

ADVISORY BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes for October 16, 2008 meeting
Weiss Center Conference Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Karen Gionet-Chairperson, Robin Klimkoski, Dr. John Malone,
and Mary Moynihan

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lisa Perrone

STAFF PRESENT: Maryann Cherniak Lexius, Director of Health

CALL TO ORDER:

- The meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. by Karen Gionet, Chairperson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- Motion to approve the minutes by Karen Gionet and seconded by Dr. Malone. Minutes of the July 17, 2008 meeting were approved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Certificate of Appreciation has been sent to Chris Cavanna
- Continue to work with law department on memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Glastonbury for emergency preparedness and the Board of Education. MOU is necessary if we needed to take buildings for emergency purposes.
- July 1, 2008 we launched our performance measurement pilot. 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. We selected the food protection program and to keep track of repeat offenders with temperature violations in the restaurants. As we are now in October, we are looking at who we have in that study. We will be doing some interventions training to see if they are making corrections and we are being effective by working with their Qualified Food Operators. Each restaurant with a larger or more complicated menu is required to have Qualified Food Operators. These are persons who have gone through ServSafe training and are responsible for providing in-house training, for current and new employees.
- This summer we were successful in developing and providing guidance to the Board of Education around temporary food events. During the school year, there are a lot of events that include food. We developed a decision matrix for the principals. They can walk through the questions to determine whether a food permit is required. We are asking for the first year that everything come through our office. The form is available online. It is a more streamlined version than that for standard temporary events. Questions arose regarding bake sales. These items need to be prepared and prepackaged – nothing cooked at home. Although it could be cooked or prepared in a licensed kitchen. Some of the schools work with Nick Aldi who is the Director of the Food program for the schools. If it is a private party – we do not license, if it is open to the public – then we license it.

- Town Vendor Permit – the town has an ordinance that deals with vending and it integrates with the food component of the ordinance. The Fire Dept is also concerned if there is propane, which they need to inspect it. We have had three productive meetings with Health Department staff, Zoning, Fire, Police, Planning and we have recently invited Parks and Rec. We are creating a flow for temporary events to simplify what has to be done. Dependent on the event, it could be a very different path; there are many different scenarios. Maryann gave the example of the company from New Jersey that did the temporary event in the ShopRite parking lot.
- After Action Report for the Full-scale Pandemic Influenza Exercise that took place June 23, 2008 is available electronically and can be emailed upon request. The executive summary is just the highlights and may be of special interest. Otherwise, the full report is over 40 pages. The drill was tremendously successful.
- Health staff published our first quarterly newsletter. We will be sending it with our staff meeting agenda. Catrina Belton, our new clerical assistant, is gifted with the ability to setup the newsletter electronically.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Wayne Rioux our Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator resigned in August. He moved on to the Public Safety Academy in Enfield as an Assistant Vice Principal. It is a magnet school that readies children for police, fire and EMS roles. The Health Director gave a brief description of what the Academy is all about. Claudia Gugliotti is our new BT Preparedness Coordinator. She had worked with Wayne as his intern and he has highly recommended her for the job. She just graduated from Goodwin College program from Department of Emergency Management Homeland Security for Emergency Management. We know her and she is terrific.
- Director of Health has been appointed by Senator Handley to serve as Director of Health representative at the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Regional 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.
- The Hartford Courant had made an FOI request of our inspection information and notes for every inspection since January. They needed it in a certain database. Under FOI we are not required to convert our data to accommodate a request. This topic has brought about interesting discussion in town. We have discussed different ways we can present our data without the confusing inspector jargon. Basically, people want to know it is safe to eat there. Other health departments had provided their data and it showed that some inspections were not done in a timely fashion and this led to an article in the Courant. As a result, Senator Handley made an announcement in the paper that she would look into it. She called a forum together to talk about the challenges of the food protection programs locally. It was an invitational forum at the L.O.B. and there were three Health Department representatives, our Director of Health was invited as well as West Hartford/Bloomfield Health District and the Director of Health for Central

CT Health District (Wethersfield, Rocky Hill, Berlin and Newington.) Also invited were representatives from the State Health Department, Burger King corporate office, and the Connecticut Restaurant Association. This meeting was taped on August 10, 2008 and was broadcast on CT Network. One of the recommendations provided to the Public Health Committee was to work with the state colleges to train people who are interested in going into Public Health or Environmental Health to build a better pool of candidates for positions in Health Departments.

