

MINUTES

Board of Health Meeting

April 20, 2009

Present: Robert Carangelo, Esq.; Dr. Peter Arturi; Dr. Robert Ailleo; Dr. Marilyn Ross Cahn; Dorian Fabio; Dr. Michael Franco [6:35]; Dr. Naomi Tamerin; Caroline C. Baisley, Director

Guests: Gerald Isaacson, Chair, RTM Health and Human Services Committee; Sam Deibler, Director, Commission on Aging

Staff: Ann Augustine, Michael Long, Tom Mahoney

Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

MINUTES

The minutes of the March 23, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

(Motion: Ailleo / Second: Tamerin /Vote: Unanimous – 3 in favor – 3 abstentions [not present at March meeting] - 0 opposed [Dr. Franco not present]

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING COALITION OF GREENWICH

Sam Deibler and Tom Mahoney reported that they are involved in a series of public presentations designed to connect various groups in the community to services that are currently available for advance care planning. The program is designed to provide a higher degree of compliance in the medical field and medical institutions with a person's wishes at the end of life. Mr. Mahoney stated that the Advance Care Planning Coalition is a community group whose mission is to promote and support programs and initiatives that improve end-of-life care. The Coalition encourages respect for individual values and promotes discussion on the options available to patients and their caregivers as they face complex medical, technological, financial, emotional, legal, ethical, cultural and spiritual issues.

Membership in this organization is open to all who are interested in promoting and improving end-of-life care. The primary agencies currently participating in the Coalition are Greenwich Hospital, Greenwich Chaplaincy, Greenwich Commission on Aging and the Greenwich Department of Health.

The goals of advance care planning are to:

- Ensure clinical care consistent with patient preferences when capacity is lost
- Improve decision making process
- Facilitate shared decision-making process
- Allow advocate to speak on behalf of patient
- Respond with flexibility

- Provide education
- Improve patient's well-being by reducing frequency of over or under treatment
- Reduce patient's concern regarding possible burden placed on family and others

Advance Care Planning Coalition provides trained facilitators, available every Tuesday at Greenwich Hospital, to assist others in the preparation of an Advance Directive. It was pointed out that Greenwich is one of two advance care planning groups in Connecticut. Discussion ensued and Chairman thanked Mr. Mahoney and Mr. Deibler for an interesting presentation.

VIRGINIA GRAEME BAKER POOL AND SPA SAFETY ACT

Mr. Long noted that in December 2007, the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act was signed into law. The law requires all public pools and spas in the nation, both indoor and outdoor, to be equipped with certified anti-entrapment drain covers by December 2008. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is responsible for enforcing the Act through state agencies. He noted that Greenwich has 11 indoor public pools and 53 outdoor public pools. Drain covers must be replaced to meet a standard and must meet specific performance requirements (certified). New drain covers, which meet the current standard, are now available in the marketplace, but under certain circumstances, facilities must install other devices and/or systems designed to prevent suction entrapment.

According to the State, some main drain covers have been made available to pool owners and some existing products have been fitted for more common type pools; however, drain covers for larger pools are not likely to be available due to their unique design. In fact, these pools may need to wait for the industry to manufacture some products or have a drain cover custom built. Existing pools generally fall into two categories:

- Pools/spas that have a gravity drainage system. These pools/spas do not use direct suction from the main drain to move water from the pool to the circulation pump.
- Pools/spas that **are not** gravity system operated. These facilities present a serious safety hazard if they cannot be brought into Act compliance right away.

Many facilities have had products available to them but have not taken corrective action. Therefore, due to the lack of compliance, these facilities will be closed until such time as they can comply with the Act requirements.

In July and early fall of 2008 and then again in December 2008, Town Departments contacted all indoor pool operators in an effort to inform them of the Act requirements. In addition, in the fall of 2008 and then again in early 2009, outdoor pools/spas were notified as well. Recently, a final notification has been sent to all outdoor pool/spa facility owners and operators notifying them of the need to comply. To date, all functioning indoor pools have complied with the Act requirements, but only a few outdoor pools have met the regulation. Because of the seriousness to public safety, facilities will not be able to operate until compliance is met. Discussion ensued about the need to

close pool facilities that are not in compliance. The Director of Health stated that the Department would do everything possible to ensure that pools are safe to open for the summer season and if they are not in compliance, they will not be allowed to open. Chairman thanked Mr. Long for his report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Greenwich Emergency Medical Services: Dr. Ross Cahn referred to an anonymous letter regarding the GEMS operation and budget which was distributed widely to the RTM and other Town agencies. Brief discussion ensued and ended with no further comment.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for Immunization Funding: Dr. Ross Cahn inquired about funds that will come to each state from the Stimulus Package for immunizations. Dr. Cahn wanted to know whether the Town would receive money from the state for immunizations. Ms. Baisley stated that the Department benefits through free vaccines from the state for the Department's Well Child Clinic, but did not know if funding for immunizations through the Stimulus Package would be received. The Director stated that she would look into it.

The Nathaniel Witherell Building Committee: Dr. Ross Cahn reported on the Building Committee meetings that she attended in Dr. Arturi's absence, noting:

- Interviews for finalists for the Construction Manager position are scheduled for May.
- The Law Department has authorized the Committee to sign an engagement letter with Bruce Cohen as the lawyer.
- She expressed concern that the Committee discussed a plan for a scale model of the renovation project at a possible cost of \$50,000.

Board of Estimate and Taxation Budget Committee: Dr. Ross Cahn commented that \$175,000 for the King Street Fire Station was not recommended for funding during the BET budget process, nor was the Emergency Preparedness Coordinator of the Health Department, while the large sum of \$394,000 was approved for an Organic Turf Management Program. Brief discussion ensued about the budget process and the hardship budget cuts caused to the Department's program, especially in the Environmental Services Division. Dr. Franco suggested that the Department begin to formulate a plan to demonstrate the need to restore the positions and programs that were deleted from the budget. The Director commented that she would be drafting a reorganization plan after the ratification of the budget by the RTM in May.

Emergency Preparedness: Dr. Arturi inquired about the temporary Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coordinator as to whether he would work with the Town Emergency Management Director. Brief discussion ensued about emergency preparation efforts.

Greenwich Time: Chairman stated that a new reporter, Lisa Chamoff, has been assigned to the Health Department.

There being no further regular business, Dr. Franco moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM.
(Motion: Franco / Second: Arturi / Vote: Unanimous - 7 in favor - 0 opposed)

Respectfully yours,

Marilyn Ross Cahn, MD
Secretary