

**SUBJECT TO BOARD OF HEALTH APPROVAL**

**MINUTES**

Board of Health Meeting

June 22, 2009

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

Guests: Roger Bowgen, Chair and Frank Cantelmo, Shellfish Commission; Charlee Tufts, Executive Director and John Strong, Financial Officer, GEMS; Leslie Cenci, Greenwich Hospital

Staff: Ann Augustine, Michael Long, Doug Serafin, Deborah Travers

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

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the May 19, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

**(Motion: Tamerin / Second: Arturi /Vote: Unanimous – 6 in favor – 0 opposed – 1 abstention [Carangelo])**

**GEMS QUARTERLY REPORT**

John Strong offered the following financial report:

- Call volume exceeded budget by a total of 163 calls for the fiscal year
- The change in net assets for GEMS' funds was lower by \$58,000 and for unrestricted funds the change was negative by \$53,000 for the 12 months ending April 2009
- Patient care service revenue exceeded budget by \$35,000 for the fiscal year; income from training, standby for special events and interest income was \$12,000 above budget
- Salaries were within .4% of budget for the fiscal year. Non-personnel expense was unfavorable to budget by 1.6%. The largest negative non-personnel account variance resulted from renewing long-term service contracts on medical equipment at higher than expected rates
- Payables were higher than the prior fiscal year end, but remained manageable
- Net receivables of \$417,000 for the fiscal year reflect sustained good collection experience

Ms. Tufts reported that:

- The RTM approved the Contract Extension to June 30, 2014
- Received a \$20,000 grant to provide CPR, First Aid and Safety training to residents of Wilbur Peck Court in Spanish and English

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

**SHELLFISH PROGRAM**

Roger Bowgen, Chairman of the Shellfish Commission, provided an update on the shellfish program in Greenwich noting that:

- Several demonstration programs were conducted at Greenwich Point
- Permit sales have increased from 280 to 350
- There is a healthy oyster bed under I-95 in Cos Cob
- Involved in the restoration of the Queen Anne Building at Greenwich Point which will be used for education sessions

Frank Cantelmo, Commission member and Professor of Biological Sciences, noted that a 2-year study on the water quality of Greenwich Cove and the health of hard clams was conducted. It was concluded that the clams are healthy and compare favorably to other clam populations in the areas. The study provided baseline information on spawning clams. Brief discussion ensued and Chairman thanked Mr. Bowgen and Mr. Cantelmo for their report.

**TEENAGE PREGNANCY ISSUES**

Deborah Travers, Director of Family Health, noted that the issue of teenage pregnancy has been studied since at least 1986. She noted that the Maternal and Child Health Program and Greenwich Hospital Outpatient Clinic have combined resources to offer services to pregnant teenagers. Leslie Cenci, nurse with the Greenwich Hospital Outpatient Clinic, noted that approximately 2,000 babies are born at Greenwich Hospital each year and for the first four months of 2009, 12 babies had been born to mothers who are 15 – 21 years old. The numbers have increased over the past 5 years. Currently, 20 pregnant teens are receiving services at Greenwich Hospital Outpatient clinic.

It was reported that there are many issues related to teenage pregnancy and multiple agencies have teamed up to address them including the Board of Education, Kids in Crisis, Family Center, Department of Health, Department of Social Services, Greenwich Hospital, United Way and YWCA.

Mrs. Travers noted that the Maternal and Child Health Program provides pre-natal and post-natal nursing visits and education to pregnant and new mothers. Lengthy discussion ensued about education, resources and ways to curb the increasing trend of teen pregnancy. Chairman thanked Mrs. Travers and Ms. Cenci for an informative presentation.

**BLOOD LEAD PROGRAM**

Doug Serafin, Laboratory Director, stated that the goal of the Blood Lead Testing Program was to eliminate elevated blood lead levels in children under 6 years old because there is a relatively low rate of screening for elevated blood lead levels and there is a potential for the occurrence of elevated blood lead levels in children in Greenwich. Potential sources of lead include:

- paint chips
- toys
- sandblasting old paint
- old plumbing fixtures
- soil
- hobbies
- industrial sources

Lead interferes with the central nervous system and therefore is a particular danger to young children whose neurological systems are undergoing rapid development.

The average percentage of children screened for Connecticut is 27% of children under 6 years old and 51% of children 1 and 2 years old, while the average percentage of children screened for Greenwich is 8% of children under 6 years old and 15% of children 1 and 2 years old.

Of 5,221 Greenwich children under six years old, approximately 250 (6%) were tested. During the program, state law required that all children be tested for blood lead at ages 1 and 2 and any child under 6 years old that had not been tested previously. The program was offered to children who attend Well Child Clinics and the Women, Infant and Child (WIC) program as well as walk-ins. Day care centers and nursery schools in Town were also invited to participate in the program. Two children were found with elevated blood lead levels. One from a day care center and one from the Well Child Clinic; both were referred for confirmation testing. An investigation by the Environmental Health Division is triggered by a confirmed blood lead level greater than 20 ug/dl. In Connecticut, 71% of confirmed elevated blood lead level cases turn out to have demonstrable environmental involvement. Brief discussion ensued and Chairman thanked Mr. Serafin for his report.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act:** Mr. Long reported that 5 pools located in condominium complexes and the Stanton House were closed as a result of the new regulations. All are in the process of taking steps to comply with the state law. He noted that the public pools were in compliance.

**Noise Ordinance:** Chairman referred to a letter from a resident requesting that the Noise Ordinance be amended to restrict the use of lawn mowing equipment. After brief discussion about a letter of response drafted by the Chairman, it was the consensus of the Board that use of lawn mowing equipment does not jeopardize the health and welfare of persons within the Town of Greenwich and therefore should not be addressed by the Board of Health.

**End of Life Issues:** Dr Tamerin reported that the Coalition's initiative to provide assistance with Advance Directives has not been successful. She also noted that members of the Greenwich Fellowship of Clergy will be trained in Advance Directives. The Coalition is reviewing its strategy and will change its marketing targets to reach out to a younger generation in more and different sites.

There being no further regular business, Dr. Arturi moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM. **(Motion: Arturi / Second: Tamerin / Vote: Unanimous – 6 in favor - 0 opposed [Dr. Ailleo left at 7:30 PM])**

Respectfully yours,

Marilyn Ross Cahn, MD  
Secretary