson; Caroline Baisley; Linda Conti, Jeannie Schnakenberg

Dr. Cahn called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Minutes

The minutes of the April 30, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously.
(Motion: Bronin / Second: Chiappetta/ Vote: 5 in favor - 0 opposed)

Dental Program Update

Ms. Conti and Ms. Schnakenberg offered the following:

- 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.
- A staff of two public health dental hygienists achieves the objectives of the program by offering oral health screenings for early detection of dental health problems.
- For the 2017-2018 school year, 6084 out of 6181 (99%) of 11 elementary and 3 middle schools were screened. In addition, 298 preschool children were screened from school-based programs, Head Start, the Family Centers preschools and the town run Bible St playgroup.
• Dental screenings provide early and periodic assessment of oral health, not only for diagnosis and treatment of existing problems, but also to focus attention on wellness and health by promoting the delivery of primary preventive services such as fluorides and dental sealants.

• “The Whole Tooth and Nothing but the Tooth” program was presented 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.

• The window town hall was decorated by the Dental Program for the month of February to celebrate Children’s Dental Health Month.

• “The Oral Health Systemic Connection” lunch and learn is scheduled for May 30th in the town hall meeting room. The Greenwich Department of Health dental hygienists along with a local cardiologist, Dr. Robert Stark, will provide information that links oral health with systemic health. The presentation will provide information on how conditions of the oral cavity have a strong relationship with several diseases including heart disease, stroke, diabetes and some cancers.

**Report on PFAS Well Water Testing Public Information Meeting**

The Director offered the following:

• The testing for PFAS chemicals found in some public and private wells in the northwestern Greenwich was a complicated process in terms of sampling and included collaboration of Connecticut Department of Public Health (CT DPH), Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (CT DEEP), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (U.S. EPA) and the Greenwich Department of Health.
• A total of 11 private and 6 public wells were tested, of which one private well tested above 70 ppt (parts per trillion), the Action Level set by the EPA and accepted by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health. The affected owner was advised by the CT DEEP not to drink or cook with their water. The CT DEEP is working with New York State Department of environmental Services for their assistance in providing this homeowner with bottled water and a water treatment system.

• The remediation actions for PFAS in well water include installing a reverse osmosis system or a whole house granulated carbon filtration system.

• At the completion of the testing process, coordinating agencies held a public information session on May 14, 2018 at the Harvest Assembly of God in northwest Greenwich.

• The format of the public information session included five information tables staffed with representatives from the CT Department of Public Health, CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection and Greenwich Department of Health, followed by presentations from each agency representatives. Questions were asked by the public and answered by agency representatives. The meeting attendees were free to drop by at any time between 5:30 and 7:00pm and talk to any agency representative available at the tables. At 7:00 PM, the Director of Health gave opening remarks and introduced the State CT DPH, DEEP and Greenwich Department of Health staff. The attendees present during the presentation were encouraged to ask questions during or immediately following the presentations. There were approximately 30 residents who attended the session throughout the evening that included President and Co-President of Northwest Greenwich Association.

A discussion ensued about the adverse health effects related to PFAS in well water. The Board expressed concern about the PFAS contamination being present in ground water in Greenwich, with the
source coming from New York State Westchester County Airport. The Board plans to draft a resolution expressing their concerns related to this issue for the next Board meeting.

There being no further business, Dr. Bronin moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM.

(Motion: Bronin/ Second: Chiappetta /Vote: Unanimous – 5 in favor - 0 opposed)

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Bronin, M.D.
Secretary