

## MINUTES

Board of Health Meeting

May 19, 2009

Present: Robert Carangelo, Esq. [7:50 via telephone]; Dr. Peter Arturi; Dr. Robert Ailleo; Dr. Marilyn Ross Cahn; Dr. Michael Franco [6:45]; Dr. Naomi Tamerin; Caroline C. Baisley, Director

Absent: Dorian Fabio

Guests: Andrew Fox, Co-Chair, The Nathaniel Witherell Building Committee; Susan Fuller, resident; media

Staff: Ann Augustine, Stephanie Paulmeno, Vicki Quatrone, Jeannie Schnakenberg, Michael Vincelli

Vice Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

### MINUTES

The minutes of the April 20, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

**(Motion: Ailleo / Second: Tamerin /Vote: Unanimous – 4 in favor – 0 opposed**

### THE NATHANIEL WITHERELL PROJECT RENEW

Andy Fox, Co-Chair of The Nathaniel Witherell Building Committee, provided a brief update of the current status of Project Renew noting:

- Slam Architects, hired in December 2008, have been working to develop schematic designs to meet Town specifications and should be completed by mid-June
- Selected 4 construction management firms - final interviews will be held tomorrow – firm selected should be on board by July
- Proposed design plan should be ready for discussion at various Town committees by the fall
- Should be ready to present to the Representative Town Meeting for final funding in late-fall

Mr. Fox stated that the design is a person center care environment. Each floor will have “neighborhoods” of 32 rooms divided into 2 “households” of 16 rooms each. Each neighborhood will have its own kitchenette, dining area, study, nursing station and a bathroom/shower area. The concept is to provide a community atmosphere rather than an institutional environment. Dr. Arturi thanked Mr. Fox for his report.

### UPDATE ON H1N1 (SWINE FLU)

Caroline Baisley introduced Michael Vincelli, part-time Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. Mr. Vincelli reported that as of today, Connecticut has 59 confirmed cases of H1N1 (Swine) Influenza, three of which are in Greenwich. He noted that overall the disease seems to be

less invasive than seasonal flu and it runs its course in approximately seven days. It is uncertain how the virus will progress into the fall. Travel restrictions have been lifted and the disease seems to be subsiding in Mexico.

Mr. Vincelli stated he has been on board for one month; he has held the same position in the town of Wilton for the past two years and had previously served 30 years with J. P. Morgan Chase and has been with the American Red Cross, New Fairfield County Chapter since 2002.

Mr. Vincelli described the work being done with respect to planning a Point of Dispensing (POD) Clinic. He noted that staff had exercised opening a POD last week and three more practice PODs are planned for the coming weeks. Brief discussion ensued about the testing process and the fact that there has been an increase in seasonal flu cases through May. Dr. Arturi welcomed and thanked Mr. Vincelli for his report.

### **2008-2009 DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM**

Jeannie Schnakenberg reported that during the 2008-2009 school year 5,951 (98.5%) elementary and middle school students were screened, 993 (17%) were referred for dental care and 213 educational classes from kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade were taught. The fluoride rinse program is offered to 11 elementary schools, grades 1 – 5 on a weekly basis. For the 2008-2009 school year, 2,885 (84%) students participated. For the head start and preschool programs, 38 educational classes were taught, 317 students received exams and 14% were referred for dental treatment.

Through the “Caring in the Community Program,” over 500 senior citizens were screened at the Annual Senior Health Fair and dental literature and education were provided. An oral health presentation is planned for the AARP Chapter Senior Group at Christ Church, two telephone conferences on oral health were presented to homebound senior citizens through the Friendly Connector program of the Family Centers and education and screenings are also provided at the Senior Center. Twenty employees were screened at the Employee Health Fair.

The Division helped organize and participated in “Give Every Child A Smile,” a state –run program, which is held during Children’s Dental Health Month. The Division referred 24 children for pro bono dental care – five took advantage of treatment.

