

Public Health Agency
323 Route 81
Killingworth, CT 06419

February 13, 20019
MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Natalie Ortoli Drew, Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, Cathy lino, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, Mike Stehney, and Health Director Paul Hutcheon.

Members Absent: Cheryl Fine

Chair Natalie Ortoli Drew called the meeting to order at 7:06pm. She moved the agenda to New Business in order to accommodate a presentation by the East Shore Health District.

Policies & Plans Supporting Individual/Community Health-Health District Evaluation-
Paul Hutcheon introduced Michael Pascuicilla, M.P.H., R.E.H.S., Director of Health, East Shore Health District, who gave an overview of the health district and answered questions.

Geographic Coverage- The district includes three towns: East Haven, Branford, and North Branford. It serves an estimated population (2017 census update) of 71,176. The office is in Branford. The district was established in 1974 and has 45 years of public health experience. It serves as the lead agency for Mass Dispensing Area (MDA) district 21 and the Medical Research Corps district 2.

Robin Duffield asked how services for our regional school system, covered by a different health district ,would work. Michael responded that the district would work with existing systems to integrate services, such as flu clinics for the schools. Sue Nesci asked how the needs of Killingworth, a small rural town of 6,500, not geographically contiguous, would fit in with the district. Michael responded that North Branford with a population of 14,000 is more rural and similar to Killingworth.

Staffing-The district has 23 staff members, including full-time, part-time staff, contractors, and student interns from Southern CT State and Yale Universities. All division leads hold masters and most of the staff have bachelors degrees or higher. Michael has been with the district for 10 years. He said that staff members are assigned to specific towns, attend town meetings but do not hold office hours in member towns. They work onsite in conference rooms, when there is a need. If Killingworth joined the district, they would hire a full-time sanitarian. Cathy lino said that Killingworth would require staff to have office hours in town hall.

Board- The district has an eight member board, appointed for a three year term by their town's mayor, selectman, or town council. The Board meets eight times per year. The Director of Health serves as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Budget- The district's budget of \$1.5 million is comprised of local and state per capita funding, state and federal grants, user fees and permits. If our town joined the district, both per capita charges and user fees would go to the district.

Per Capita-The district's current per capita rate is \$8.29. Michael said that using a population of 6,401 from the census, the cost for the 2018-2019 fiscal year for our town to join the district would be \$53,306. The remainder of the year would be prorated.

Services- The district meets the 10 essential public health services and enforces the state Public Health Code. It is pursuing national accreditation through Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Michael reviewed services for three of 10 essential public health services and provided a written overview of the others. The district uses and monitors a wide range of traditional and social media and provides a number of programs to keep people informed about health issues. It uses focus and advisory groups to mobilize community partnerships and assess local needs. It is working on evaluating and improving use of technology. This includes putting all databases and applications on line, digitizing records, and moving toward mobile technology. Mobile technology will allow use of tablets for field inspections..

Minutes- The committee reviewed the minutes from the January 9th meeting. Paul Hutcheon made the following corrections or clarifications (*italics*):

- Page 1-Minutes-Staffing- He explained that Westbrook is a health department covering a single town, not a health district, which covers *two* or more towns.
- Page 1- Inspections- Paul reported that Greg Mattus, our part-time sanitarian, completed 9 restaurant inspections in December.
- Page 2-Mosquito-Related Viruses- Paul reported that the state health department sent out a notice recommending that towns consider using larvicide if they *consistently have* one *West Nile Virus* positive for mosquitoes or *have had* two locally acquired human or equine West Nile virus cases *since 2000*.
- Page 2- Glyphosphate- Paul responded that commercial applications pose a *specific* risk.
- Page 2-Options for Local Public Health Services- Their district covers East Haven, Branford, and North *Branford*. Paul said their per capita is about in the ballpark of *what we currently spend*.

MOTION: Ernest Pizzuto moved and Betty Dennis seconded a motion to accept the January 9th minutes, as amended. Voting in favor: Natalie Ortoli Drew, Betty Dennis, Robin Duffield, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions: Cathy Iino. The motion carried 6:0:1.

First Selectman Update- Cathy reported on a system called Solarware. It works like a traffic speed signal but tells your sun exposure. She noted that the system was too expensive. A lease was \$250 month per unit.

Health Director Update -Paul reported the following:

Enforce Laws/Regulations that Protect Health & Safety- Cabin in the Woods- Paul inspected a property with the Assessor. The Assessor identified a cabin that was built that but not on the tax rolls and with no permits issued. The property owner has been requested to apply for an after-the-fact permit to construct at which time all appropriate regulations will be applied.

Diagnose & Investigate Health Problems/Hazards- Mosquito-Related Viruses- The town didn't meet the level for the use of larvicide that the state recently recommended.

Measles-Paul followed up with one Killingworth resident, who was exposed to a measles case at a hospital. The resident reporting being vaccinated. There was a question on the current vaccination recommendations. Mike Stehney, MD, said that the current recommendation is for two vaccinations but the state considers you covered if you have had one shot.

Flu Shots- The state health department reported this year's flu vaccine is a good match for the A flu strain currently circulating.

Restaurant Inspection Scores- There were questions on our restaurant inspection scores in light of recent media coverage releasing individual restaurants inspection scores. Paul said that most of our restaurants are in good shape.

He explained that there is a workgroup currently trying to come up with a letter grading system for the new FDA code. A letter grading system of A,B,C,D is used under the current state Public Health Code. A restaurant with a score of less than 80 or one of more failed inspections has two weeks for corrections or closure.

Policies & Plans Supporting Individual/Community Health- Options for Local Public Health Services-Paul had a meeting the day before with Guilford and Madison regarding their interest in forming a health district. He needs to follow up with Cathy. He added that it is a lot of work to form a new health district.

Proposed State Legislation- There are currently 254 bills affecting public health that have been submitted for review by General Assembly committees. A bill passed late last session permitting itinerant food vendors to get one license to sell statewide. There is a move to abolish the statute.

MOTION: Robin Duffield moved and Cathy lino seconded a motion to adjourn. Voting in favor: Betty Dennis, Natalie Ortoli Drew, Robin Duffield, Cathy lino, Sue Nesci, Ernest Pizzuto, and Mike Stehney; Opposed: 0; Abstentions :0. The motion carried 7:0:0

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm. The next meeting will be March 13, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Nesci

Sue Nesci, Secretary