

DRAFT May 3, 2023

Wallingford Board of Health
45 South Main Street, Town Hall, Rm 315
Minutes of May 3, 2023

Call to Order: 8:49 a.m. by Vanessa Bautista, Director of Health.

Present: Dr. Delbert Smith, , Len Guercia, Isaac Cardona, Kathy Neelon, Adriana Rodriguez, Melinda Schoen,

Excused: Mayor Dickinson, Jeffrey Necio, Daryll Porto

Guest: Michael Hughes, Senior Sanitarian

Minutes: DRAFT Minutes, February 1, 2022, were approved as distributed.

Agenda:

Staffing: Vanessa Bautista

- Introduced Michael Hughes as the new Senior Sanitarian.
- Sanitarian Brittany Nappi resigned. The sanitarian position has been posted with a closing date of May 8.

School Health: Kathy Neelon

- Reported the number of COVID-19 cases in the schools. (In the month of April, 5 cases were reported in comparison to last April were there 140 cases)
- It was indicated that school nurses continue to monitor COVID-19 cases to report to DPH.
- Discussion of the importance of continuing to actively practice COVID-19 measures.
- It was highlighted that the COVID-19 pandemic improved the schools' communication and health system evaluations. This improved method helps decrease student absenteeism.

Directors Report (See attached):

1. Infectious Diseases:

- a. COVID-19 data for the month of April were reviewed. The report was completed by a contract with an epidemiologist through ECL1 funding (See attached report).
- b. Review of the COVID-19 vaccine clinics held in March and April in partnership with Griffen Health
- c. Discussion on required Direct Observed Therapy (DOT) for infectious TB.

2. Environmental: See the Director's report.

3. Public Health Emergency Preparedness Response (PHEPR):

- a. The WHD continues to attend monthly MRC and ESF 8 meetings.
- b. DPH notified WHD that the WHD may continue to recruit MRC members without the social security number requirement.
- c. WHD staff will participate in the Region 2 Anthrax Tabletop Exercise on May 10 to evaluate current response concepts, plans, and capabilities to respond to a biological event. (Len Guercia will be one of the evaluators in this exercise).
- d. Health Educator and PH Nurse will attend the Medical Surge and Response Exercise (MRSE) testing CT's healthcare and public health sectors' abilities to respond to a sudden influx of patients after a radiological mass casualty incident (MCI).
- e. Reviewed all scheduled Community Emergency Trainings (CPR/First Aid) conducted in April.

4. Community Outreach/ Health Education: See the Director's report

5. Community partnership:

- a. The health department continues to work with SCOW for multiple preventive health events, including COVID-19 clinics and translation services. BOH member Adriana Rodriguez announced COVID-19 clinics will be offered until June 28, 2023, and that so far, SCOW has conducted 100 COVID-19 vaccine clinics.
- b. In collaboration with the Coalition for a Better Wallingford, the WHD is offering Community Narcan Training.
- c. WHD will collaborate with Parks and Recs to implement a free speech and hearing screening for children on May 6.

6. Public Health Policies:

- a. On February 17, 2023, Connecticut adopted the FDA Model Food Code replacing existing Connecticut Public Health Code food service regulations.
 - FDA has triggered several changes, such as having an active CFPM at the food establishment present during hours of operation, ill food worker policies, date marking of all prepared foods, requiring a mop sink, and prohibiting the use of non-commercial equipment.
- b. WHD has been actively licensing businesses that offer aesthetic services to comply with the adjusted local ordinance
- c. Technical Standards for Septic Systems were revised on January 1, 2023 part of the CT general statute Section 22a-430(g).
- d. Changes to Private Well Testing Laws – CGS Sec. 19a-37 (October 2022). This law requires well water to be tested for additional contaminants such as arsenic, uranium, and lead. This law makes all well water results confidential.

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7. **Competent Workforce and Development: See Director's Report**

8. **Administrative:**

- a. WHD continues to use ELC 1 funding to support COVID-19 services
- b. The ELC2 contract was approved in February. Funds were received in March.
- c. SFY 2022 local health annual report was submitted to DPH on January 24, 2023.
- d. With funding from the National Opioid Settlement, WHD partnered with YSS and Coalition for a Better Wallingford to implement Opioid Remediation programs such as Academic Detailing sessions on opioid safety (ADOPS), opioid awareness, education, training, prevention, and other support services.
- e. WHD application to participate in the CT Public Health Fellowship Program with Yale School of PH was approved on April 24, 2023. WHD will have two interns joining the health department this summer through this program.
- f. WHD is partnering with Color Health in a proposal to the State of Connecticut for a preventive Health Grant program.
- g. Discussion of the 2023-2024 budget.

Meeting adjourned: 9:35 am.

Next Meeting: September 6, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Vanessa Bautista

Vanessa Bautista, RS, MPH
Director of Health



Wallingford Board of Health Director's Report for May 3, 2023

1. Infectious Diseases

- COVID-19 Response/Update (PowerPoint Slides)
- End of Federal Public Health Emergency Declaration for COVID-19 on May 11, 2023.
- Vaccine Clinics

2. Environmental:

- 175 FSE and 31 beauty salon inspections were conducted from January to April
- A total of 40 PH nuisance complaints (38 of the 40 have been resolved)
- 8 Subsurface Sewage Disposal System permits
- 16 B100a applications (Building Additions/Alterations/Change of Use)

3. Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP):

- MRC and ESF 8 meetings
- Region 2 TTX
- Medical Response and Surge Exercise (MRSE)
- Trainings conducted, CPR/AED courses

4. Community Outreach:

- Lyman Hall High School- Career Fair
- Early Childhood Education and Information Fair (Wallingford Public Library)
- Wallingford Garden Market
- Masonic Health Fair

5. Community Partnerships:

- Partnership with SCOW
- Opioid Remediation programs in partnership with YSS and Wallingford Coalition
- Wallingford Coalition- Community Narcan Training
- Speech and hearing screening for children in partnership with Wallingford Parks and Recs.

6. Public Health Policies:

- Adoption of the FDA Model Food Code
- Technical Standards for Subsurface Sewage Disposal Systems (Technical Standards) were revised
- Changes to Private Well Testing Laws – CGS Sec. 19a-37

7. Maintain a competent public health workforce:

- 2 Staff members to complete CPR/AED Instructor course.
- 1 Staff member to complete Certified Food Protection Manager (CFPM) Instructor Course.
- 2 staff members attending CT Health Care Coalition Annual Conference.
- 1 Staff member completed QPR Instructor Course, Mental Health First Aid, Youth Fire Setter Intervention Specialist.
- 2 Staff members completed the Emergency Training Identification and Preparedness Planning Course.
- 2 Staff members attended the NACCHO Preparedness Summit.
- 3 Staff members received instructor training to administer Narcan.

8. Administrative:

- ELC 1 no-cost extension to expire on December 31, 2023



- ELC 2 (Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Cooperative Agreement Funding)
- Opioid Remediation Funds
- CT Public Health Fellowship Program
- Public Health Workforce Development funds to be distributed by 11/30/2023
- Preventive Health and Health Services (PHHS) Block Grant (June 2, 2023)
- Immunization Funding
- Meet and Greet with the new DPH Leadership Team
- 2023-2024 Budget

Next Meeting: September 6, 2023

Respectfully Submitted,

Vanessa Bautista

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.