

EAST SHORE DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
688 East Main Street, Branford CT
Executive Board Meeting - Thursday, November 10, 2022, at 3:30 pm
Virtual - Zoom Meeting

Present: Susan Addiss, Michael Pascucilla,
Virginia Fallon, Darlene Zimmermann,
Elaine Anderson, Susan Deko, Marissa DeChillo-Bateman

Absent: Dennis Nastri, Michael Turcio

Meeting called to order by Susan Addiss at 3:36 pm.

1. Welcome
2. Public Comment
3. Minutes from September and October – tabled minutes, as there were some glitches in sending and receiving digital recordings to the secretary with larger size. Director to discuss process going forward. Proposal and discussion on approval via email.
4. Correspondence – The Director received correspondence from a community member from East Haven, regarding concerns about Tweed airport on water and air pollution. The ESDHD has already addressed concerns in the past regarding the expansion. There has been discussion about expanding the airport in both East Haven and New Haven. The Director reported that airports are governed by federal and state laws with concerns brought forth by local districts. Conversations with the state have taken place regarding resident concerns for water and air pollution. The Director reports that there have not been any concerns about water pollution. We have had some concerns about planes crashing but that is not in the jurisdiction of the local health department. There have been some concerns about air pollution but again that falls under state and federal jurisdiction. The state will continue to do the approvals unless the local district is solicited to be involved. Melissa noted that there has been a request from Mayor’s office to have an Environmental Assessment. The Director noted that phase one of this request has started. He will reach out to the Mayor’s office and the Department of State Energy and Environmental Protection and the Department of Transportation regarding correspondence, updates and the next steps regarding the communities concerns.
5. Old Business
 - ESDHD Financial Advisor – Updated Fund Recommendations – Chris recommended that the bond rates are currently at 4 or 4.5 % and recommends we put some of the funds in these investments. Now is a good time to get in the market and buy low. The Director will share his report via email in the next few days.

- Health Department file digitation project – Purchased a scanner. Have designated working space in the office to begin the process of scanning documents in the next few months. The project will take over a year to complete.
- Board meeting calendar discussion – no meeting to be held next month. Discussion on time change to Wednesdays at 3:00 and try to keep to 1 hour and a half.
- ESDHD Retreat occurred and it went well. The focus was on the PHAB accreditation.
- PHAB Accreditation Application Status –awaiting to hear from Board, anticipate hearing around the first of next year.
- Submitted abstract to CPHA and APHA on Climate Change Photojournalism Project/Interns – both accepted.

6. New Business

- ESDHD/CWA Union MOA – reviewing salary for the environmental staff that was just certified in between contracts.
- CT DPH Opioid Grant Award - \$80,000 award given to ESDHD for the next two years, \$40,000 a year. Grant entails meeting one on one with physicians in the community to discuss prescribing of opioids. Educating them about the new laws around prescribing and reducing the number of prescriptions related to the opioid crises. Received past grant and program was successful, will help build relationships with physicians and practices. Awaiting grant deliverables.
- Director will send an update, we are starting to see an increase in flu, coronavirus and RSV.
- Flu vaccine update given by Director – going well, good turnout. Will be purchasing more vaccines. Now projected to be giving over 2,000 vaccines.
- NACHO MRC RISE Grant - \$75,000 regional grant for region 2. Currently putting together several projects. We were one of 25 health departments across the country who received this grant.
- ESDHD Local Per Capita Rate for town members, currently the per capita is \$12.10 for each town. Looking to increase it to \$12.89. The budget committee met and agreed that this was a good increase for this coming year. With the cost of inflation, increase in operational cost, the fair market value for public health salaries will need to be adjusted. A state-wide salary survey will be conducted. Covid relief funding continues. Opioid settlement funding being distributed to towns. In addition, the population has slightly decreased. Discussion took place on the budget. EH representatives both voted

yes one was absent, North Branford voted yes one was absent, and Branford all voted yes. The per capita was unanimously approved.

- A few candidates have applied for the environmental health specialist/sanitarian vacancy. Two interviews were scheduled, not many applications were received due to a workforce shortage. If future experienced candidates are not received may move forward with accepting entry-level candidate. Director will explore NACHO as advertisement possibility.

7. Director's Report

- ESDHD PH Activity Reports (Environmental, Emerg. Preparedness, Education & Nursing).
- ESDHD Union Negotiations – Collective Bargaining Contract Expiration 6/2022 – Elaborated again we are on an extension and are currently in the process of contract negotiations.
- ESDHD 2022-2023 Adopted Budget Report – Discussed Per Capita previously in the meeting. The process will continue through the winter. The Director will meet with the committee at the beginning of the year to review discussions with the towns, then it will be brought to the Board.

8. Motion to adjourn by Virginia and 2nd by Darlene. All in favor. Adjourned at 4:41 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Carrano

Angela Carrano, DNP, MSN, RN, Secretary