

**Health Commission  
City of Stamford  
APPROVED MINUTES  
February 20, 2014**

Commissioners Present: Dr. Barbara Decker, Ms. Patricia Parry, Dr. Bert Ballin, and Dr. Margaret Cobb

Guests Attended: Ms. Pam Scott, Recording Secretary, Ellen Brezovsky, HIV Supervisor

Meeting called to order		Dr. Decker called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
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Additional Agenda Items:	Ms. Parry requested the following item to be added to the agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health Commission meeting time – potential change in the meeting time.</li> </ul>	Ms. Parry moved to add the items to the agenda; Dr. Cobb seconded. Approved unanimously.
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Minutes:

Minutes of January 9, 2014	Minutes from the January 9, 2014 meeting were reviewed.	Ms. Parry moved to approve January 9, 2014 minutes with changes/corrections. Dr. Ballin seconded. Approved unanimously.
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Correspondence:

There was no correspondence		
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Appeals:

There were no appeals		
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Presentation:

Ms. Ellen Brezovsky, HIV Prevention Supervisor  <i>Update of the services provided by the HIV Prevention Program</i>	Ms. Brezovsky gave an update to the HC of what services were provided and the changes in CDC focus and funding. <b>What was provided:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Services were based on skill building and risk reduction counseling to foster behavior change.</li> <li>Provided multi-session curriculum based educational groups at drug treatment programs,</li> </ul>	
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HC = Health Commission

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GSA=Gay Straight Alliance

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	<p>shelters, after school programs and some in school, continuing education programs, and local agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Counseling with testing provided after the groups and throughout the community. School based health centers.</li> </ul> <p><b>The CDC focus and funding has now changed:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since it has been determined that 1 out every 5 people who are infected with HIV do not know their status (20%), the push is to test more people to find that 20% (Routine testing – Optimus, SBHC, STD clinic, and Planned Parenthood).</li> <li>• The theory is, once people know they are HIV+ they are more likely to get treatment and once on treatment (goal of viral load being undetectable) they are much less likely to transmit the disease to others. (Test and Treat)</li> <li>• Treatment now = prevention which for us means we need to test as many people as possible OTL (no counseling at the time of testing).</li> </ul> <p>HIV Prevention Program is continuing to use the HIV Mobile Van to go to different neighborhoods, get off the van, outreach and bring back to the van to test – rapid test Oraquick 20 minutes. Confirm with Orasure.</p> <p>HIV Prevention Program goal is to outreach to 1800 individuals, test 600 and of those 600 find at least 6 newly diagnosed HIV+ clients (1%).</p> <p>From January 2013 – December 2013, the HIV Program outreached to approximately 8,000 individuals through street outreach and single session groups. We performed 801 HIV tests with</p>	
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	<p>2 positive but they were not newly diagnosed (in 2012, we tested 525).</p> <p>Ms. Brezovsky said, they will outreach through community agencies (such as, Yerwood, Inspirica, Soup Kitchen, Shelters, Drug Treatment, Neighbors Link, various health fairs throughout the year and provide testing as well. They will also advertise their services on the City website and now that the City has a Facebook page, they hope to advertise some of their services/special events on there as well.</p> <p>They continue to work with Stamford Cares, an agency of Family Centers to link clients living with HIV to Partner Notification, medical care and HIV prevention counseling services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Part of their funding from the State will be used to provide Comprehensive Risk Reduction Services to either people living with HIV or those at very high risk of contracting the virus. They can also provide some prevention counseling to those that we test who could use additional education.</li> </ul> <p>In 2013, HIV Prevention Program provided prevention counseling to 292 individuals (the goal was 212) and provided comprehensive risk reduction services to 21 individuals (the goal was 15).</p> <p>The City funding allocated to them allows the continuation of some educational groups but 2 sessions at the most (no longer 6 sessions) and provide some services to teens, and health fairs.</p>	
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	<p><b>Challenges:</b> To continue to find new places to outreach and provide testing to find the newly diagnosed. Outreaching to the MSM community (MSM of color is where they are seeing some of the newly diagnosed).</p> <p>HIV Prevention Program has reached out to area churches and GSA groups in the community.</p>	<p>Dr. Decker thanked Ms. Brezovsky on the behalf of the HC for her presentation.</p>
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**Old Business**

<p><b>Walkability / Pedestrian Safety</b></p>	<p>Dr. Decker distributed copies of an Executive Summary from SWRPA, Bicycle-Pedestrian Safety Corridors Study, dated 2012.</p> <p>Dr. Decker talked about a study that the Eastside Partnership is conducting. They will be collecting data about the Eastside and problem streets. Dr. Decker will be working with the group. She questioned if the HC supports this as a public health issue and how can they be most effective to getting something changed.</p> <p>Ms Parry commented on the number of sidewalk that have not been shoveled and specifically noted that adults with young children are walking on Palmer’s Hill Rd to get to the child care center because the sidewalk is impassable.</p> <p>There was addition discussion about trucks and cars parking on sidewalks and blocking both walking and vehicular traffic.</p>	<p>Dr. Decker and Dr. Cobb will schedule a meeting with Mayor Martin to discuss the issue of walkability in Stamford.</p> <p>Ms. Parry motioned that a letter be sent to Director Jankowski, asking about enforcement of city statutes that require sidewalks be cleared. Dr. Cobb seconded. Approved unanimously. The HC agreed to inquire about statutes in the City that prevent parking on sidewalks.</p> <p>Dr. Decker will invite Director Jankowski to attend the Health Commission meeting next month.</p>
<p><b>Community Health Needs</b></p>	<p>In follow-up to the discussion about colonoscopy screening at last month’s meeting, There is also</p>	<p>Ms. Parry reported that she has been told there back log has been eliminated.</p>

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	<p>regulation from a surgical society to have surgical residents do some colonoscopies, under supervision. Dr. Cobb suggested that the Health Department should partner with Stamford Hospital on matters of public health.</p> <p>Ms. Parry suggested that the HD might consider how they can address public health issues identified in the Community Needs assessment. She spoke about a researcher (Mary Tinetti) from Yale who studies falls in the elderly. Tinetti published an article years back that showed how asking a question – or several questions – about falls in an elderly population, ultimately impacted the incidence of falls over time. Perhaps the HD might consider same such query with physicians on topics related to identified needs such as Quantiferon TB testing in foreign born or mental health in teenagers. .</p>	<p>The HC members agreed to give this consideration for next month’s meeting.</p>
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**New Business**

There was no new business		
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**Adjournment:**

There being no further business before the regular session of the HC, Ms. Parry moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 a.m., Dr. Decker seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
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Submitted by,  
*Pam Scott*  
Pam Scott/pp  
Recording Secretary

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