

**Wallingford Board of Health
45 South Main Street, Town Hall, Rm 315
Minutes of September 4, 2024**

Call to Order: 8:36 a.m. by Eloise Hazelwood, Acting Director of Health.

Present: Mayor Cervoni, Chair Isaac Cardona, Len Guercia, Kathy Neelon, Tracey Weeks, Dr. Smith, Medical Advisor

Guest: Anne Bernick, Public Health Nurse
Aimee Turner Asst School Superintendent, Special Education and School Nurse oversight

Minutes: DRAFT Minutes, May 8, 2024 approved as distributed.

Agenda: See Director's Report (attached)

1. Infectious Diseases: Anne Bernick

- a. Review of COVID infections, increase in the number of cases for the summer months-discussion possibly due to increased indoor activity (heat related)
- b. Discussed an increase of Pertussis cases in CT; adults should update/booster to prevent illness
- c. Seasonal Flu Clinics scheduled with East Shore Health District:
 - 10/15/24 Senior Center 10:30-12:30
 - 10/24 Town Hall noon – 1:30
 - 10/26/24 Public Library 10:00 -noon (provided by Beacon Health)
 - Additional clinics may be scheduled

2. School Health: Aimee Turner (see attached charts)

- a. Review of case count of illness that are required to be reported
- b. Review of total number of office visits; discussion on the staff visits related to behavioral issues within the classroom
- c. Discussion on the chronic absenteeism and potential causes (> 10 absences considered “chronic”); intervention implemented includes LEAP grant (Learner Engagement Attendance Program) includes hiring of licensed psychologist (Trauma Specialist)
- d. Guidance from CDC to prevent Respiratory Illness was shared with parents/schools
- e. Discussion on waitlist for school physicals for children without medical providers-delays prevent the child from attending school

Directors Report (See attached):

3. Environmental: Reviewed all items listed on the Director's report

- a. Discussion on the complexity of Hoarding from a code enforcement aspect
- b. Discussion on the required actions to conduct a Comprehensive Lead Inspection and use of an professional contracted staff to conduct the XRF testing (see Directors Report for “action levels”)

4. Public Health Emergency Preparedness Response: : Reviewed all items listed on the Director's report

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5. Community Outreach/ Health Education: Reviewed all items listed on the Director's report

6. Community Partnership: See the Director's report.

- a. Updated the Board on progress of the revised Wallingford Health Improvement Plan and reviewed the current focus area; Healthy Wallingford has been an action item since the year 2000- plan and action steps to address community health needs is revised every 5 years, current plan 2025-2030
- b. Discussion on the T DPH and DMAS "LiveLoud.org" initiative to reduce stigma of Opioid addictions; - program developed six years ago-but apparently not widely shared with Local Health or other more local partners
- c. Discussed the ARPA grant fund to CHC for a mobile clinic (van) and what services it they will provide. CHC representative and the van will be available for viewing and questions as to use/location/process etc. in the near future. Director will notify BoH members of the date/time.

7. Public Health Policies: Reviewed as part of School Health report

8. Competent Workforce and Development: See the Director's Report

- a. Discussed the need for Council approval of job description, hopefully in October to ensure sufficient time for posting/interviews
- b. Reviewed DPH CTtrain; BoH members are able to create an account to complete the MANY training opportunities; discussed new modules for review of the administrative aspects of code enforcement (violations of CT Public health Code are criminal misdemeanors)

9. Administrative: See the Director's Report

- a. Discussed the proposed office renovations and timeframe
- b. Vanessa Bautista, DoH, scheduled to return from FMLA in October

Meeting adjourned: 8:54am

Next Meeting: December 4, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,

Eloise Hazelwood

Eloise Hazelwood, RS, MPH
Acting Director of Health



Town of Wallingford, Connecticut
Health Department

Vanessa Bautista, M.P.H., R.S.
Director of Health

(203) 294-2065
health@wallingfordct.gov

45 South Main Street Room 215
Wallingford, CT 06492



Wallingford Board of Health
Director's Report for September 4, 2024

1. Infectious Diseases (Anne Bernick)

- Infectious disease update
- Proposed flu clinics: Town Employees, 10/24/24 noon-1:30
Senior center 10/15/24 10:30-12:30