The Division provided oral health education to parents and their children in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program and completed 146 exams. Ms. Schnakenberg reported that successful efforts were made to provide numerous children with dental care through the Greenwich Hospital clinic. HUSKY insurance is now being accepted at the dental clinic and by local dentists. This enables parents to gain access for their children’s dental care.

The biggest and ongoing goal of the Division is to find new ways to track the referred students for dental treatment. A new tracking system has been put in place for those students referred to the dental clinic at Greenwich Hospital, which has allowed the Division to keep better track of referrals. Brief discussion about tracking referrals ensued and Dr. Arturi thanked Ms. Schnakenberg

and Ms. Conti for an outstanding job. Dr. Ailleo stated that the dental program is the most effective he has ever seen and it is definitely attributed to the two dental hygienists currently on staff.

### **SERVICES LOST BY DELETION OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH PLANNING PROGRAM**

Stephanie Paulmeno reported that the Community Health Planning Division has provided critical services to the Greenwich community since its implementation in 2002 when the role of Health Educator was expanded as a result of a League of Women Voter study. She noted that no other town agency or organization addresses the public health focus of the Department of Health in:

- Planning for community health contingencies (Bioterrorism, SARS, Pandemic Response Plans, etc.)
- Mitigating the impact of those issues on communities and individuals
- Identifying/filling a wide range of service/knowledge gaps through development of shifting coalitions and collaborations that operate with rapidity and produce quality outcomes

The Division repeatedly served as the planner and organizer for multiple collaborative projects including:

- Multi-cultural Health and Heritage Fairs
- Computer Interactive Mental Health Matrix (bi-lingual) which categorized over 70 mental health agencies by services
- Public Health Systems Assessment and report that evaluated how effectively town agencies and departments functions as a system. Identified gaps have been used in community health planning operational strategies
- National public health campaigns
- Rapid turn—around on forums and conferences based on identified community need
- Community “connector” role to help new community members become familiar with various resources available to the public
- The only no-cost smoking cessation program in Greenwich
- Town Hall Automated External Defibrillator and First Aid Team
- Developed Community Health Planning Advisory Board of local and regional partners representing approximately 70 member agencies

Ms. Paulmeno noted that many, many programs would be discontinued because there will be no staff to continue them. Discussion ensued about the breadth of work undertaken by the Community Health Planning Division, the lack of understanding of what the Division accomplishes and the services that will be discontinued. Dr. Tamerin thanked Stephanie and her assistant, Victoria, for an incredible job. Dr. Franco thanked Stephanie for a very impressive program. (Robert Carangelo joined the discussion via telephone at 7:50 PM) Dr. Ailleo noted that he was Chairman

when the position was created as a result of an outside organizational study and felt that the money spent on the study has been wasted with the deletion of the Office of Community Health Planning.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act:** Ms. Baisley reported that all 11 indoor pools in Greenwich are in compliance with the Act. Of the 52 public outdoor pools, approximately one-half are not in compliance at this time. She noted that all pool facilities have been contacted in writing and by telephone several times since last year. Some of the pools may be close to compliance, but a good portion is not compliant and will not be able to open to the public. Ms. Baisley noted that she would be issuing a Notice of Violation to pool facilities that are not in compliance, ordering them not to open and to post on the grounds and pool the violation. If they open without a license, she will have to take legal action to close them. She is working with the Law Department on the particulars.

**Artificial Turf Task Force:** Dr. Franco reported on the first meeting of the Board of Selectman's Working Group on Artificial Turf which is comprised of representatives from the Departments of Health; Parks and Recreation, Conservation and Education. Many fact-finding tasks were issued with the bottom line to protect the children. The major health risk to be addressed will revolve around the potential toxins that will be off-gassed from the rubber infill and the potential for extreme heat issues. Other issues to be addressed include increased injuries, MRSA and field maintenance.

There being no further regular business, Dr. Franco moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM.  
**(Motion: Franco / Second: Tamerin / Vote: Unanimous – 6 in favor - 0 opposed)**

Respectfully yours,



Marilyn Ross Cahn, MD  
Secretary