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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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ROSLYN HAMILTON, MPH, R.S.
ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

Board of Health Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2019 at 5:30pm

Present: Jim Hadler, Chair
Darnell Young
Reid Davis
Heather Reynolds
Roslyn Hamilton, Acting Health Director

Staff: Lynne Nicolari, Executive Administrative Assistant

Guests: Karen Dubois-Walton, President, Elm City Communities

Commissioner Hadler made a motion at 5:40 p.m. to call the meeting to order.
Commissioner Davis seconded.

Approval of Minutes: Commissioner Hadler moved to approve the October 9, 2019, minutes, and it was seconded by Commissioner Davis. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Public Discussion: Karen Dubois-Walton, President of Elm City Communities, spoke to the Board regarding information that she felt was inaccurately presented by the Health Department at a recent meeting related to lead based paint in public housing units at Elm City Communities/Housing Authority of New Haven properties. The excerpt will be attached with these minutes.

Director's Report

Staff Update:

- The lead poisoning inspector positions were posted November 4. There are five positions available.
- The position of Project Manager for Getting to Zero in the Ryan White Division was accepted and the individual began work on October 30.
- An offer has been made in order to fill the school Public Health Nurse position that was vacated, and the start date will be late November.

- A Health Department retiree who has been employed as a temporary public to cover a nurse on leave of absence remains on duty. The nurse who is on leave will be seeing her doctor on November 25 to determine her status.
- The clinic nurse has resigned her position effective November 21.
- The Program Manager in the Environmental Health Department is still out on short-term disability. Her leave has been extended until December 2.
- The senior sanitarian position will soon be reposted.

Medical Report:

SUMMARIES:

TB: The Department of Health is currently monitoring 6 active and 1 latent TB case. Two new cases appeared at a common workplace. The Department of Health is investigating those cases in collaboration with the Quinnipiac Valley Health District and State of CT DPH TB Control Program. The other cases are well established on DOT with expected treatment end dates.

EPIDEMIOLOGY:

- Flu is holding steady in New Haven and CT—only 1 confirmed flu-associated hospitalization in New Haven for Flu Season 2019-20. This will likely change soon with the colder, drier weather we have been experiencing, which will increase the opportunity for flu transmission.
- There are 2 confirmed vaping-related injuries in New Haven so far, which are all linked to THC/marijuana cartridge use.
- Preliminary 2018 STD/STI counts are in from CT DPH. Compared to previous year, there is an increase for all 3: chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis.

Additional details:

- **Flu:**
 - 1 confirmed flu-associated hospitalization for a New Haven resident for Flu Season 2019-20:
 - Diagnosed in October
 - 89 y/o Female
 - Type A (unspecified)
 - Continue to get flu vax to residents as flu season continues to pick up. Promote respiratory/hand hygiene etiquette and other non-pharmaceutical interventions for prevention.

• **Vaping/E-Cigs:**

- 2 confirmed vaping-related injury reported by CT DPH for New Haven residents (since implementing new reporting requirement on Sept. 27, 2019):
 - Both cases:
 - Late June and late July 2019
 - Both are 23 y/o Males
 - Individuals vaped marijuana/THC cartridges
 - Cases hospitalized for respiratory illness/injuries sustained
 - Continued advisory for public not to use vaping products as their health impact not well understood and the 2,000+ cases of vaping-related injuries in the country per CDC (https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/severe-lung-disease.html)

• **STD/STIs:**

- CT DPH preliminary STD/STI 2018 numbers are in. Compared to previous year, there is an increase in all 3 (chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis):
- Unfortunately, CT DPH does not have a demographic break-down available yet. Continued education/outreach needed to address STD/STI epidemic.

STD/STI	2016	2017	2018
Chlamydia	1125	1132	1292
Gonorrhea	260	362	448
Syphilis (Primary and Secondary)	24	10	16

Other Business:

- Commissioner Heather Reynolds made a suggestion at the last meeting to inquire with the Community Van on whether the NHHD would be able to work in conjunction with them to help spread the word in the community when a serious threat is present; i.e. EEE, etc. A call was made to them, and they agreed to assist in any way they could.
- The Commissioners requested to review the Lead Ordinance revisions before the next meeting and requested to place this item on the agenda for the next meeting.
- As the Program Manager is out on short-term disability, the Acting Director of Health discussed the need to hire an additional staff person to assist with the administration of the HUD grant as this is the individual who has always been responsible for this task.
- After attending a committee hearing on November 18, the Acting Director of Health reported to the Board that the committee of alders voted to pass on the Lead Ordinance Amendments for discussion with the full Board.

- The Acting Director of Health summarized for the Board a recent CHA Health Inequity Workshop where the keynote speaker heavily discussed the Flint, Michigan water debacle.
- After attending the workshop, the Acting Director presented and discussed implicit bias and health inequities at a subsequent Annual Meeting of all NHHD staff.
- Michelle Duprey, Director of Services to Persons with Disabilities, will be assisting the Acting Director of Health with the narrative to acquire additional nursing staff.

- Opioid Outreach Grant – The NHHD will be collaborating with the Quinnipiac Valley Health District (QVHD) for the hiring of outreach workers.

- HUD – We have received a \$5.6 million 5-yr grant from HUD. Some of the monies will be used for additional staffing of lead inspectors, along with EPA training, which will serve to educate the public on how to properly make renovations. “Renovate Right” certificates will be issued to those who take the training.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Reynolds at 6:40 p.m. to go into Executive Session. It was seconded by Commissioner Davis, and an Executive Session was held.

A motion was made at 7:15 pm by Commissioner Young to end the Executive Session. It was seconded by Commissioner Reynolds.

Attest:

For Aline L. Nicolari, Executive Administrative Assistant 12-18-19
Date

Approved:

Jim Hadler, Chair 12-18-19
Date