

ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes for April 16, 2009 meeting
Weiss Center Conference Room

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Robin Klimkoski

STAFF PRESENT: Maryann Cherniak Lexius, Director of Health

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting was called to order by Lisa Perrone, Chairperson at 6:34 pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion to approve the minutes by Mary Moynihan and seconded by Roberta Irish. Minutes of the January 15, 2009 meeting were approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- NALBOH (National Association of Local Boards of Health) pamphlets and conference brochures were distributed.
- Legal Department continues with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Glastonbury and Board of Education (BOE) for Emergency Preparedness. We are in the process of putting together a tabletop exercise. It is important that we have an MOU with Glastonbury and the Board of Education for this tabletop and get these pieces completed for our deliverables as well as our Bioterrorism Grant.
- July 1, 2008 we launched our first performance measurement pilot for reduction in temperature violations in class 4 food services. Performance measures are a way of determining if we are making a difference. We selected whether we could see a reduction in temperature violations in Class 4 food services. That process is still running and has been very successful so far. This measure will come to a close at the end of the fiscal year. The Town Manager has made it a priority for all departments to establish performance measures. After meeting with the Budget office, a series of performance measures has been suggested that we track. It is still in draft form and not finalized yet.
- Town Vendor Permit – committee has finished a workable checklist and workflow process. This involves several departments – Health Department, Zoning, Building, Fire, Police and Planning. For example, the Police do background checks and the Fire Dept is concerned if there is propane, which they need to inspect it. We are trying out the first version; it is a work in progress.
- Health staff published our Spring quarterly newsletter. It will be sent to you and is available online.
- February was Heart Health month. We had a Red Dress Campaign, sponsored by the American Heart Association for women's heart health. Women have different symptoms that can be different from men's and not clearly associated with heart issues. The Mayor presented a proclamation for the Town of Manchester observing Heart Health Month.

- April is Autism Awareness month. The Mayor presented a proclamation which one of our nurses accepted.
- Bioterrorism Grant 2008-2009 is finally in. The State of CT finally got the contract out the door and we are now in the midst of planning a Tabletop Exercise with Glastonbury. The grant requires us to do a school dismissal drill. The purpose is to provide an opportunity to open up emergency plans between the Manchester Public Schools and the Town in the case of a public health emergency where we would have to dismiss schools. The dismissals could be for a week, a month or six months and what are the issues going to be for the education side. Also, to be examined, the change of authority for the buildings, from the Manchester Public Schools to the Town. Four schools to be identified as Alternate Care Facilities for patient overflow if field hospitals need to be set up. In Glastonbury, they have identified Smith School as our location to do mass dispensing for both towns. We have hired the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health (CADH) as a vendor to help us. They have facilitated drills like this. Claudia Gugliotti, our BT Coordinator, will be attending the next quarterly meeting, which is after the drill, and will report on it.
- WebEOC – web-based emergency operation center that is set up with Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security. It is a way of information sharing during an emergency event. We are finally getting online and training continues through July 2009. It is intended to replace the current Health Alert Network (HAN).
- Digital Health Department is part of an Office of Policy and Management (OPM) grant made available last year. Capital Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) received the grant. Garrison Enterprises has been hired by OPM to develop the digital health department. There are about 19 health departments and districts in our region.
- January was Radon Action Month. The program was very successful. We provided 50 free Radon testing kits to Manchester residents and we ran out of kits within 2 days. It was explained that the information is held confidentially.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Town Budget Adoption – The Town Manager did a fantastic job in a very difficult environment to pull together a town budget proposal. All departments were asked to cut or stay level. On the Town side of the budget, there are no raises in order to maintain less of an increase. We do not know what the Board of Education will be doing.
- Quarterly Statistics were distributed and explained. Some discussion revolved around the lower number of blood pressures this year compared to last. Both Barbara Quigley and Cathy Drouin are looking at ways to of raising awareness of the program at the different sites, such as Westhill, Mayfair, etc. Flu statistics were noted as having given more this year than last. It was also pointed out that we saw more employees this year than last. Communicable disease and environmental health statistics were discussed. The increase in sexually transmitted diseases and the age group we are seeing, some middle school, was explained. Our community health nurse has been meeting with the director of school health nursing as well as the health teachers. Several other diseases were discussed.

- Virginia Graeham Baker Act is Federal Act for pool safety pertaining to prevention of drowning by suction of the main drain in public pools. We have completed our review of the indoor pools and now we are working on the outdoor pools to be sure they are in compliance. They will not be allowed to open if they are in violation.
- Senior Health Fair was on April 2, 2009. There were 44 vendors and 100's of participants. Of the participants 20% were not yet members of the Senior Center.
- Employee Health Fair is coming up May 28, 2009. We co-sponsor this event with Human Resource Department. Right now they are sponsoring a walking program, each participant was given a pedometer and the goal is to walk 10,000 steps per day.
- Board was updated on the lead poisoning case with the Pakistani family. It has become expanded. Most of the family members' levels have dropped except the father whose level has increased. We have been working closely with State Department of Health and Food Protection. We have learned that there are no standards from FDA regarding lead in spices. We have learned that Massachusetts family members of this sentinel family have elevated levels, also; not as high as our group, but high. UCONN is interested in presenting this case at an upcoming Toxicology Conference. The Health Director explained what we have learned and how it has impacted a new Indian restaurant's purchase of a tandoori oven.
- Fetal Infant Mortality Review Grant through ECHN is ending May/June. It was grant sponsored by the State of CT that ECHN has participated in for the last 5 years. Manchester/Rockville area has a higher than the state average for losses of fetuses and children up to 2 years old. The Director of Health explained the work that was put into this program and different changes that were implemented as a result of this program.
- Town initiative to become a Heart Safe Community and AED program. We have many people who are interested in going forward, but there is a lot to do. For example, CPR training has to be done and kept up to date. Ultimately, places in town that have an AED will be able to hang a sign and this signifies that not only is there an AED, but trained individuals to help.
- Emergency Preparedness Drills – We are participating in Autumn Storm, a Tabletop Exercise. The hospitals in the capital region are doing a joint drill. They are starting off as a pandemic scenario where they do not have enough hospital beds, and then they will do an ice storm where there is no power. This will be followed by a functional drill in August and a full scale drill in the fall, possibly September. Also, a mega POD Drill will take place May 4-5, 2009.
- Grant updates – Per Capita is money the town has received for many years. Last year it was close to \$2.00 per person, this year they are projecting \$1.25 but not available to every health department. It has not been decided yet. We did receive some enhancement money for the Lead Regulations; we do not know whether we will receive money next year. We are expecting an increase in the number of children identified with elevated lead levels.
- Check out our Web Page – we have posted the Meeting Schedule and Minutes. Check out other items, too at <http://humanservices.townofmanchester.org/Health/>
- Topics of interest – columbarium proposal at local church.

ADJOURNMENT:

- A motion was made by Lisa Perrone and Dr. Malone seconded to adjourn the meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Maryann Cherniak Lexius, Director of Health