



CITY OF NEW HAVEN
COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
54 Meadow Street, 9TH Floor • New Haven, Connecticut 06519



Board of Health Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2020

Present: Dr. James Hadler, Chair; Heather Reynolds, Dr. Frank Mongillo,
Dr. Darnell Young

Staff: Maritza Bond, Director of Health
Brooke Logan, Health Programs Director

Call to Order:

Commissioner Hadler called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Hadler noted the following corrections to the August 12th meeting minutes:

“Commissioner Hadler adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m. . . . “

“Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 9, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.”

Public Comments or Statements:

No members of the public were present.

Commissioner Reynolds had a comment from a public perspective regarding the motorcycle rally held by the Hole in the Wall club this past weekend. Does the organization pay or does the City absorb costs? The Health Department wasn't involved as it was a Police Department matter. Concerned that there were groups of people not wearing masks; majority of people participating were not from Connecticut. Will keep an eye on COVID case numbers.

Director of Health Updates:

COVID-19

Director Bond gave the situational awareness update:

- 3,041 cases since beginning of March. Over the last two weeks, numbers have stabilized.
- 32 cases between August 28th and September 8th - 34% in the 10 – 39 years old age group; outdoor activities and students coming back to campus
- 44% communities of color - Black and African American; 34% Hispanic/Latino; 13% younger age groups
- Continuing to monitor readiness for reopening

Director Bond shared a map from the Hartford Harvard Global Institute showing Connecticut cases. The seven-day rolling average is a metric that is utilized at the State Department of Public Health level looking at readiness to reopen. Connecticut shows slow disease growth; New Haven County is averaging about 2.9 cases (two cases per 100,000). Also, looking at the travel advisory, which recently increased from 28 to 34 states.

Department Program Reports

Epidemiology: Continuing to monitor, analyze and provide support to mitigate our spread of COVID. Newly created Flu dashboard for planning around Flu clinics. There are 26 confirmed sites, but waiting for vaccine to come in. The new date has been pushed to next week. Press releases have been drafted and will do social media messaging.

Over the past three weeks, fifteen Medical Reserve Corps volunteers were recruited to do contact tracing. Will specialize at the school setting and also help support us at local clusters that might arise.

No human cases of West Nile virus in the state. However, there have been mosquito surveillance in different cities. Two positive batches at Beaver Pond; Public Works and Engineering are mapping out and dispersing larvacide in catch basins throughout the city.

The dashboard platform that was created for COVID has been replicated to use for tracking overdoses in the city. Brooke Logan, Brian Weeks and Dr. Mehul Dalal have been working with GIS staff person. Director Bond shared the recently developed dashboard with the Board. Alcohol is a major issue.

Administration:

The same five personnel are on administrative leave (no change from last report). Director Bond will be meeting this week with Labor Relations and Corporation Counsel to discuss the Department's personnel issues.

Three Community Health Worker positions were filled and are currently going through the pre-employment process. Still waiting to hear from candidate for Program Manager to see if she's still interested.

Commissioner Mongillo will be part of a panel to rank the scores for Sanitarian position this Friday. Patricia Clark, Human Resources, will be contacting Commissioners to serve as panel members to help rank and fill other vacant positions.

Vital Statistics Registrar – As of yesterday, the position was approved by the union to proceed. Will work with Brooke to post.

Half of the nurses are furloughed until schools reopen.

Health Programs:

Brooke Logan presented an overview of the Health Programs Division. Waiting to hire staff, so some programs have been in limbo. Goals include hiring and training three community health workers; establish partnerships for conducting HCV testing and linkage to care; conduct community outreach and education (opioid use disorder, child passenger safety, HCV prevention and treatment). Also, will seek additional funding opportunities. Collaborate with other divisions within the Department, i.e. Nursing and Epidemiology.

Some programs are related to maternal and child health. The Family Check Up Program is an evidence-based home visitation program for families with children between the ages of two and six. Over the past year has served 23 families and conducted 367 home visits. Since March two home visitors and a clinical supervisor moved services to online via telehealth. Child Passenger Safety Program – received a grant from State Department of Public Health to provide community outreach, education offering classes to parents on the importance of children riding in the right car seat for their age and weight. An Injury Prevention Community Health Worker has been hired and should be on board shortly. Will reopen car seat fitting station at the Health Department twice a month and provide car seats to families who are in need.

Opiate Use Disorder Program – Ms. Logan works closely with Epidemiologist Brian Weeks on some of these initiatives. Two grants funded by the Department of Public Health (ODA and OD Map): one is injury prevention and the other is emergency medical services. Will be working with Quinnipiack Valley Health District to use data to identify areas and neighborhoods with high rates of substance abuse. An additional Community Health Worker will be hired, but position has not been posted yet.

Hepatitis C – Working with Brian Weeks; two Community Health Workers funded by a grant from Gilead will work with individuals who are at high risk for Hepatitis C and have them tested. Also, will expand testing in clinic for any patient over the age of 18 who comes in is screened for Hepatitis C. Due to COVID-19 they've been working with the State Department of

Corrections, Yale Health System and Project Fresh Start to find ways to have access to high-risk population.

Environmental Health – Ms. Logan working with Environmental Health staff on Muncity and Veoci to get them more familiar with online technology and using web-based platforms to help with the services they provide.

Director Bond noted that the Department just received an Epidemiology grant of \$1.26 million. State Department of Public Health applied for grant through the CDC. Hopefully, an APRN and Epidemiologist can be hired as well as some contact tracers from that funding source.

Commissioner Hadler moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Reynolds seconded. Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 14, 2020, at 5:30 p.m.

Attest:



Brenda Pantelis
Executive Administrative Assistant

9-9-20

Date

Approved:



James Hadler, Chair
Board of Health Commissioners

9/9/20

Date