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MAYOR

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COMMUNITY SERVICE ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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New Haven Health Department
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

ROSLYN HAMILTON, MPH, RS
ACTING DIRECTOR

Board of Health Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2020

- Present: James Hadler by telephone, Chair; Frank Mongillo, Acting Chair for the January 8 meeting; Heather Reynolds; Darnell Young
- Absent: Reid Davis
- Staff: Roslyn Hamilton, Acting Director of Health; Pamela DeZutter, Financial Administrative Assistant
- Guests: Dr. Mehul Dalal, Community Services Administrator; Tom Butcher, Ryan White Project Director

Call to Order:

Frank Mongillo called the meeting to order at 5:39 p.m.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Hadler moved to approve the November 13, 2019 minutes; it was seconded by Commissioner Mongillo. The minutes from the November 2019 meeting were approved unanimously.

Director's Reports

Roslyn Hamilton, Acting Health Director, provided the department reports. Highlights included:

The Introduction of the CSA Administrator

Dr. Mehul Dalal, the CSA Administrator, was introduced to the Board of Public Health Commissioners. Dr. Dalal brings great experience to the Community Services Administration with prior service as the state public health department's chronic disease director and as a New York City health official.

Staff Update

- Interviews for the lead poisoning inspector positions will proceed after Civil Service test results are certified and posted in the next two weeks. There are five positions available.
- The nurse who accepted the vacant school public health nurse position began work on December 11.
- Delta-T temporary nursing staff are covering the clinic and a school public health nurse position that became vacant due to retirement.
- A school public health nurse returned who had been out due to a work-related accident returned to work on November 26 on the consent of her physician.
- The HUD program manager, in the Environmental Health Division, is out on short-term disability. It is expected that her leave will be extended again. She has been out of the office since mid-July.
- The senior sanitarian position is in limbo at Human Resources
- The Gilead Focus grant was accepted by the Board of Alders. Two new positions, a project lead and a community health worker, have been requisitioned to work on the abatement of Hep C in New Haven.
- Effective January 31st, the health education aide will retire after 35 years of service.
- Since December 6, the executive administrative assistant for the Director of Health has been absent on FMLA and short-term disability with an expected return date of January 13.

There was a discussion of staffing problems in the Health Department which could hinder the work needed to meet regulatory requirements.

Medical Reports

Epidemiology

Influenza:

In the 2019-2020 flu season there were 25 confirmed flu-associated hospitalizations for New Haven residents, of which 23 occurred in December (19 Flu Type A and 4 Type B). Type A is 80% (20) of all confirmed flu-associated hospitalizations. State flu activity remains at "Widespread" status, which is the highest level.

Commissioner Hadler instructed the Health Department to encourage the public to get flu vaccines as soon as possible and to continue to push flu shots. He noted that lower-income neighborhoods have double the risk of being hospitalized for influenza.

Vaping/E-Cigarettes:

There have been three confirmed vaping-related injuries reported in New Haven since Sept 27, 2019, which are all linked to THC cartridge use: two cases in the 20-30 age group (both male) and one case in the 40-50 age group (female).

STD/STIs:

As with last year, there is an increase in all three reportable STD/STIs: chlamydia, gonorrhea, and syphilis.

<u>Other Reportable¹ Annual Provisional² Case Counts for New Haven³:</u>								
Agent/Disease/Condition	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Chlamydia	1552	1531	1353	1400	1271	1125	1132	1292
Gonorrhea	303	360	454	250	248	260	362	448
Syphilis (Primary and Secondary)	11	8	2	11	16	24	10	16
HIV (Year Diagnosed) ⁴	29	30	36	37	29	36	32	--
TB (Active)	5	6	3	5	8	3	5	2

- (1) Counts acquired from CT DPH surveillance.
- (2) Provisional case counts. All counts are subject to change.
- (3) Counts for City of New Haven residents only.
- (4) 2018 HIV count unavailable per request to CT DPH. Will update when available.

The Acting Director of Health mentioned that the Department offered a program to increase the number of women who get tested for HIV. The program distributed a "pocketbook" full of toiletries to all women clients who were tested.

Tuberculosis:

The Health Department is currently monitoring 10 latent tuberculosis cases. All the patients are males who range in age from 13 to 49 years old. All active TB cases are closed.

Old/New Business

The influenza update was covered in the first section of the Epidemiology report.

Lead Ordinance Amendments/Comments/Discussion:

The Acting Director of Health reported that the Board of Alders had passed the lead ordinance and a draft of procedures and protocols is in the works. The new ordinance states that, once the local Health Department director learns of a New Haven child under 6 years old who has tested as having an "actionable blood lead level" of 5 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) or higher, the director "shall take the necessary action" to determine if there are lead hazards in that child's dwelling. The Department is still in court on lead. Further enforcement of the ordinance includes

communication and education to engage the families of children with blood levels of 5 micrograms per deciliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$) or higher.

HUD Update:

Health Department staff are working on getting HUD reports together. The HUD grant has money for subcontracting with the Yale Regulatory Lead Treatment Center to provide for social workers and relocation.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Commissioner Reynolds requested information on Health Department staff FTEs for the next meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Commissioner Hadler at 6:09 p.m. to go into Executive Session. It was seconded by Commissioner Mongillo, and an Executive Session was held.

A motion was made and seconded at 7:09 p.m. to end the Executive Session.

Other Business


The next meeting is scheduled to be held on February 12, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

Attest:


Pamela DeZutter
Financial Administrative Assistant


Date

Approved:


Jim Hadler, Chair


Date