LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

After more than a year responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, the health department was again faced with maintaining foundational public health services and continuing to coordinate and deliver emergency public health services. Despite these challenges, the department experienced rapid and meaningful growth, expanding the Administrative and Community Health divisions, preparing for the new Epidemiology division, and welcoming nearly a dozen new employees.

In March 2022, the health department was granted reaccreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) after several years of preparation before and during the pandemic. I would like to thank the many health department staff, Board of Health members, and city leadership for their efforts in achieving this recognition. Special thanks to our Accreditation Coordinator, Megan Faugno, who was paramount to the department meeting 100% of the PHAB measures. Lastly, thank you to Mayor Rilling, City of Norwalk leadership, and our grant funders for your continued support.

Deanna D'Amore, MPH
Director of Health

REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

Total: $4,792,257.37

City of Norwalk 57.7%

License & Permits 9.2%
Clinic, Nursing & Lab Fees 3.3%
Grants/State Reimbursement 29.8%

Operating Supplies 1.6%
Wages & Salaries 37.5%
Employee Fringe Benefits 23.3%
Contractual Services 7.8%
Grants 29.8%

Total: $4,792,257.37
COMMUNITY HEALTH

The Community Health Division works to strengthen partnerships, engage community members, and develop strategies to promote health equity and improve our community’s health. We provide information, services, and programs to encourage healthy living and advocate for community-wide changes to promote health for everyone who lives, works, learns, and plays in Norwalk.

KNOW YOUR NUMBERS

The Know Your Numbers program brings health screenings and resources into the community. We screened individuals at food pantries, offered brief education about their results, and connected them with healthcare partners if they didn’t have insurance or a doctor. We held 6 events and screened 91 individuals in April, May, and June 2022. Thank you to Norwalk Community Health Center, AccessHealthCT, Person-2-Person, Open Door Shelter, and Cornerstone Community Church for hosting and/or joining Know Your Numbers events!

NORWALKER

Many Norwalk residents know of the NorWALKer walking maps and events, but this year, the NorWALKer program grew to include pedestrian infrastructure initiatives and Complete Streets projects. Namely, we partnered with the City’s Transportation, Mobility, and Parking Department to help fund the installation of street trees in the West Main Street neighborhood as part of TMP’s Tree Canopy Improvement Plan. Street trees help improve air quality, provide shade, calm traffic, and provide a more pleasant walking environment.

COVID VACCINE EQUITY

We also led efforts to increase access to the COVID-19 vaccine, through the Vaccine Equity Partnership Fund and the COVID Immunization Action Plan Program (CAP). We worked with vaccine providers, community-based agencies, schools, businesses, faith-based organizations, and more to hold mobile vaccine clinics throughout the community and hire Community Health Workers to offer health education and support. From January to June 2022, the CAP team attended more than 30 community events and engaged with more than 1,200 individuals.

NorWALKer and COVID Vaccine Equity work were made possible by funding from the CT Department of Public Health.
Thanks in large part to the department's entirely volunteer-based Emergency Response Team (ERT), the Emergency Preparedness division had another successful year helping the Norwalk community move towards a healthier future. ERT members and department staff supported 60 vaccination clinics and screenings, three mass distributions of masks and at-home COVID-19 test kits, and the packing and distribution of thousands of pounds of food.

**FOOD DISTRIBUTION**

The first drive-through food distribution sparked national news coverage with its long line of cars overflowing out of Veteran's Park. Over 2,000 families were served that first day and volunteers registered a collective 315 service hours.

- Pre-packed bags of shelf-stable food sustained 1,090 families each month.
- Fresh produce, meat, and bread provided 65,800 meals every month for more than 3,000 family members.
- Volunteer staff donated 60 hours each week to keep the shelves stocked and bags full at the pantry.

**COVID-19 VACCINATION CLINICS**

Over the course of the 2021-22 year, 2,161.5 service hours were volunteered by ERT members to assist the health department to host 60 COVID-19 vaccination clinics for the public. Their dedication and enthusiasm is paramount to the ERT program's success.
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

HOUSING
- Housing Inspections: 672 conducted.
- Notices of Violations: 131 issued.
- Abatements: 161 abatements took place, an 81% increase from the previous year, 30 of which addressed violations from the previous year.
- Certificates of Occupancy for vacant apartments: 250 issued.
- Tenement registrations: 505 filed, a 9% decrease from the previous year.

LEAD PROGRAM
The Lead Program initiated or followed up on private consultant lead inspections that required a comprehensive lead inspection for lead-based paint, water, soil, and dust. 1 inspection occurred during the year.

PERMITS & LICENSES
- Swimming Pools: 25 inspected; 47 licensed. A 9% decrease from the previous year is attributed to COVID-19, as several pools remained closed for the season.
- Body Care Facilities: 130 inspected; 143 licensed.
- Massage Establishments: 11 licensed.
- Tanning Salons: 4 licensed.
- Septic Systems: 246 permits issued.
- New Systems: 24 permits issued.
- Repairs: 32 permits issued.
- Building Additions: 190 permits issued.
- Wells: 10 permits issued.

WEIGHTS & MEASURES
- Facility Inspections: 135 conducted.
- Scales, meters, and gas pumps meeting Consumer Protection requirements: 365 certified.

FOOD PROTECTION
- Food Inspections: 818 conducted.
- Food Establishment Licenses: 677, up 9% from the previous year.
- Lighthouse Awards: 256 Class 2, 3, & 4 establishments received an award, which means over half of the food establishments in Norwalk demonstrated excellent food safety!

