



Town of Darien

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Health Department

April 2018

Quarterly Report to the Board of Selectmen

During this quarter, we begin the permitting and inspection of seasonal food service facilities and public pools. Water sampling at Weed and Pear Tree Point Beaches begins before Memorial Day and is conducted weekly through Labor Day

1. Staff Update

- **Administrator** – after 33 years of service to the Town of Darien, Elaine Kilbourn will be retiring at the end of April. Her complete professionalism and dedication to serving the public will be impossible to replace. There will be a special event to commemorate Elaine's years of service in the Mather Center on Thursday, April 26 and all are invited. Michelle Rondano, who currently works in the P & Z office has accepted the challenge and will serve as Office Administrator for the Health and Human Services Departments beginning on May 1. A comprehensive Health Department policy & procedures manual has been developed to assist with the transition.
- **PHEP consultant discussion** – Michael Vincelli has been serving as our grant-funded consultant since Scot Phelps left last April. Michael is very knowledgeable and understands how to meet State deliverables under the grant, while serving the same role in four other communities in the region. The Fire Marshal's office has recently hired Nicholas Jossem who has a Master of Science degree in Emergency Management and served for a year as the Local Health Emergency Coordinator/Planner in Danville, Virginia. I have accepted his offer to assist in emergency public health planning since he is already embedded in the emergency response network of the Town, lives locally and would be responsible for reporting to only Darien if a regional emergency arose.

2. Food Protection Program – Status of State Mandated Changes to the CT Public Health Code & impact on our Program – continued discussion.

There still has been no regulatory guidance issued by the State for regulations scheduled to go into effect on July 1, 2018. As previously described, the new CT Food Code will involve the use of an inspection form that does not have scoring system which completely changes how we perform inspections and enforce correction of violations. It will necessitate revision to the Ratings program, the fee schedule and our local regulations.

- 155 Annual Food Service Permit renewal applications have been processed and all permits have been issued. Annual food service permits expire on January 1.
- Permit applications and pre-opening inspections for seasonal food service facilities are beginning. Nineteen (19) seasonal permits were issued last year.

Inspection Activities:

January 1 to March 31, 2018

- Routine Inspections – **105**, with 15 failures (14% Failure Rate)
Enforcement – 2 Hearings

October 1 to December 31, 2017

- Regular Inspections – **56***, with 6 failures (10% failure rate)

July 1 to October 1, 2017:

- Regular inspections – **117**, with 9 failures (7.6%);
Enforcement: 2 Notices of Intent to Suspend Permits to Operate and 3 Hearings
- Temporary events - 9 with 32 vendors

April 1 to July 1, 2017:

- Regular inspections – **126**, with 10 failures (7.9%);
Enforcement: 1 Notice of Intent to Suspend Permit to Operate and 2 Hearings.
- Temporary events – 11 with 43 vendors

3. **Flu Prevention Program – report from 2017-18.** As of December 31, 2017, we had administered 201 flu shots of the 250 doses of vaccine ordered. There was a tremendous local response after the tragic death of the youngster from New Canaan so we ordered additional vaccine to meet the demand and administered an additional 123 doses of vaccine in January. All 123 vaccinations were scheduled on-line; we did not participate in any open clinics as offered by the State.

	2017-18	2016-17	2015- 16	2014-15
Shots given	324	208	296	333
Doses ordered	250 (390)	300	350	400

4. **Radon Testing Program** – We received 50 free radon test kits from the State, distributed eleven, and received results from seven locations. The EPA recommended limit is 4.0 and only one exceeded that level, at 4.4 picocuries per liter. Free kits are still available to the public.

5. Drug Overdoses & Darien

- **AmeriCorps Report – Library Presentations (April 4 & May 15, 2018).** On April 4, a training session and demonstration organized by the Community Fund of Darien was offered showing how to acquire and administer Narcan. Legislative efforts and other resources to combat the opioid crisis were also discussed. Free Narcan kits were distributed courtesy of Silver Hill Hospital. On May 15th, we will participate in a panel discussion of the “Darien Opioid Needs Assessment”, a presentation of data obtained by the AmeriCorps program aimed at community outreach and drug abuse education in the towns of Fairfield County.
- **Legislative testimony submitted** – As Co-chair of the CADH Advocacy Committee, I participated drafting testimony on the following bills:
 - HB 511: An Act Concerning Opioids
 - SB 164: An Act Raising the Legal Age to Purchase Tobacco
 - HB 5458: Concerning the Regulation of the Retail Sale of Marijuana
 - HB 5150: Concerning DPH Recommended Changes to DOH Qualifications

- HB 5149: An Act Requiring the Registration of Sober Homes
- HB 5158: An Act Requiring Food Allergy Awareness Training in Restaurants.

Separate testimony was provided on the opioid bill advocating that overdoses be reported to local health departments as a poisoning event. Currently, there is no mechanism for reporting overdoses in real time in CT – we know how many people have died, but have no idea of how many non-fatal overdoses are occurring or how much Narcan is being administered. Without this information, effective community response is impossible.

6. EMS – response by category – as reported by Post 53:

2017

Group	Count	Pct
Fall Victim	279	16.7
Traffic Accident	219	13.1
Not Applicable	108	6.5
Traumatic Injury	106	6.4
Sick Person	95	5.7

2016

Group	Count	Pct
Fall Victim	297	18.0
Traffic Accident	194	11.8
Sick Person	113	6.8
Traumatic Injury	105	6.4
Breathing Problems	104	6.3

- Falls are consistently the major reason for EMS calls, average age of those being transported was 75.67.
- According to SEMS, in 2017, there were eight (8) reported overdoses necessitating the use of Narcan by EMS and/or Police Department responders. There is no data regarding family or bystander administration of Narcan.

7. Mosquitos & Ticks

- The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) maintains two monitoring sites for the collection and testing of mosquitos that transmit West Nile Virus and Zika. This office will issue press releases and public advisories as the situation warrants.
- We continue the FREE service of submitting ticks to the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to be tested for Lyme Disease.

**Respectfully Submitted,
David Knauf, Director of Health
April 17, 2018**