

EAST SHORE DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
688 East Main Street, Branford, CT 06405

Executive Board Meeting

Executive Board Meeting – Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 3:30 pm
In-Person/Virtual - Zoom Meeting

Present: Susan Addiss, Michael Pascucilla, Virginia Fallon, Darlene Zimmermann, Michael Turcio, Elaine Anderson, Susan Deko, Dr. Young, Dennis Natri

Absent: Marissa DeChillo-Bateman

The meeting was called to order by Dennis Natri at 3:30 pm.

1. Welcome
2. Public Comments General Discussion – no public comment
3. Minutes were approved within a week from the February meeting minutes via email.
4. Correspondences - routine correspondence noted.
5. Old Business
 - National Publication – JEH April 2023 - National Publication – The research article was published this month in the Journal of Environmental Health, titled Bacterial Contamination in the Long Island Sound: Using Preemptive Beach Closure to Protect Public Health. This Department, in collaboration with Yale University, surveyed 15 Public Health Departments. This study reflects a preemptive closure policy that was developed and implemented by Connecticut Public Health Department. The article is about 4 pages long.
 - ESDHD Vacancies - ESDHD Vacancies – New certified/registered environmental health specialist starts in May. We are now fully staffed in Environmental Health.
 - CT DPH Opioid Grant Award, Academic Detailing Project two-year funding – Update Recently received the executed contract. - CT DPH Opioid Grant Award - \$80,000 award given to ESDHD for the next two years, \$40,000 a year. Working with pharmacists and local physicians on opioid education to reduce the deaths from opioids in the district. Currently being led by the public health nurse.
 - PO Vessel Regional Program 2023 – Updates. The contractors will manage the day-to-day operations and the ESDHD will manage the program, including hiring (part-time seasonal employees) and maintaining staffing for the program. ESDHD will purchase the gasoline aluminum vessel at 25%, and the remaining 75% will be owed by DEEP. That is how the grant is designed. Director will report next month how much the 25% will be. The program will begin at the end of May. Branford has accepted the grant and will be the subcontractor, assisting ESDHD in implementing services in the other towns, including Guilford, East Haven, New Haven, and West Haven.

- Travel Clinic Program – Update – During COVID the clinic was closed, but now it has opened, noting more individuals have been inquiring and utilizing the clinic.

6. New Business

- ESDHD Grants – Updates – ELC – grant from Health and Human Services, waiting for deliverables and executed contract. In addition, they vary in time. We hope to receive the contracts within the next month.
 - ELC1- Phase 1 has already been received and \$300,000.00~ has been spent.
 - ELC2 - Phase 2 of the grant will be receiving shortly, \$200,000.00~. Some of which has been spent as the state is behind on the administration of the grant. This grant is specific to vaccinations.
 - ELC3 – Phase 3 of the grant is a Public Health workforce grant of \$200,000.00~.
- PHAB Accreditation Application Status – PHAB Accreditation Application Status – presentation regarding status from Barbara Naclerio. Reviewed the Mission and Vision Statements of ESDHD. She reviewed the site visit, which will be two days, a virtual meeting on July 18th and August 18th will be an in-person visit. Barbara reviewed the process of accreditation, documents, and response to the report. Discussed updating the strategic plan and reviewing policies and procedures. Our community health assessment (every 4 years) will be conducted again next year. The community health improvement plan, workforce development plan, and quality improvement were discussed. Meetings will be scheduled with the board to review documents and discuss the process of the site visit prior to August 18th.
- ESDHD Personnel Policy Discussion – Modifications/Updates –
 - Holiday Discussion - change Columbus Day to Juneteenth Day, which is now a Federal holiday and a holiday in some states. The Director had discussions with the staff, and they agreed. Sue Addiss made a motion to accept the new change of Columbus Day to Juneteenth as the legal holiday.
 - Discussion on Tuition Reimbursement Policy – Director is requesting funding for Ph.D. Dissertation and Graduate Requirements to travel for two trips. Costs result from an exchange rate of \$1.00 to \$1.24 and many foreign fees. The first trip is \$7,200.00~ and the second is \$11,300.00~. There is \$20,000.00 in the budget. There is one other employee submitting tuition for this year requesting \$17,000.00. For this year’s budget there would be a request for an estimate of \$24,000.00. Darlene made a motion to go into executive session, and Elaine 2nd the motion. Sue Deko made a motion to return from the executive session, and Elaine 2nd the motion. Sue Addiss motioned to allocate \$6,000.00 to Director for tuition reimbursement. Another reimbursement will be considered upon submission of the tuition request for this fiscal year.

- Coronavirus Update / Vaccination Statistics/Clinics – Local & State Update Presentation – Madison Wierzel presented the Covid statistic report, reported on Flu and RSV statistics. In addition, discussed STD rates.
- Farm River/Short Beach - Water Quality Project Partnerships Status - In the area of Short Beach and Farm River, there have been high levels of contamination and closures noted for some time now. Discussions have taken place with the town and Save the Sound organization to take it to the next level. The Short Beach Association has been very engaged and supportive of the program and has given \$8,500.00 towards the testing.

7. Director's Report

- ESDHD PH Activity Reports (Environmental, Emerg. Preparedness, Education & Nursing) – sent via email.
- ESDHD Union Negotiations – Collective Bargaining Contract 2023 – meeting with Director has taken place; Discussions seem to be going well. Will meet with the negotiation committee soon.
- ESDHD 2023-2024 Proposed Budget Report – Director sent in a budget proposal to the towns. Has been discussing with the towns, and it has been going well. Will be adding grants to the budget when they have been allocated and received contracts. If not received in this year's budget will be added to next year.
- The Commissioner and Deputy of Public Health and some Bureau Chiefs have been making rounds to local health departments. The Director was notified that they would like to perform a site visit to ESDHD. He will inform you of the upcoming site visit date.

8. Motion to adjourn by Darlene Zimmermann and 2nd by Mike Turcio. All in favor.
Adjourned at 5:04 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Carrano

Angela Carrano, DNP, MSN, RN, Secretary