

MINUTES

Board of Health Meeting

May 22, 2017

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

Guests: Dr. Robert Ailleo, Supervising Dentist; Ralph Penny, RTM District 11 representative

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

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

MINUTES

The minutes of the April 24, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.

(Motion: Bronin / Second: Ross Cahn / Vote: 6 in favor - 0 opposed – 1 abstention [Mr. Carangelo was not at the meeting])

Update on Dental Health program/2016-17 Operational Goals and Objectives

Linda Conti and Jeannie Schnakenberg, Public Health Dental Hygienists, provided an update on the Dental Health program.

Ms. Conti noted that the program focuses on prevention of oral disease in people of all ages and strives to identify those who do not appear to have sufficient access to adequate, quality oral health care. The two hygienists provide oral health screenings for early detection of dental health problems. Oral health education, consistent with a student's age is provided for all children. This includes disease prevention, human growth and nutrition, good oral habits, substance abuse, oral piercing, safety and accident prevention and tobacco use. In addition, the two hygienists coordinate referral for treatment, provide programs in various community settings and counsel the public in the prevention of oral disease.

In the 2016/17 school year, 6053 students in 11 elementary schools and 3 middle schools were screened. Of those screened, 975 written referrals for dental treatment were made. In addition, 335 preschool children were screened from school based programs, Head Start, the Family Centers preschools

and the Town run Bible Street playgroup. 29 of those children were referred for treatment. An additional 194 students in various private preschools received oral health education. Since tooth decay is the most common childhood chronic disease and the number one cause of absenteeism nationwide, oral health education and dental screenings focus attention on wellness, provide diagnosis and treatment of existing problems and promote delivery of preventive services such as fluorides and dental sealants. The fluoride rinse program in Greenwich is offered to children in first through fifth grades. In the 2016/17 school year, 2771 students rinsed on a weekly basis.

Dental problems in school aged children can lead to difficulty in concentration, difficulty eating, decreased school performance and poor social relationships. The dental team works closely with local dentists and orthodontists, school speech therapists, social workers, principals, school nurses and teachers to see that every student receives the necessary education on oral health, receives a dental screening and is treated by an oral health provider.

One of the ongoing goals of the division is to make sure every child entering kindergarten or any child entering the school system for the first time, has received an oral health screening from a dentist. This information is part of the child's dental record and provides important information about a child's dental history.

In addition to the school programs, the hygienists serve community programs such as celebrating children's dental health month at the Boys and Girls club, providing a power point presentation at River House, the Greenwich adult daycare group and at Pathways, the Greenwich High School health fair, after school programs, the Horizons Parent Community Resource Fair to provide resources to low income families and participation in a State Department of Public Health dental health surveillance program.

A Connecticut CHIP (Connecticut Children's Health Identification Program) event is planned for June 10th. The program provides a kit for Greenwich parents to keep. The kit provides information and data that news agencies and law enforcement can utilize in the event of a missing child, and includes a video of an interview with the child, fingerprints, tooth prints and a DNA swab. The dental team will be taking the tooth prints at the event.

The dental team distributed electric tooth brushes at the Greenwich High School health fair. The brushes were purchased with money from a grant and from the Caryl Robotti Fund from the Connecticut Dental Association. Ms. Robotti was a dental hygienist with the Greenwich Department of Health until she succumbed to breast cancer.

Chairman thanked the dental team for the tremendous number of people they see in a year and the amazing dedication that is demonstrated. Dr. Ailleo, supervising dentist, remarked that while the Department has had a dental program since the 1930's, the success of this program is because of Mrs. Conti and Mrs. Schnakenberg.

Other Business

Ms. Chiappetta continues her efforts to address diesel fuel vehicles idling times. She has been in contact with the State Department of Environmental Protection and Representative George Jepsen's office and is making progress.

Mrs. Baisley reported that in recognition of Hepatitis C Day, the Office of Special Clinical Services held extra testing hours. The Director of that program, Robin Clark-Smith, was quite busy during the event and it was considered successful.

Chairman drew attention to the newspaper article advising of the upcoming fundraiser to benefit GEMS at the Cos Cobber restaurant on Wednesday. Half of the proceeds will go to GEMS to buy equipment. There was discussion on the recent RTM cut to the GEMS budget.

Ms. Chiappetta advised that she had received high praise for the Department's laboratory with respect to the tick program.

There was brief discussion regarding the watering ordinance and the enforcement of it.

There being no further regular business, Dr. Bronin moved to adjourn the regular meeting at 7:26 PM.
(Motion: Bronin/ Second: Ross Cahn/Vote: Unanimous - 7 in favor – 0 opposed)

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Bronin, M.D.

Secretary