

MINUTES

Board of Health Meeting

September 29, 2009

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

Absent: Dr. Robert Ailleo; Dorian Fabio; Dr. Naomi Tamerin

Guests: Gerald Isaacson, Chair, RTM Health and Human Services Committee; Charlee Tufts, Executive Director and John Strong, Financial Officer, GEMS

Staff: Ann Augustine, Michael Vincelli

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

MINUTES

The minutes of the June 22, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

(Motion: Arturi / Second: Franco / Vote: Unanimous – 4 in favor – 0 opposed)

GEMS QUARTERLY REPORT

John Strong offered the following financial report:

- Call volume exceeded budget by a total of 24 calls for the first quarter
- The change in net assets for GEMS' funds was higher by \$16,000 and for unrestricted funds the change was positive by \$29,000 for the same period
- Patient care service revenue exceeded budget by \$7,000 for the first quarter; income from training, standby for special events and interest income was \$4,000 above budget
- Salaries were on budget for the first quarter
- Cash and cash equivalents- unrestricted shows a balance of \$1,171,761. This reflects receipt of the Town semi-annual payment in early July
- Payables were lower than the prior first quarter
- Net receivables were \$480,000 for the first quarter - reflects sustained good collection experience

Ms. Tufts reported that:

- GEMS is down in personnel costs and the recruitment retention program is working very well. Overtime is down to 6%
- Received a \$5,000 Fireman's Fund Insurance Company grant which will be used to purchase carbon monoxide detectors for staff

- Received a \$20,000 grant from the Launderers Foundation to provide CPR, First Aid and Safety training in Spanish and English to residents of the Housing Authority.
- Working with the career development staff of the Housing Authority to identify students interested in an EMT program which qualifies for scholarship funding from the Department of Social Services.
- Fundraising totaled \$111,500 this year
- Working with Greenwich Hospital to introduce induced hypothermia for cardiac arrest patients.

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

H1N1 UPDATE

Dr. Franco noted that Greenwich Hospital is gearing up to prepare for the H1N1 virus. He stated that a bad strain of the virus could affect the lungs in young and middle age people, thus requiring intensive care beds and ventilators.

Caroline Baisley reported that in cooperation with Greenwich Hospital an alternative care facility has been established at The Nathaniel Witherell in the space previously occupied by Greenwich Adult Day Care. The facility can provide non-acute care to 25 people.

Ms. Baisley noted that a Pandemic Continuity Plan for Business has been developed and sent out to area businesses and it is up on the website. She also reported that she sent a proposal for vaccination of children for H1N1 in schools to the Superintendent and plans to meet with him and other school administrators to discuss the proposal.

Ms. Baisley and Mr. Vincelli reviewed a powerpoint presentation on response to the H1N1 virus noting that because this is a new virus, most people will not have immunity to it and illness may be more severe and widespread as a result.

The first cases of human infection with novel H1N1 influenza virus were detected in April 2009 in San Diego and Imperial County, California and in Guadalupe County, Texas. The virus spread rapidly throughout the United States as well as globally.

* Spring/Summer 2009 Summary in US:

Total Cases Reported: 43,771 (April 25-July 23, 2009)

Total Hospitalizations Reported: 9,079

Total Deaths Reported: 593

- * Current status in Connecticut through 9-14-09:

1985 confirmed cases
Age range <1-93 years; mean=14 years
51% female
Most towns affected
139 hospitalizations, 9 deaths

Vaccine has been procured and purchased by the U.S. government; it will be allocated across states proportional to population and will be sent to state-designated receiving sites: mix of local health departments and private settings. Initial efforts should focus on vaccination of as many people as possible in the following initial target groups:

- * Pregnant women
- * Household and caregiver contacts of children younger than 6 months of age
- * Health care and emergency medical services personnel
- * Children from 6 months through 18 years
- * Persons aged 19-24 because there have been many cases of novel H1N1 influenza in these healthy young adults, they often live, work and study in close proximity to each other and they are a frequently mobile population
- * Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have medical conditions associated with higher risk conditions

The H1N1 virus is thought to spread the same way seasonal flu spreads: primarily through respiratory droplets

- * Coughing
- * Sneezing
- * Touching respiratory droplets on yourself, another person, or an object, then touching mucus membranes (e.g., mouth, nose, eyes) without washing hands

If people are sick they are advised to stay home for 24 hours after the fever has been resolved without taking any fever reducing medication and to limit contact with other people as much as possible.

Signs and symptoms include:

- * Fever (100°F or greater)
- * Cough
- * Sore Throat

- * Runny or stuffy nose
- * Body Aches
- * Headache
- * Chills
- * Fatigue
- * In addition, vomiting (25%) and diarrhea (25%) have been reported.

This outbreak certainly poses the potential to be at least as serious as seasonal flu, if not more so. Discussion ensued and Chairman thanked Ms. Baisley and Mr. Vincelli for an informative report.

OTHER BUSINESS

2010-2011 Board of Health Budget Committee: Chairman noted that the 2010-2011 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 Carangelo.

There being no further regular business, Dr. Arturi moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.
(Motion: Arturi / Second: Ross Cahn / Vote: Unanimous – 4 in favor - 0 opposed)

Respectfully yours,



Marilyn Ross Cahn, MD
Secretary