

Public Health Agency  
323 Route 81  
Killingworth, CT 06419

March 8, 2017  
MINUTES

**Members Present:** Chair Natalie Ortolini Drew, Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, Cathy Iino, Sue Nesci, and Health Director Paul Hutcheon.

**Guest:** Mike Stehney, M.D.

**Members Absent:** Cheryl Fine, Martha Hogan, Michelle Kelvey-Albert and Ernest Pizzuto

Chair Natalie Ortolini Drew called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

### **Minutes**

**MOTION:** Betty Dennis moved and Cathy Iino seconded acceptance of the February 8th minutes. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortolini Drew, Betty Dennis, Cathy Iino, and Sue Nesci; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: Robin Duffield. The motion carried 4:0:1.

Paul introduced Dr. Mike Stehney. Dr. Stehney indicated he is a semi-retired family practice doctor, who presently oversees resident training at Middlesex Hospital.

The tour of the Emergency Operations Center was postponed.

**First Selectman Update** -Cathy Iino reported on the following issues:

**State Legislation-** She reviewed a CT Conference of Municipalities report on state legislation:

**Local Health Department Consolidation-** HB 7170 addresses regionalization. Paul noted that at a public hearing before the Public Health Committee yesterday, only the state health department testified in support of regionalization. All the other testimony (47) was against the regionalization proposal.

**FDA Food Code-** SB 844 proposes a statewide model food code. Sue asked if it proposed the FDA food code, which the committee had discussed. Paul indicated that it didn't appear to but he would check. He emailed after the meeting that the SB 901 proposes the FDA food code (public hearing March 13).

**Budget-** Cathy explained that uncertainty over the adoption, timing, and cuts in the Governor's budget proposal is causing concern among towns. Currently, the proposal cuts \$2 million in education cost sharing from Killingworth's \$5 million budget and adds one-third of the cost of teacher pensions to the local budget. She questioned how cost would be divided in a regional school district. Robin, who teaches in the district, responded that the Superintendent has indicated cost-sharing will be on a per pupil basis. Cathy added that the town's grand list is down 4.6%, which will also impact the

town budget. She added that we may have to look at the \$600 line item for local programs in the department's budget.

**Health Director Update** Paul provided the following updates on some of the ten essential local health department services.

**Diagnose & Investigate Health Problems & Hazards-** There were several questions on radon. Paul indicated that results from radon test kits in past years suggest that radon is randomly distributed in the town. Robin asked if there were any records to indicate that blasting for foundations affected radon levels. Paul replied that the fire marshal keeps blasting permits, so there is no blasting information in the health department's files. He added that a new requirement means that new foundations will set up to ventilate in case of radon.

**Inform & Educate about Public Health-** Paul visited the weekly senior luncheon meetings at the Congregational Church twice; once to promote the Sitercise class and a second time to distribute the remaining radon kits.

Cathy reported that the Killingworth Women's organization as part of Domestic Violence Awareness is teaming with Artful Productions to present a production of "The Letter." The production is based on a letter sent to the judge in the Stamford sexual assault case.

**Enforce Laws & Regulations-** Four of the five restaurants have responded to the new annual inspection fee. Paul is following up on the fifth restaurant. Restaurants used to be billed quarterly.

**Develop Public Health Policies and Plans-** There is a proposal to adopt a statewide property maintenance code, which would apply to all housing. Current state statutes only apply to rental property. Paul noted that if this proposal is adopted, it could have a significant impact. There are several bills in the Public Health Committee dealing with concussions.

**Assure competent public and personal health care workforce-** Paul reported that he completed two of the 31 online modules in the FDA Food Code training course. He noted that the two modules required a background in microbiology. He remarked that many food inspectors, even with science degrees, may not have that background.

**Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services-** The committee began an initial review of priorities in the Middlesex Hospital's Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Strategy. The four priorities are 1) mental health-access to services; 2) substance abuse- access to treatment for alcohol abuse, opiod awareness and increased access to naloxone to prevent overdose; 3) health aging- improving outcomes to promote healthy aging in place; and 4) asthma- improving outcomes.

Robin and Mike recommended that we consider access to adolescent mental health services within driving distance. Cathy noted that efforts to get bus service to Middletown have been stalled because the state won't approve a 20% match to a federal grant. She asked how HK Youth & Family Services and the schools services related. Robin said that while Family Services provides counseling, the school's role is

educational--to teach coping skills. Robin indicated that by middle school, students self manage asthma and it is not an issue in school. Sue recommended that we include healthy aging as a priority.

**MOTION:** Cathy lino moved and Robin Duffield seconded a motion to adjourn. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortolini Drew, Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, Cathy lino, and Sue Nesci; Opposed: 0; Abstentions:0. The motion carried 5:0:0.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm. The next meeting will be April 12, 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

*Susan M. Nesci*

Susan Nesci, Secretary