WATER QUALITY
- 15 beaches were inspected on a weekly basis between Memorial Day Weekend and Labor Day Weekend.
- Due to high bacteria counts, Shady Beach was closed on 7/13/21 and Harbor View was closed on 8/10/21.
In FY 2021-22, the local COVID-19 contact tracing team, a partnership led by the Health Department, grew to 2 contact tracing staff members, along with continued tracing support from Family & Children's Agency (FCA) and the CT Department of Public Health.

Over 14,139 calls were made, including attempts, to reach new Norwalk COVID-19 cases and contacts. This effort resulted in over 1,301 contacts elicited in an effort to mitigate disease spread.

Contact tracers are vital in mitigating COVID-19 community spread through active notification, contact elicitation, health education, and support/guidance to those affected by the virus.

In close collaboration with the Mayor's Office, over 41 weekly, comprehensive COVID-19 reports were developed and shared with the Norwalk Community.

Up to June 29, 2022, Norwalk community vaccination efforts resulted in 88.48% of the city for at least one dose of the vaccine, 79.58% for fully vaccinated, and 42.58% for at least one additional or booster dose.

The health department's epidemiologist analyzed data and vaccination rates across Norwalk and used this information to inform department-wide vaccination efforts, including coordination and outreach.

Compared to the previous year and up to June 29, 2022, COVID-19 vaccination uptake in Norwalk increased by 22.86% for at least one dose of the vaccine and 21.16% for fully vaccinated city residents!
COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

Health department healthcare providers manage active tuberculosis (TB) disease cases and the evaluation and treatment of inactive (latent) tuberculosis infection. In FY 2021-22, there were 125 patient visits for latent TB and 3 active TB cases, which is the annual average in Norwalk.

SEXUAL HEALTH

During FY 2021-22, 259 people attended this clinic for services. 41.5% of these people were new patients to the health department. There was 100% compliance with prescribed treatment for sexually transmitted infections.

IMMUNIZATION ACTION PROGRAM

In the Norwalk region, 79% of the children born in 2018 received age-appropriate immunizations by their second birthday (1,577 of 2,008). This is the highest rate in Connecticut!

WOMEN, INFANTS, & CHILDREN

The Norwalk WIC Program staff returned to the office in June 2022 with two additional full time employees. Participant enrollment increased from 1,060 in May 2021 to 1,333 in May 2022.

The Abbott formula recall and shortage had a tremendous impact on the WIC families. WIC staff assisted participants in locating formula and accessing alternate brand allowances made by the Abbott Company and CT WIC during this time.

The Norwalk WIC Program continues to exceed state and local goals for benefits redemption, breastfeeding initiation, breastfeeding duration, and childhood anemia. Client survey results show an overall customer satisfaction rate of 82.7%.

TRAVEL & ADULT IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

In FY 2021-22, 496 doses of influenza vaccine and 240 doses of other vaccines were administered in the department's full-service travel and adult immunization program.
Preventing and controlling the spread of disease, promoting a healthy environment, and protecting the quality of life within our changing community.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Administration:
Deanna D’Amore, MPH, Director of Health
Patricia DiPietro, Administrative Technician
Megan Faugno, Project Coordinator
Aniella Fignon, JD, MPH, Public Health Program Associate
Elsa Garcia, Administrative Assistant
Irma Morton, Administrative Assistant
Catalina Mosquera, Bilingual Receptionist
Saleska Quesada, Medical Biller
Karla Rodriguez-Alicea, Health Operations Manager

Emergency Preparedness:
Glenn Iannaccone, MPA, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Donna Schlegel, Volunteer Coordinator

Environmental Health:
Kyle Bader, Housing Inspector
Cindy Bermudez, Housing Inspector
Kevin Closter, Health Inspector
Shaun Duffy, RS, Sanitarian
Jason Hanlon, Sealer of Weights & Measures
Clarence Joseph, MS, RS, Sanitarian
Adrian Leahy, Health Inspector
Bill Mooney, RS, Sanitarian, Assistant Director of Health, Environmental Health
Elizabeth Rusk, RS, Sanitarian
Yvonne Whynes, Housing Inspector

Epidemiology:
Brian Weeks, MSPH, CIC, Epidemiologist

Community Health:
Theresa Argondezzi, MPH, CHES, Assistant Director of Health, Community Health
Rochelle Felix, Community Health Worker
Jahliah Green, Health Education Associate
Kelley Meier, MPH, CHES, Health Educator
Jake Tobias, Community Health Worker
Elinol Ventura de Pol, Community Health Worker

Preventable Diseases:
Tahirah Armstrong, Contact Tracer
Pamela Bates, BSN, RN, Immunization Action Plan Coordinator
Julie Cheung, Medical Assistant/Laboratory Technician
Sarah Foristel, IAP Outreach Worker
Chelcia Foster, APRN, Advanced Practice Provider
Donna Haupt, PA, Advanced Practice Provider
Darleen Hoffler, MHA, BSN, RN, Supervisor of Clinical Services
Rebecca Mayberry, IAP Area Coordinator
Pauline Pochette, BSN, RN, CPH, Public Health Nurse
David M Reed, MD, MPH, Medical Director
Kory Tobias, BSN, RN, Public Health Nurse
Shari Van Ness, Contact Tracer

Women, Infants & Children:
LaShawnda Lee-Cantey, Nutrition Aide
Kestine Osbourne, MS, RD, CLC, WIC Nutritionist
Rita Rodriguez, Program Assistant
Monica Spier, CDM, CFPP, CLC, WIC Site Nutritionist

BOARD OF HEALTH

Vincent Amoruccio, MS, MA
Matthew Brovender, Esq.
Janet Karpiak, MD
Kenneth Lalime, RPh
Theresa Quell, PhD, MSN, RN
Norman Weinberger, MD

CITY LEADERSHIP

Mayor Harry W. Rilling
Lamond Daniels, LCSW, MPA, Chief of Community Services

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