

April 5, 2022

Mr. Rudy Marconi, First Selectman
Town of Ridgefield
400 Main Street
Ridgefield, CT 06877

Dear Rudy,

As discussed over the course of 2021 and most recently when we met on March 21st, I am, once again, requesting funding from the Town of Ridgefield – ARPA or otherwise – to help cover the expense of providing RVNAhealth nurses to administer vaccines at the Yanity Gym COVID-19 vaccination clinics, held January through April 2021.

RVNAhealth was first on the scene as a state-approved COVID-19 vaccine administrator to deliver the vaccine to the Ridgefield community. We immediately purchased and installed ultra-low temperature freezers required for vaccine storage. We dedicated staff to the weekly ordering of the vaccine and inventory management. We were the purveyors of professional, skilled nurses and delivered upon a safe, high-quality program, administering more than 13,000 vaccines to protect the Ridgefield community. Over four months, we collaborated with the police department, health department, Ed Briggs, Dick Aarons and our Superintendent of Schools to safely vaccinate our first responders, public school teachers and administrators, and residents. Aside from the CERT volunteers who willingly donated their time and expertise, all parties involved with the execution of the Yanity Gym clinics were compensated for their role. All except RVNAhealth.

RVNAhealth provided an incredible public health service to this town, which came at a tremendous agency expense. We supplied the vaccines, medical supplies, and the skilled nurses to put shots in arms. The Yanity Gym clinics cost the agency \$262,115 in unreimbursed costs. As identification was not initially required (so as to not deter people from getting vaccinated), people desperate to be vaccinated falsified birth dates at registration, leading to the denial of claims with no recourse. Commercial insurers were slow to issue billing codes for shot administration and Medicare billing procedures were not solidified until April. Ultimately, RVNAhealth's collections rate was 25%, with a write-down exceeding \$250,000.

Ridgefield's high vaccination rate and low positivity rate are numbers to be proud of, but they are due, in no small part, to the role and commitment of RVNAhealth. I attach the budget report exhibiting our unreimbursed expenses for the more than 13,000 vaccines administered at the 2021 Yanity Gym clinics, and respectfully request compensation from the Town of Ridgefield.

Sincerely,



Theresa Santoro, MSN, RN, CHCA
President & CEO