

ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes for January 15, 2009 meeting
Weiss Center Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mary Moynihan, Dr. John Malone, Roberta Irish, Robin Klimkoski, and Lisa Perrone

STAFF PRESENT: Maryann Cherniak Lexius, Director of Health

CHAIRPERSON:

- By unanimous vote, Lisa Perrone will be the new Chairperson.

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Lisa Perrone, Chairperson at 6:31 pm.
- Introduction of new Board member, Roberta Irish and Board members introduced themselves. A certificate of appreciation was created and signed by ABH members for Karen Gionet's services as she ended her appointed term.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion to approve the minutes by Mary Moynihan and seconded by Dr. Malone. Minutes of the October 16, 2008 meeting were approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Legal Department is currently reviewing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Glastonbury and Board of Education (BOE) for Emergency Preparedness. MOU is necessary if we needed to take charge of buildings for emergency purposes. Manchester and Glastonbury have been put together as a Mass Vaccination Area (MVA) in case of emergency and had done a great deal with planning and running a full scale exercise in 2006.
- July 1, 2008 we launched our performance measurement pilot for reduction in temperature violations in class 4 food services. When we prepared our budget last year, the Board of Directors had asked that we include a performance measure to look at outcomes as it relates to our budget. A performance measure is a focus on an activity to see if we are making a difference in our programs. We are just starting to look at results-based programming. Director of Health explained the difference between the different classifications of restaurants. Class 4 restaurant is a full scale sit-down restaurant. Beginning July 1, 2008, if a temperature violation was reported by inspector, he gives them specific information on the target item we are looking to improve. If at the next inspection, that violation remains, the food establishment is put into a study group. A class 4 restaurant has staff that is in supervisory positions and trained in food safety. These are persons who have gone through ServSafe training are responsible for providing in-house training, for current and new employees. For those establishments with repeated temperature violations we have them redo their training and show us the training records and materials they have used. We conduct a reinspection in 30 days to determine whether the violation continues. To date, everyone that has had this intervention is in compliance. Now they have to remain violation free on that particular item for the balance of the year to see if we are making a difference.

The Director of Health shared information she had obtained from a presentation by Admiral Joxel Garcia regarding a matrix to review programs looking for efficiencies and effectiveness for performance measures. The Director of Health continued to explain how the Adam's Mill norovirus outbreak was handled ending with a debriefing of all the restaurant staff using that opportunity as a teaching moment.

- Town Vendor Permit – the town has an ordinance that deals with vending and it integrates with the food component of the ordinance. This involves several departments – Health Department, Zoning, Building, Fire, Police and Planning. For example, the Fire Dept is concerned if there is propane, which they need to inspect it. We are creating a flow for temporary events to simplify for the vendor what has to be done. We are hoping this is finalized this winter. The Police Department has taken a lead in completing this flow chart.
- Health staff published our Winter quarterly newsletter. It contains winter safety and radon. January is National Radon Awareness Month. The state provided us with 50 radon testing kits and materials. We did a promotion and gave out the kits and information. We will be sending a copy of our Winter newsletter to the ABH members with our staff meeting agenda.
- The Director of Health has been appointed by Senator Handley to serve as Director of Health representative on the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Coordinating Council. They meet monthly; it is chaired by Commissioner James (Skip) Thomas. The Health Director took the position previously held by Dr. Marion Evans who is the Director of Health in Bridgeport. It is a three year appointment. This has provided the opportunity to learn things that affect us locally as they are being developed on a higher plain.
- Flu clinics were successful this year. We were able to sell remaining vaccine to practices. It has been a light flu year so far. We receive a weekly update from the State Health Department and the flu cases have been sporadic.
- October was Breast Cancer Awareness month. We had a wonderful Wreath Ceremony on October 7th. This is a wreath that continues to have names added in remembrance or of someone who is struggling with breast cancer. The wreath is very packed as names have never been removed since the first ceremony 11 years ago.
- Farmers Markets have become very popular – we have two in town. Some Farmer's Markets in other towns are preparing food for sampling at their booths and the State has asked that they be viewed as a temporary food event. For us, that will probably mean a change in our ordinance to allow us to be issuing licenses to them. So far, we have not seen a problem; our markets have only sold produce. We will see what happens this spring.
- Presentations provided by staff:
 - October 17, 2008, the Health Director participated in the New England Epidemiology Annual Meeting. Dr. Matt Carter, DPH, had invited us to present on the topic of Confidentiality during a food borne illness break. It was shared how we had been pressured by residents and media to disclose the restaurant name during the norovirus outbreak. Connecticut currently considers this information confidential. It was not until Adam's Mill had come forward themselves that we were able to discuss issues openly.

