

**Wallingford Board of Health  
Town Hall, Rm. 205  
Minutes of October 7, 2009**

**1. Call to Order:** 8:38 a.m. by Eloise Hazelwood, DOH

**Present:** Mayor Dickinson, Eloise Hazelwood, David Juliano, Kathy Neelon, Ellen Phillips, Dr. Smith (Medical Advisor), Rose Zolnik

**Absent:** Dr. Mullin, Dr. McGaughey, Dolly Parisi

Introduction/welcome of Board member, Rose Zolink, appointed September 21, 2009.

**2. Review of Minutes** from May 21, 2009 approved as distributed.

**3. Director's Report:** Distributed and Discussed

- a. Wallingford communicable disease statistics reviewed. Brief discussion concerning the increase in Lyme disease. Increase possibly a result of increased lab testing or persistent signs/symptoms. Many residents still associate Lyme disease with wooded areas/deer. DOH will submit article to re-educate public.
- b. It was noted that the MRSA cases were generally associated with hospitalized/LTCF patients which is not unexpected; the salmonella cases were not related to any one source.

**4. State Budget/Per Capita Funding:**

- a. The Budget "implementer" bill was approved which resulted in the repeal of CGS sec 19a-202, governing per capita funding for local public health. Previously, full time municipal health departments with a population of 40,000 or more were funded at \$1.18/per resident. New language now defines a full time municipal health department as 50,000 or more for funding purposes.
  - Senator Fasano, Rep. Mushinsky and Rep. Candelora did not support the language/voted "no". Copies of an email and a letter were circulated indicating Senator Fasano and Rep. Mushinsky opposition.
  - The Budget Implementer impacted 44 communities representing over 717,500 residents that are now effectively disenfranchised.
  - Discussion concerning the history of DPH legislatively supporting unequal per capita based on local health structure (part-time, full-time or district). The irony is DPH is currently participating in a CDC funded "Health Equity Assessment"

**5. Governors Council on Local Public Health Regionalization, Executive order 26:**

- a. Dr. Smith, DOH and John Marriott (Board Member, Wlfd VNA) have attended the Council meetings held monthly at CHA. The Councils charge is to submit "a public health infrastructure regionalization plan" to the Governor by the end of the year.
- b. At this point, the Council appears ready to support the recommendation to adopt the National Public Health "10 Essential Services". Currently CT has regulation stipulating 8 essential services

that must be provided in the community, although it does not stipulate that the services must be directly provided by the Local Health authority (CT Regulations 19a-76-2).

- c. Discussion concerning potential impact if the Council further recommends a change to CGS that defines a Municipal Health Department (CGS 19a-200, 206 and 207) to reflect enacted language in the per capita statute (50,000 or more population or a Health District serving 3 or more municipalities).
- d. DOH will develop talking points for BOH members to engage the legislatures urging them not to change the CGS that defines a Municipal Health Department and the authority to enforce PH regulations/statutes.
- e. Discussion concerning rationale for Ex. Order 26; fueled by funding. CT must compete with other states for federal funds for public health, specifically public health preparedness; resulting in multiple plans that creates a cumbersome review at the federal level. Larger or regional local public health authorities equate to less plans to review similar to states with county government.
- f. DOH will forward the current 8 essential services required by CT Regulations to Ellen Phillips. Board members will have the opportunity to provide input as to what services the Town should directly fund.

## **6. H1N1 Update:**

- a. DOH provided an overview of state plan for distribution of vaccine to local health departments and private providers.
- b. A copy of the Public Health Emergency Response Act (PHERA) is being reviewed by Janis Small, Town Attorney concerning liability.
- c. CDC has developed "priority groups" to receive the vaccine until availability increases. Multiple providers have registered to receive the vaccine in Wallingford (Mass Dispensing Area 23). DOH will coordinate to ensure CDC priority groups are followed (currently paramedics/EMT who provide direct patient care; children 2-4 yrs.; and childcare givers of children <6 months of age). The priority groups will be expanded as more vaccine becomes available.
- d. DOH working with both the public school system and private schools concerning monitoring absentee rates; school closures NOT generally recommended.
- e. Dr. Valentin, Dr. Menso, Kathy Neelon and DOH will continue to meet as necessary. MANY messages have been developed: hand hygiene, stay home when sick, and cover your cover.
- f. Educational material was also sent to daycares, senior center, SCOW, churches, LTCF; segment completed for gov't channel and information posted on Town website.
- g. Ellen stated the Wlfd VNA is currently experiencing a shortage of seasonal flu vaccine; shipment arrived but could not be used as it was not within required temperature zone. Many other providers are also experiencing similar shortage.
- h. Discussion concerning media and the need to remain calm. H1N1 like seasonal flu, are community acquired and we will see an increase as we enter flu season.

## **7. New Business:**

- a. Kathy Neelon, School Nurse Coordinator, distributed School Health Statistics. Reviewed office visits (by both faculty and students). Discussion concerning increase of medically sensitive students and related office visits.
- b. Kathy provided copies of letters for parents concerning signs and symptoms of influenza like illness (ILI) and when to keep children home from school. She stated that the public health campaign is beneficial and emphasized the increased risk to medically sensitive students.

DRAFT 10/8/09

**Next Meeting:** January 2010, date TBA

**7. Meeting Adjourned** at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eloise E. Hazelwood  
Director of Health

**Communicable Disease Report  
CY 2003**

**CY 2009**

	Jan-March	Apr-June	July-Sept	Oct-Dec	<b>CY 2009</b>
E.coli 0157	1	0	0		
Salmonella	1	1	4		
Campylobacter	1	2	3		
Hep A	0	0	1		
Hep B	4	0	2		
Hep C	23	26	11		
HIV	0	0	1		
Influenza A/B	11	9	6		
H1N1	0	6	2		
Legionnaires	1	0	0		
Pneumoccal	2	0	0		
Strep A	3	0	2		
Beta Strep B	1	3	0		
TB pulmon.	0	0	0		
non TB mycobacterium	6	2	5		
Staph aureus(blood)	0	1	2		
MRSA	10	10	10		
Ehrlichiosis	1	3	2		
Lyme Ds	9	17	65		
Babesiosis	1	2	3		
Gonorrhea	1	4	1		
Chlamydia	7	14	17		
Syphilis	4	1	7		