

## MINUTES

Board of Health Meeting

September 22, 2008

Present: Robert Carangelo, Esq.; Dr. Robert Ailleo [6:40 PM]; Dr. Peter Arturi; Dr. Marilyn Ross Cahn; Dr. Elaine Suchman; Caroline Baisley, Director

Absent: Dorian Fabio; Dr. Naomi Tamerin

Guests: Gerald Isaacson, Chair, RTM Health and Human Services Committee; Daniel Warzoha, Emergency Management Director; Charlee Tufts and John Strong, GEMS; Colleen Morey, Greenwich Public Schools; Chris von Keyserling, Chair, RTM Appointments Committee

Staff: Ann Augustine; Stephanie Paulmeno

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

### MINUTES

The minutes of the June 23, 2008 meeting were approved unanimously with a correction of a typographical error on page 2 (hyperthermia should be *hypothermia*).

**(Motion: Arturi / Second: Suchman / Vote: Unanimous –4 in favor - 0 opposed [Dr. Ailleo was not yet present])**

### GEMS QUARTERLY REPORT

John Strong offered the following financial report:

- Call volume exceeded budget by a total of 137 calls for the first quarter of the fiscal year
- The change in net assets for GEMS' funds was higher by \$59,000 and for unrestricted funds the change was positive by \$70,000 for the first quarter of the fiscal year
- Patient care service revenue exceeded budget by \$63,000 for the first quarter of the fiscal year; income from training, standby for special events and interest income was \$24,000 above budget
- Expenses were under than budget for the first quarter of the fiscal year largely in personnel expense. Total service expense was favorable to budget by \$26,000
- Cash collections on patient receivables exceeded the first quarter of the prior fiscal year
- Payables were lower than the prior fiscal year end
- Net receivables of \$505,000 for the first quarter of the fiscal year represented a slight increase due to higher revenue from call volume

Ms. Tufts reported that:

- A state of the art ambulance with many enhanced safety measures has been purchased
- Recruitment and retention is going well - just hired a medic from Wyoming. Several paramedical students from Stonybrook University have come on board as EMT's.
- Hired a new background check group which will enable random background checks in all 50 states.

Brief discussion ensued about response times and Chairman thanked Ms. Tufts and Mr. Strong for their reports.

### **GEMS 2001-2009 CONTRACT EXTENSION**

Ms. Tufts requested a five-year extension to the existing contract (according to the criteria noted in the contract), which will expire on June 30, 2009. Based upon this request, the Director of Health answered the request in writing and notified Ms. Tufts that the Board of Health would discuss the matter at its scheduled meeting on September 22, 2008. Brief discussion ensued including the topic of Medic 4. It was noted that the language in the existing contract was broad enough to add Medic 4 without specifying it. Dr. Ailleo moved to approve a resolution to support a five year contract extension. The resolution is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

**(Motion: Ailleo/ Second: Arturi / Vote: Unanimous –5 in favor - 0 opposed)**

### **LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING**

Mr. Warzoha, Emergency Management Director, provided an update on local emergency management planning noting:

#### **Regional Emergency Planning**

- Region I (14 towns from Greenwich to Bridgeport) received a little more than \$2 million from the Federal Urban Area Security Initiatives Grant (URASI) for regional emergency planning.
- Currently working on an inter-operable communication project to develop a “mesh” communication network using 700 MHz technology. The network would provide state-of-the-art technology to connect all 14 towns for voice, data and video communication.

#### **Local Emergency Planning**

- The Town is digitizing its 800 MHz system and this will allow the current equipment to be compatible with the new 700 MHz technology.
- Shelter planning issues were discussed as a result of the recent hurricane event and sheltering needs were shifted to the Western Greenwich Civic Center from the Eastern Middle School, because the school was under construction. Unfortunately, there is no generator at the Western Greenwich Civic Center, however, but he will be working with other Town officials to include a 3-phase portable generator in the 2008-2009 Capital Improvement Projects. Nathaniel Witherell is also available as agreed to in the past for sheltering if needed.

- Training and exercises are not funded through Homeland Security for local planning and there is no budget locally to conduct drills.

Brief discussion ensued and Chairman thanked Mr. Warzoha for his report.

### **HEALTH CURRICULUM IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Colleen Morey, Program Coordinator for Physical Education, Health Education, Family and Consumer Science and Athletics, provided an overview of the health curriculum in the public schools. She noted that there are four strands that are taught in each grade levels:

- Injury and disease prevention
- Substance abuse prevention
- Healthy and active lifestyle
- Human growth and development

Lessons are taught at each grade level with specifically focused objectives.

In the elementary grades (3 through 5), the classroom teacher teaches three of the strands. Substance abuse prevention is taught by the physical education teachers in the elementary schools using an abuse prevention model. Students are empowered with skills and knowledge, especially refusal skills, and information that will enable them to address problematic decisions when they arise. Students receive 12 lessons of about 45 minutes per grade level. The curriculum is based on National Best Practices and is updated every few years, with the latest update in 2008. (Started in 1992 and revised in 1998, 2000, 2003 and 2008)

Lengthy discussion ensued about children taking risks that they shouldn't take; growing up too quickly and being overly stressed and over scheduled. It was noted that parental influence and emotional support is lacking for some children and it is important to educate parents about the issues discussed.

The lack of current data for Greenwich about substance abuse and other risky behaviors was discussed and Stephanie Paulmeno, Community Health Planner, noted that members of the Regional Action Counsel would approach the public and private schools to gain support for a survey of students about their behavior. Dr. Arturi suggested that the Board of Health and Board of Education hold a public forum to bring the concerns to the public. Chairman thanked Ms. Morey for her report.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**2009-2010 Board of Health Budget Committee:** Chairman noted that the 2009-2010 Budget process is beginning and asked for volunteers to work on the Department's budget. Drs. Arturi and Ross Cahn agreed to serve on the Committee with Chairman.

There being no further regular business, Dr. Ailleo moved to adjourn the public session of the meeting at 8:25 PM to take a short break before commencing Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter.

**(Motion: Ailleo / Second: Arturi / Vote: Unanimous -5 in favor - 0 opposed**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Members attending the Executive Session included:

Robert Carangelo, Esq.; Dr. Robert Ailleo; Dr. Peter Arturi; Dr. Marilyn Ross Cahn; Dr. Elaine Suchman and the Director, Caroline Baisley

Chairman commenced Executive Session at 8:30 PM and adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully yours,



Marilyn Ross Cahn, MD  
Secretary