MINUTES
Board of Health Meeting
October 30, 2017

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

Guests: Tracy Schietinger, GEMS Executive Director; Daniel Warzoha, Emergency Management Director

Staff: Deborah Travers; Joanna Lipson

Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM.

Minutes

The minutes of the September 26, 2017 meeting were approved unanimously.
(Motion: Bronin / Second: Chiappetta / Vote: 6 in favor - 0 opposed)

Local Emergency Management Update

Mr. Warzoha reported that under 200 households remained without power after Sunday’s storm, and that the eastern part of the state took the brunt of the storm with approximately 130,000 outages. A significant amount of trees came down in Greenwich during the storm, damaging several cars.

Mr. Warzoha also announced that the anticipated large emergency preparedness and response tabletop exercise will take place in November. Two 3-day sessions will be offered to accommodate personnel from several departments. The exercise is an engaging hands-on simulation training using a large tabletop city model and it’s geared to educate the Town’s mid – management, especially the staff who are not familiar with the Incident Command System and the National Incident Management System.
When asked about the regional planning by the Chairman, Mr. Warzoha informed the Board that based on the guidance from Homeland Security, there will be another year of federal funding available and the proposed regional projects will be voted on in the near future. In addition, the regional school security exercise currently being planned will take place in late spring of next year.

**Opioid Crisis Presentation**

Ms. Schietinger presented a community opioid awareness program, which was collaboratively developed by GEMS and the Greenwich Department of Health. The main points of the presentation included:

- The opioid problem
  - In 2016 there were 63,000 overdose deaths related to prescription pain relievers in the U.S., almost double from the year 2015
  - 2016: 917 drug overdose related deaths in Connecticut, 1 in Greenwich
  - In FY 16/17 GEMS responded to 108 calls concerning drug overdose and/or unintentional poisoning
  - Connecticut was among top 10 states with the highest rate of opioid related hospital admission
  - For the first half of 2017 (Jan. – June) the State’s Medical Examiner’s office reported 539 deaths due to drug overdose and/or unintentional poisoning
- A brief history of opioids - a review of the U.S. opioid problem from 1900s to present was discussed.
- How opioids work – opioid effects on the brain function and its receptors was discussed.
- Effects and signs of opioid use – included an overview of the effects the opioids have on individuals who use them and signs they may exhibit.
- Signs of opiate overdose – included an overview of physical signs the victim of opioid overdose may exhibit.
- Administering Naloxone (Narcan®) – introduction and overview of a proper administration of Naloxone to an overdose victim and steps to take following the overdose reversal.
The Director of Health noted that she will work with Tracy on revising certain sections of the presentation as needed and she added that the intent of the program is to make it available to the public throughout the community. The Chairman recommended that the presentation should include a few slides with key points summarizing the presentation. Discussion ensued and the Chairman thanked Ms. Schietinger for a good presentation.

**2018 Board of Health Schedule**

The Chairman noted that the Board of Health schedule is in process of being revised and will be presented at the next Board of Health meeting in November for passage.

**Other Business**

The Chairman brought the Board’s attention to the Greenwich Time article about dogs and leash laws. He noted that at least one of the dog groups may want to be heard in front of the Board in the near future.

The Chairman also noted that the budget process is underway and the goal of the Board Budget Overview Committee is to bring the Department’s proposed 2018/2019 budget in front of the full Board at the November meeting for passage.

Dr. Cahn requested the statistics from this year’s flu vaccine clinics when they become available. The Director stated that Ms. Travers, Director of Family Health, will include them in her monthly report for November 2017.

The Director reported that the Aquarion Water Company implemented their new drought trigger levels and that Town officials speak with Aquarion bi-weekly on a conference calls.

Ms. Baisley also reported on the Hepatitis A outbreak that occurred at the Bartaco restaurant in Port Chester, N.Y. The Westchester County Department of Health has confirmed a case of Hepatitis A in a food service worker who recently worked at the restaurant while infectious. As a result of being notified of the outbreak, the Department of Health sent out a health alert to the Greenwich community
about being vaccinated if anyone ate or drank at the restaurant between October 12 and 23. Hepatitis A is generally a mild illness and is rarely fatal. Most people recover in a few weeks without any complications. The virus can be transmitted by consuming food or drink that have been handled by an infected person. It may also be spread from person to person by ingesting something that has been contaminated with the stool of a person with Hepatitis A. Casual contact, such as sitting together, does not spread the virus. A transmission to others can be prevented through proper handwashing. She also pointed out that the Department of Health has a rigorous food service inspection process that include quarterly restaurant inspections, handwashing surveys and instructions to restaurant owners. The Department will continue to work with Greenwich Hospital, which was offering Hepatitis A vaccination (for a fee) for all those who were exposed during the time outlined in the Department’s Health Alert.

Ms. Chiappetta continues to research the subject of vehicle idling and diesel fumes and their potential effects on health. The Chairmen suggested that she draft a letter to the Town’s State Representatives about her request to pass an anti-idling law. The Board will review the draft letter at the next scheduled meeting.

There being no further business, the Chairman moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 PM.

(Motion: Sandhu/ Second: Chiappetta /Vote: Unanimous - 6 in favor - 0 opposed)

Respectfully submitted,
Andrew Bronin, M.D.

Secretary