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City of West Haven Board of Health Meeting March 9, 2021 6:30 pm via WebEx

Present: Heather Shea, Chairwoman, Cebi Waterfield, Vice Chairwoman, Jean Mullins, Secretary, Kathy Tucker, member, Maureen Lillis, Director. Absent: Dr. Mohammad

Call to Order at 6:37pm

Pledge of Allegiance rendered.

Director Lillis gave a report regarding the Covid-19 situation in the City of West Haven. Since March of 2020, the current cases of Covid-19 in the City of West Haven are 4,790. The current number of deaths is 110. To date 30,331 West Haveners have been tested for Covid-19. Four individuals have tested positive for a different strain of Covid-19.

Vaccinations began at the end of January 2021. The first clinic was at Johnson Community Center, 201 Noble Street on January 29th. Clinics are held for Board of Education employees on Fridays.

Director Lillis said that a two day vaccine in person registration was held for residents sixty-five and older at the Italian-American Club. The Director expressed how difficult it is for residents that don't have computers to navigate through VAM. So VAMS has not been open up to the West Haven public and that is how it will continue.

Director Lillis mentioned that next week the homebound vaccination program will begin. She also mentioned that they're many residents that do not want the vaccine. She would like to spend time with those individuals to educate them.

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Member Tucker suggests looking at areas where there is a low vaccination rate. She wants the Health Department to investigate whether is an issue of transportation, or what other issues. Member Tucker also stated that there is hesitation in the black and brown communities and wishes to target those areas with education.

Member Tucker says the focus should be on particular neighborhoods and that the City needs to publicize more telling residents where to go. She knows plenty of people that want the vaccine, but don't know how to get it. She asked Director Lillis if she could get the Board data for neighborhoods. Director Lillis responded that she may not be able to get the data by neighborhood, because there is not a lot of data by neighborhood. She said that she can pull up the clinics information of residents that have been vaccinated. She will not have access to those residents vaccinated by Yale West, Walgreen's, etc.

Director Lillis says she can contact the people that provide the data list and get it narrowed down for us.

Vice Chairwoman Waterfield and member Tucker suggest that City officials public express why they got the vaccine to encourage others in the community to follow suit through public service announcements (PSAs). Director Lillis says in order to get the word out, resources are needed. The Health Department staff is very much stretched.

Vice Chairwoman Waterfield says that she has worked with a lot of volunteer nurses at the Yale clinics that are looking to pick up more hours. She says there are also retired doctors in the area that are looking to do work. She says that the City needs to leverage the social media accounts and express that vaccinators are needed and if the Director has a schedule out for the next two months of when clinic will be and how to contact the Director.

Member Tucker offered to help in getting volunteers from Yale to help with West Haven vaccinations. Secretary Mullins mentioned that at her job at Yale, many of her co-workers work in clinics during the weekends administering vaccines. There is a waitlist of employees. She feels that getting the message out, a lot more people could be involved.

Director Lillis says that residents getting their first vaccines are being given their appointments for their second vaccines.

Member Tucker asked if mobile vans were available. To help service neighborhoods. She says that she has some resources at Yale that may be of assistance. Director says there is a van that the Health Department uses that is operated by the Emergency Management. She stressed the importance of having a nurse on board.

Chairwoman Shea says that the action items are finding out how to get the data. The Board is suggesting adding a special meeting two weeks from today.

The special meeting will be held via WebEx on Tuesday, March 23rd at 6:30.p.m.

Chairwoman Shea motioned to adjourn, and it was seconded by Vice Chairwoman Waterfiled and passed unanimously at 7:33.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Mullins, RN
Board Secretary