- October 22, 2008 we were invited to present our Living Well Program, Obesity prevention, at the Semi-annual Meeting with the Commissioner of Health. We used grant money to collaborate with the Recreation Department to develop a Living Well After School Program. Barbara Quigley, our Community Health Nurse and Shannon Blenis of the Recreation Dept. presented the information.

NEW BUSINESS:

- BT Preparedness Grant 2008-2009 began August 10, 2008 and will end August 9, 2009. Right now we have no indication of what will happen for future funding. We have hired Claudia Gugliotti as our part-time Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Since 2003 we have had a full time person in that role, so it has been an adjustment. You will be hearing more about our plans at the next meeting. There is a lot more being done regionally as well. The Department of Emergency Management Homeland Security (DEMHS) has five regions, the Capitol Region in the one we are located in. The Capitol Region Emergency Preparedness Committee (CREPC) has adopted the understanding that it is the same as Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS) Region 3 so that we do not have competing agencies/organizations coming from all the disciplines. There are 20 Emergency Support Functions (ESF) and people are identified by job and credentialing. Public Health is part of ESF8, we share that with the hospitals and ambulance companies. Much more focus is being developed regionally.
- WebEOC (Emergency Operation Center) is a software product purchased by the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security (DEMHS). The Director of Health has been through training because she is second in command for local Public Health in this region. The software system is managed at the Armory in Hartford and will have connection points out to local emergency operations centers. It was described how Chief Bycholski, is our Emergency Management Chief. Don Janelle, the Town's Emergency Management Technician has attended training so we can report information to the Armory. Public Health is a little different because of the confidential information. We would be reporting into the State Health Department and they would be reporting into the Armory. The Director of Health will complete training on January 20, 2009. Once local Health Directors have been trained there will be communication drills.
- Digital Health Department is part of an Office of Policy and Management (OPM) grant made available last year. Capital Region Council of Government (CRCOG) received the grant. Manchester is included in this project as well as a digital Shared Services Grant. The Shared Services Grant will develop software for sharing across town lines and for mutual aide. The digital Health Department will not be blended in directly with the shared services as some of our information is confidential. Jack McCoy, our Director of Information Services has been tremendously helpful working with the contractor/vendor who has been chosen through an RFP process. This is something that will be discussed in the future. The contract has not been signed yet. The advantages of a digital health department were described.

- Federal government passed public safety legislation that pertains to prevention of drowning by suction of the main drain in public pools. State Government has put the responsibility to enforce this on the local health departments. Town swimming pools must have their main drains augmented to prevent drowning. It is a public safety issue. We met with the General Manager and have contacted the indoor pools first. The pools must be inspected by certified pool inspector. The town pools are compliant.
- Lead Poisoning Prevention program – Beginning January 1, 2009 there was a change in the regulation. All pediatricians are now required to do lead testing of children under their care on a regular basis. In addition to the universal testing, the action level has been dropped from 20 to 10 for blood lead levels. We are expecting an increase in case management, especially in the health area. In the past, when a child's level was at 20 the inspector and the nurse would make a joint visit. The nurse would do an epidemiological report and the inspector uses equipment that will identify lead. If lead is found an order for correction is issued by the Director of Health. A lead contractor will go into the home and identify lead sources, then develop an abatement plan.
- January is Radon Action Month and has been well received. We will be doing other campaigns such as Go Red on February 6th in conjunction with the American Heart Association. This campaign will be explained in the next General Manager's report.
- Human Services Department Health Budget and Core Services were presented and discussed in December and the program is currently running on Channel 16. The next round of discussion will be happening in February.
- ABH meeting schedule has been posted for 2009 and minutes are available on our Web page. If anyone is interested in sitting in on the budget process, they are welcome, it will also be televised.
- Questions were raised about how many cases have to be referred from White Oaks before they close everything down. The Director of Health explained that they have their own trigger point that is internal. It is not required by the state or us, but will find out the answer. White Oaks is not a long term care facility, it is a retirement community.

ADJOURNMENT:

- A motion was made by Lisa Perrone and Mary Moynihan seconded to adjourn the meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Maryann Cherniak Lexius, Director of Health