2. Environmental:

- Local Food Ordinance, Chapter 122 approved by Council June 25, 2024; fees approved by Council July 23, 2024
 - o Quality v. quantity- need to impart education along with enforcement; decline in number of inspections is expected with increased time commitment per inspection; staffing levels to be reviewed
- Subsurface Sewage Ordinance, Chapter 177, Article II under review
 - o Repairs increasingly more complicated (MLSS, poor soils, useable space)
- PH nuisance complaints typical for summer season; Hoarding continues to present challenges
- CT DPH resurrecting "Healthy Homes" under Environmental Justice Program (new dept.)
- CT Childhood Lead Poisoning and Prevention changes for "Inspections" effective Jan. 2025
 - o reduced to 5 ug/dl from the current level of ≥ 10 ug/dl.
 - o 2023 Wallingford data from CT DPH: 1 cs ≥ 10 ug/dl and 3 cs ≥ 5 ug/dlDifference is Risk Assessment versus Comprehensive Inspection

3. Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP):

- ESF 8 Regional meetings cancelled for summer; resume in September
- Odali and Nina attended the CERT training on 8/14/24-Len Guercia instructor
- (4) CPR/AED Classes conducted, total of 33 participants

4. Community Outreach:

- Wallingford Health and Wellness Fair, several local partners participated- attendance 190-200
- Masonic Health Fair (June 8, 2024)
- Cosmic Community Day by the Coalition for Better Wlfd (8/17/24)
- Public Service Announcements-Video's for Instagram, FB
 - o Heat Exhaust
 - o Emergency "go-bag"
 - o AED usage

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5. Community Partnerships:

- Community partners invited to the Strategic Planning meeting (8/28/24) for the revised Wallingford Health Improvement Plan based on the Community Health Assessment by DataHaven. Co-chairs Health and YMCA
 - o Goal to align with the SHIP focus areas for a 5 year improvement plan:
WHIP Focus areas: Community Strength and Resilience
Healthy Lifestyle/Healthy Living
Mental Health and Substance Abuse*
- *DMAS/DPH [LiveLOUD.org](https://www.liveloud.org) Initiative- Opioid Outreach and Support to reduce stigma of addiction; animated video's able to modified to include local contact information
- YSS and SCOW partnership for Youth QPR program (3-weeks, 1/wk.) presented by Health Educator and Emergency Prep. Coordinator
- RPA grant funds to CHC for a mobile clinic (van); provide services where needed such as SCOW/Masters Manna. CHC staff/vehicle will be available for your viewing/questions in the near future

6. Public Health Policies:

- Implications, if any, from PA 21-6 removing non-medical exemptions for childhood immunizations

7. Maintain a competent public health workforce:

- F/T position approved in FY 24-25 (PH Educator/Emergency Preparedness Coordinator-Job description under review by HR, then requires Mayor and Council approval -hopefully before end of the CY
- DPH launching 9 modules on CT Train-for new DOH/Management or as a refresher (Administrative module includes Legal Orders, Appeal Hearings, Arrest Warrants)

8. Administrative:

- ELC 2 Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Cooperative Agreement Funding extended 3/31/26
- Opioid Settlement Funding used to hire for Health Improvement Plan; additional funds remain
- Public Health Workforce Development Grant ends 1/4/25
- ARPA funding approved for office renovations-PW; Veteran's Affairs Office needs to be relocated first
- Position for F/T PH Educator/Emergency Preparedness Coordinator approved in FY24/25 budget: job description awaiting Mayoral/Council approval- October agenda request

Next Meeting: December 4, 2024

Respectfully Submitted,

Eloise Hazelwood, RS, MPH
Acting Director of Health