



Town of Darien

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Advisory Board of Health meeting notes

Meeting Date: June 5, 2012

Members Present: Kevin Cunningham, Dr. Jose Cara, Jennifer Geddes, James Patrick, Andy Matthiesen

Also Present: David Knauf, Director of Health

The meeting was called to order by Chair Cunningham at 6:35PM

Mr. Knauf began his report by summarizing recent health department activities and projects as follows:

1. The [proposed plastic bag ordinance](#) as drafted proposes to have the Health Department serve as the enforcing agency. After considerable discussion and reviewing the proposed ordinance, the Board by unanimous vote approved the following resolution: "The check out bag ordinance was discussed during today's meeting of the Advisory Board of Health. Whereas the Advisory Board of Health does not take a position on the proposed ordinance, it does not consider the ordinance to be a matter of public health nor that Darien Department of Public Health and/or public health resources should be used to enforce such activities." Mr. Knauf was to deliver this resolution to the TGS&A committee which was meeting later that same evening.
2. 210 pounds of unwanted drugs were collected at the [unwanted drug collection](#) day on Saturday April 28th, for a total of more than 500 pounds in two years.
3. A Committee has been formed to evaluate existing health department regulations as they pertain to hairdressing/cosmetology salons. The committee includes the Health Director, the Medical Advisor, the public health Nurse, three members from the industry and Mr. Cunningham. The second meeting was to be held on Thursday, June 6th.
4. Arrangements have been made with the High School and a senior intern will once again be sampling the water at our beaches and conducting the laboratory analyses at the Stamford Health Department (for a significant cost savings).
5. Several years' worth of water sampling has shown consistently high bacteria counts in Goodwives River and no source of contamination has been found. In an effort to pinpoint sources, we have partnered with Westport/Weston, East Shore Health District, Yale and the CT Agricultural Experiment Station and applied for a grant from the Long Island Futures Fund. The title of the grant application explains its purpose: "[Microbial Source Tracking in the LIS Watershed Using DNA Analysis](#)".
6. The [HeartSafe Community](#) renewal application has just been completed by our Public Health Nurse, Molly Larson and will be submitted to the CT Department of Public Health. Darien first received this award in 2009 by documenting the "Chain of Survival" links to address cardiac emergencies for its citizens. These links include early access to emergency care, early CPR, early defibrillation, and early advanced care. This is a three year designation.
7. An article on [pertussis](#), a recent press release from Caleb Moore, our Medical Advisor was shared with the Board.
8. [Food service inspection](#) frequency remains on schedule. Establishments will be surveyed this summer to ensure "Ratings" are being posted in a visible location. All Ratings are available on our website www.darienhealth.com
9. [Emergency Preparedness](#) – we are developing a publication to circulate to restaurants on what to do in times of extended power outages which would involve the "donation" of food to emergency shelters that otherwise have to be destroyed. Preparedness pamphlets for the public were circulated to the Board.
10. It is mosquito season again and in anticipation of public concern, a public advisory was developed by Mr. Knauf to be posted on the website and issued as a press release.

11. Mr. Knauf informed the Board that he has been appointed as a member of Norwalk Hospital's Community Health Improvement Task Force which is reviewing the health services provided to the service area of the hospital.

Mr. Knauf left the meeting at 7:30 PM.

1. The group discussed potential new projects and was hopefully that first Selectman would be in attendance to discuss. Potential projects include deer/lime study post "Deer Cull" Commission disbandment. Also, a project that has been discussed for months would be a traffic study in conjunction with the Police Department or Police Commission. K. Cunningham will connect with the Selectman's office to further discuss and get ideas for a new project.

Respectfully Submitted June 12, 2012

David Knauf, Director of Health

Kevin Cunningham, Chair – Advisory Board of Health

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