



Town of Darien

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Health Department

ABH Special Meeting Minutes

June 28, 2016

Town Hall – Room 203

1. Stamford Update

Stamford has chosen a new director of health to assume position in August. David's contract is just about over. He will remain acting in an advisory capacity until the new director takes over in late August.

2. Health Fair Concept

The Darien health Department has held health fair for the past 4 years, with great vendor involvement but not ideal public interest. With ongoing issues such as opiates and heroin abuse there is an opportunity to create a town-wide awareness campaign. So rather than a health fair, the DHD is proposing more of a public forum on this issue. The forum will also include some services traditionally offered at the yearly health fairs which include offering flu shots.

3. Opioid and Drug Discussion, Prescription Drop Box & Poster Contest. Possible Ordinance for Pharmacies.

We have reached nearly 2K pounds on unwanted drugs through our drug drop-off campaigns or via the secure bin at the Police Department. David also suggests working with the School Resource Officer to create a contest for poster awareness in the schools and to also promote the drop box at the Police Station. David also proposed researching the feasibility of requiring local pharmacies to display bright warning labels for certain medicines highlighting the dangers of medicines at high-risk for abuse or to also try a voluntary program

4. Health Needs Assessment Status

We are moving forward with this local health needs assessment and have submitted a FOIL request with The State of Connecticut Health Department to get hospital data for the community. This would enable the DHD to get data by zip codes for all hospitals in the area, particularly data regarding drug overdoses and instances focusing on substance abuse.

5. Emergency Preparedness – Report on Recent State Sponsored Drill

This has been a bid year for emergency preparedness. The DHD participated in a call-down drills and after-action report from Ebola. The Department also just participated in a mass-dispensing drill with the City of Stamford, who leads such initiatives for our area. The Emergency Preparedness Coordinator in Stamford stood up a dispensing site. There was some concern during the drill as to how emergency medications would filter down to the Town of Darien and there were some logistics issues at the Stamford receiving site. One of the recommendations after the drill was that The State improve communications to point-of-dispensing sites.

6. Food Protection Program Update - Rating and Proposed Fines

The DHD would like to revise its Restaurant Inspection rating, to go to a letter grade, more akin to our peer Health Departments. This really tells the whole story, with the addition of a QR code, which you can scan and see the detailed report online. The department would like to institute a fine if they do not post the grade in the window. The suggestion would be \$100 fine built around re-inspection timing. A facility can request a re-inspection but the facility would have to provide, in writing, what has been done to improve r mitigate any issues. Also, there is a new State regulation to make sure latex gloves are not provided in association with food preparation, with a fine of a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$500.

7. Asthma Programs

The Department has recently been involved in asthma response programs with Stamford Hospital regarding ER visits. When a patient has more than one ER visit for an asthma-related event, upon discharge, they can request the DHD to perform an evaluation of their home for asthma triggers. “Putting on Airs” and a State program will provide training to DHD staff and our Public Health Nurse to do these evaluations.

8. Zika Update – Vimeo Interview “Summertime Health Tips”

The DHD is trying to stay on top of the Zika situation via webinars, seminars and State sponsored sessions. We have posted the most current information on the town website. We have two monitoring stations in Darien that were initially set up for West Nile, and now can be a resource to monitor for the Zika carrying mosquito type as well as testing for virus presence.

9. “Don’t Fry-Day” Skin Cancer Prevention Program

Local epidemiologist is currently doing work on melanoma skin cancer and wanted to know if there were and similar Townwide programs. There has since been some collaborated on the topic and information has been put up in public areas where people spend a large amount of time outside.

10. Beach Report & DNA program

The DHD had started doing DNA bacteria testing in January and will continue to do so until this January. One year later, we will have the bacterial DNA source identified. We continue to close beaches for 2 tide cycles after heavy rain. Water sampling has started before Memorial Day and to-date we have not had a single exceedance of bacterial counts at Town beaches.

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