- Town swimming pools must have their main drains augmented to prevent drowning. It is a public safety issue. We have met internally with our town departments involved with that. Health Director gave examples of how strong the suction on the main drain can be and how dangerous it can be. The compliance date is December 31, 2008, but we are still waiting for some guidance from the state.
- Lead Poisoning Prevention program – we have already seen an upswing in the number of cases of lead poisoning. Beginning January 1, 2009 there will be a change in the regulation. Currently having lead level of 20 is an action level for us. We have to do enforcements and a whole series of work that has to follow with parents and health providers. That number is being dropped to 15 and there is also going to be an expansion of ages included in this study. Right now it is up to six years of age. If there is a sibling showing an elevation of lead in their blood we will be testing children up to 15 years of age. We are looking at a lot more work. The state is looking at providing some money to assist us with some of it; we think it will be around \$10,000 to help us with the follow up. The Health Director shared our current case study.
- Farmers Markets – 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. We don’t have any outstanding issues that we have picked up yet. By next year, hopefully we will have some changes to our ordinance that will include the markets that are held locally. In other parts of the State the farmer’s markets have become quite elaborate.
- Flu prices have been set for \$30.00 and \$35.00 for pneumonia. We have added other insurances in addition to Medicare. Also, we continue to have a sliding scale down to \$0 for those Manchester residents who have no insurance and cannot afford the shot. The dates of our flu clinics are October 21st at the Senior Center and two at the Army Navy Club, October 29th and November 18th. All of our vaccine is in, and we did reduce the amount of vaccine we purchased. We are looking at the possibility of vaccinating children next year. We have met with our medical advisor and will keep you abreast.
- October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. We had a wonderful Wreath Ceremony on October 7th.
- We have had several requests for speaking.
 - Tomorrow October 17th, the Health Director will be participating in the New England Epidemiology Annual Meeting. Dr. Matt Carter, DPH, has invited us to present confidentiality during a food borne illness break.

- Manchester Review with Matt Peak to be taped October 20, 2008 for their November show on Manchester's Emergency Preparedness. Instead of Health Director appearing Chief Bycholski with Paul Litrico from 8th Utilities District will appear to discuss the town's emergency plan. The Health Director will be invited at a later date with representatives from the hospital to address the Public Health aspect of Emergency Preparedness.
- We were invited to present our Living Well Program, obesity prevention, on October 22, 2008 at the Semi-annual Meeting with the Commissioner of Health along with Glastonbury. 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 Rec. Dept. will be doing the presentation.
- We received an email from the General Manager regarding our economic status. Mr. Shanley will not be approving out of state travel, any new tuition reimbursement requests, and all positions not filled will be critically examined before hiring. We have been asked to tighten up and be cautious, which we already have been doing. The last two budget cycles we have been asked to prepare two budgets, one with a 3% increase and one with a zero flat budget. We are pretty much at bare bones now. We have been asked to prepare our budget about a month early this year.
- The Advisory Board of Health has accomplished all 2008 quarterly meetings. The group decided to forgo a holiday gathering and meet Thursday, January 15, 2009.
- The State of CT Association of Directors of Health (CADH) has developed a resource catalog. For a fee, we can have someone come in and do a seminar on functions of the board. If there is any interest, this would be the year to do this. The group decided it would be a good idea to look into and it would be held at a regular meeting.
- Karen Gionet shared that her appointment is up in November.

ADJOURNMENT:

- Karen Gionet moved and Mary Moynihan seconded to adjourn the meeting.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Maryann Cherniak Lexius, Director of Health