

SUBJECT TO BOARD OF HEALTH APPROVAL

MINUTES

Board of Health Meeting

October 19, 2009

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

Absent: Dr. Naomi Tamerin

Guests: Dan Warzoha, Emergency Management Director; Lisa Chamoff, Greenwich Time

Staff: Ann Augustine

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

MINUTES

The minutes of the September 29, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

(Motion: Franco / Second: Arturi / Vote: Unanimous – 4 in favor – 0 opposed – 2 abstentions)

LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLANNING

Dan Warzoha, Emergency Management Director for the Town, reported that the local Emergency Operations Plan has been submitted to the state for review. Peter J. Boynton was appointed as the Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security in August 2009.

- **Shelter System Review:** All public schools, except Glenville School, have been reviewed for possible use as a shelter if needed.
- **Evacuation Plan:** The evacuation sites from a transportation point of view have been reviewed. Based on new data, the FEMA flood maps have lowered the evacuation numbers from low lying coastal areas.
- **Debris Management:** A Debris Management Plan has been completed. The state has identified sites for debris storage and will have contracts in place with debris haulers.
- **HazMat Incident:** On August 20, 2009, a truck carrying Department of Defense HazMat material en route to Sikorsky in Stratford hit the overpass on the Merritt Parkway. The truck had to be unloaded and reloaded onto another truck and Sikorsky personnel picked up the load.

Dr. Franco noted that Yale, Bridgeport and Greenwich Hospitals were involved in a disaster drill involving a nuclear explosion at Sikorsky. He stated that there was no coordination between the Town and the hospital for the drill.

- **“Just-In-Time” Training Program.** Mr. Warzoha reported that a regional “just-in-time” training program had been conducted recently and noted that it would be valuable program for the Department of Health. Ms. Baisley stated that staff had already been trained.
- **Forum on Special Needs.** A forum on Special Needs and Disabilities was conducted to make seniors and people with disabilities aware of the Emergency Notification System, Special Needs Network and other valuable services to this population. Ms. Baisley reported that the Department of Health has a program which screens elderly residents who have no family and no one to care for them in case of an emergency. They are two different programs.
- **Red Cross Reorganization.** Mr. Warzoha noted that the Red Cross restructured from 47 to 4 Chapters. Greenwich will be affiliated with New York for disaster services.

Discussion ensued about available funding for emergency planning drills and the Emergency Operations Plan. Mr. Warzoha stated that he would send a copy of the Plan to Ms. Baisley. Chairman thanked Mr. Warzoha for his report.

THE NATHANIEL WITHERELL PROJECT RENEW

Dr. Arturi stated that he has served on the Nathaniel Witherell Building Committee since 2001. Since then, a new Board of Directors has been appointed. The following is an update:

- Architect has been selected: Slam Group
- Construction Manager hired: Turner Construction Company
- Town Permit Process to begin
- The Nathaniel Witherell must send a Letter of Intent for a Certificate of Need (CON) since the CON issued in 2002 has lapsed.
- Shovel in ground to start renovation– mid 2010
- Anticipated completion – January 2013

Discussion ensued and Chairman thanked Dr. Arturi for his work on the Committee and his informative report.

H1N1 UPDATE

Chairman noted that Caroline Baisley was a panelist on a News 12 call-in show about H1N1. She provided the following update on H1N1:

- A shortage in vaccine supply occurred recently due to a problem in the fill and finish stage of production with one of the vaccine manufacturers. As a result, there will be less vaccine than anticipated (not related to safety of vaccine).
- Connecticut is not experiencing widespread activity of the H1N1 flu. However, 37 states have widespread activity including New York and New Hampshire.
- Second wave of the pandemic is expected to peak in the fall of 2009. The first wave began in April 2009 and peaked in June 2009.
- As of October 9, 2009 - all states and the District of Columbia have placed vaccine orders. 5.3 million doses available (3.3 million flu shots and 2.0 million Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine– Flu Mist). Initial doses expected to be shipped. 20,000 doses of FluMist were shipped to Connecticut. First vaccine to arrive will be restricted to children between 2-4 years of age and health care workers
- Distribution of H1N1 vaccine is increasing the number of delivery sites from 90,000 to 150,000.
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved 2009 H1N1 vaccine made by four manufacturers. All are using the same processes that they use for making seasonal flu vaccine.

The New 2009 H1N1 vaccine is a reminder of the unpredictable nature of influenza and the importance of prevention. Fatal cases associated with H1N1 have been associated with bacterial co-infections. Bacteria causing infections include streptococcus, pneumococcus, group A streptococcus and staphylococcus aureus.

Current Situation:

- Over 800 deaths associated with H1N1 virus
- Trial testing of vaccine in 10 to 17 year olds indicated an immune response that is expected to be protective against the virus in 8 to 10 days following vaccination. Children under the age of 10 require 2 doses, 3 to 4 weeks apart.
- CDC expects that side effects will be similar to those with seasonal influenza vaccination.
- There is no validity to being at risk for H1N1 influenza if vaccinated with 2008/2009 seasonal influenza vaccine (Canada – unpublished results)
- Virus can transmit up to 10 feet from person-to person.
- 2009 H1N1 virus is similar to, but not as lethal as, the 1918 Influenza pandemic.
- H1N1 is a \$3 billion vaccination program

- Flu related hospitalizations and flu related deaths are all higher than expected for this time of year. For kids 5 – 17 and adults 19-49, hospital rates from April – October 2009 exceeded average flu season rates.
- Death attributed to pneumonia/influenza (P + I) now exceeds what is normally expected at this time of year.
- There are about 159 million people in the initial target group for H1N1 vaccination
 - Pregnant women
 - Household contacts and caregivers of kids <6 months old
 - Healthcare workers and EMS personnel
 - 6 months – 24 years
 - 25-64 year olds with medical conditions

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 for an informative report.

OTHER BUSINESS

2010-2011 Board of Health Budget Committee: Chairman noted that the 2010-2011 Budget Committee will meet in the coming weeks and will have a draft of the budget for approval at the November 23, 2009 meeting. Drs. Arturi and Ross Cahn serve on the Committee with Chairman Carangelo.

There being no further regular business, Dr. Franco moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM.
(Motion: Franco / Second: Fabio / Vote: Unanimous – 6 in favor - 0 opposed)

Respectfully yours,

Marilyn Ross Cahn, MD
Secretary