

Advisory Board of Health Meeting Minutes

A special meeting of the Advisory Board of Health (ABH) was held on Wednesday, July 8, 2009, at 7:30 pm in room 213 of Town Hall.

Members present: Kevin Cunningham, Chair; Dr. Jose Cara, Vice Chair;
Jennifer Geddes; and Mary Guimond, Clerk

Guests: David Knauf, Darien Director of Health

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm by Chair Cunningham.

With regard to the first item on the agenda, Mr. Knauf referenced his quarterly report to the Selectmen regarding the Department of Health, which he had previously distributed to ABH members. The report was very thorough and we had no questions related to it. In further updates, Mr. Knauf informed us that the proposed State of Connecticut budget eliminates the State's per capita grant for municipal health departments that support less than 50,000 residents. This would cut \$25,000 from Darien's budget. Since the Health Department came in well under budget, this cut, if enacted, will not seriously affect our department. Water testing has begun and old records of water tests are being computerized. A discussion ensued regarding pre-emptive closing of beaches based on rainfall amounts. The restaurant rating program is moving forward.

Mr. Knauf reported that there have been 63 cases of H1N1 flu confirmed in Darien and that none required hospitalization. Mr. Knauf acknowledged positive coordination among town agencies, specifically the Board of Education and Superintendent Fiftal, with regard to communication about H1N1 and praised Channel 79's public service announcements.

Darien has been designated a HeartSafe community by the State. We had 500 points in our application and only 240 were required. Mr. Knauf acknowledged Molly Larsen's work in our achieving this designation. Chair Cunningham volunteered to contact First Selectwoman Klein to coordinate an announcement of this achievement in September. At this point, Mr. Knauf was excused from the meeting.

With the successful creation of a full time Health Department and our research into EMS programs completed, a discussion ensued regarding what project ABH should undertake next. Dr. Cara suggested that we focus on senior issues. Senior issues were a 'gap' item identified by ABH in our report to the Selectmen in April of 2008. We all agreed that coordination of town resources directed at seniors, specifically related to influenza and pneumonia immunizations in the fall will be the next focus of our efforts. At the next regularly scheduled meeting, August 19, 2009 at 7:00 in room 213 of town hall, Chair Cunningham will invite Molly Larsen and David Knauf. We plan to leverage the work being done by the Commission on Aging, on which Ms. Geddes is Vice Chair, to engage many of the organizations in town that touch seniors to enhance communication,

cooperation and perhaps coordinate programs. These organizations include Commission on Aging, Aging in Place, Senior Center, Darien Community Association, Senior Men's, and Darien Social Services.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted via email on July 9, 2009,

Mary Guimond, Clerk