

Wallingford Board of Health

45 South Main Street, Town Hall, Rm 315

Minutes of March 5, 2025

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m. by Vanessa Bautista, Director of Health.

Present:

Mayor Cervoni, Dr. Delbert Smith (Medical Advisor), Kathy Neelon, Adriana Rodriguez, Tracey Weeks, Katie Nemeth, and Isaac Cardona.

Excused:

Len Guercia

Guests:

- Anne Bernick, Public Health Nurse
- Michelle Silva, Public Health Educator / PHEP Coordinator
- Aimee Turner, Assistant Superintendent, Special Education and School Nurse Oversight

Approval of Minutes

The draft minutes of the December 4, 2024, meeting were reviewed and approved as distributed. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Isaac Cardona and seconded by Mayor Cervoni. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Items

School Health Update (Aimee Turner)

- Routine AED checks have been completed in schools.
- Teams with new members will undergo CPR/AED training.
- Reviewed the number of nurse visits, concussions, and lice incidents within the schools.
- The Lions Club will collaborate with schools to conduct vision screenings.
- The Board of Education (BOE) received a grant from the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to implement Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training for BOE staff.
- Discussion on community leadership training in collaboration with multiple agencies.

Director's Report (See Attached)

Infectious Diseases (Anne Bernick)

- Respiratory disease statistics were presented.
- COVID-19 Cases: January - 89, February - 32.
- RSV Cases: January - 177, February - 215.

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- Influenza Cases:

- January 2024 – 50 cases | January 2025 – 177 cases.
- February 2024 – 59 cases | February 2025 – 215 cases.
- Discussion on the Avian Flu and the significant increase in influenza cases compared to the previous year.

Environmental Health

- Reviewed environmental health data from the 2024 annual report.
- Discussed the decline in inspections over the past few years.
- Emphasized the need for a full-time Sanitarian.
- Noted the challenges with the current digital inspection tracking system, which is no longer functioning properly, highlighting the need for an upgraded system.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response

- Continued participation in monthly Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and Emergency Support Function 8 (ESF-8) meetings.
- CPR/AED training courses conducted for Lyman Hall High School, Youth & Social Services (YSS), Town Hall employees, and community members.

Community Outreach & Health Education

- Reviewed community outreach events and health education trainings from the 2024 annual report.
- Noted that the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) was completed in December 2024, based on findings from the 2023 Community Health Assessment.

Community Partnerships

- Adriana Rodriguez, Director of the Spanish Community of Wallingford (SCOW), announced that a mobile health unit will be stationed at SCOW every Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. starting March 7.

Public Health Policies

- Updates on ongoing revisions to the subsurface sewage ordinance.
- Discussion on the rationale behind the lead prevention ordinance, which has been drafted and sent for legal review.

Competent Workforce & Development

- Reviewed all workforce development initiatives outlined in the Director's report.

Administrative Updates

- Office renovations have been completed.
- Discussed how the Opioid Settlement funding will support a mental health initiative, including an online platform to address substance misuse, recognizing the correlation between mental health and substance use disorders.

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Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Isaac Cardona and seconded by Mayor Cervoni. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

Next Meeting:

June 4, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,

Vanessa Bautista

Vanessa Bautista, RS, MPH
Director of Health



Town of Wallingford, Connecticut
Health Department

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

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Wallingford Board of Health
Director's Report for March 5, 2025

1. Infectious Diseases (Anne Bernick)

- Respiratory Diseases
- Vaccine Clinics (2024 Annual Report pg. 8)

2. Environmental:

- 2024 Annual Report pgs. 19-20

3. Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP):

- Public Health Educator/PHEP Coordinator position has been filled
- MRC and ESF 8 meetings
- Trainings conducted, CPR/AED courses (2024 Annual Report pg.9)
- Avian Flu TTX

4. Community Outreach:

- 2024 Annual Report pg.9
- Festival of Trees with the Coalition for a Better Wallingford
- Calling Santa with the Radio Club
- Early Childhood Development Fair
- CHIP

5. Community Partnerships:

- Youth and Social Services (Babysitting Course)
- Vaccine Clinics with East Shore District Health Department
- A collaborative partnership with SCOW to enhance language accessibility

6. Public Health Policies:

- Lead Standards (Public Act 22-49) -Possible Lead Prevention Ordinance
- Chapter 177, Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems

7. Maintain a competent public health workforce:

- 1 Staff members to complete CPR/AED Instructor course.
- 1 Staff member to complete Narcan Administration Instructor course
- 1 staff member is pending approval to attend NACCHO Preparedness Summit
- 2 Staff members attending CT Emergency Management Symposium
- 2 Staff members attending the CT Healthcare Coalition Conference

8. Administrative:

- ELC 2 (Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Cooperative Agreement Funding)
- Public Health Workforce Development
- Opioid Settlement Funding
- ARPA Funding – Office Renovation

Next Meeting: June 4, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,

Vanessa Bautista

Vanessa Bautista, RS, MPH

Director of Health