

**Health Commission
City of Stamford
DRAFT MINUTES
January 9, 2014**

Commissioners Present: Dr. Barbara Decker, Ms. Patricia Parry, Dr. Bert Ballin, and Dr. Margaret Cobb

Guests Attended: Ms. Pam Scott, Recording Secretary, Mr. Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare, Ms. Anne Fountain, MPH, Director of Health and Social Services, James Federici, Laboratory Director,

Meeting called to order		Dr. Decker called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.
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Director of Health:

	<p>Ms. Fountain distributed copies of State of Connecticut update on flu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Heart Day – 02/14/2014 Hands for Life Training - Lobby • Colon Cancer Awareness Month – 03/04/2014 • Americares Stamford Clinic – kickoff celebration Clinic started 1/7/14 • Flu update Rampant in state Number of cases rising in Stamford Over 100 hospitalized statewide, 2 deaths >45 years old • Most H1N1, 30-50 year olds affected most • Mayor would like to put out release regarding flu prevention • Budget is due tomorrow (01/10/2014) to OPM Program expansion Social Services (couple more positions) Training budget increase Environmental Food Safety training for restaurants (Required anyhow, but not locally available) School Nursing Substitute nurse, perhaps on-call service 	
		Seek press publicity about training being offered; educate public to report restaurant sourced “food poisoning” to HD

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	SNAP usage & training	<p>Dr. Yoon & Ms. Anspach providing additional training during in-service training Dental hygienists looking forward to BMI tracking providing height & weight input. Interim training for new nurses & dental hygienists Non-public schools not online, mostly IT security related issues.</p>
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Correspondence

<p>Letter from Attorney Sarah Fifield – 440-448 Courtland Ave, Blighted Property</p>	<p>Letter is addressed to Anti-Blight Board and Health Commission. Atty. Fifield indicates that she and her husband own a rental condo which overlooks the blighted property (440-448 Courtland Ave).</p> <p>Atty. Fifield presents history of (alleged) owner neglect including: cutting off / removal of building gutters after they were storm damaged; storage of industrial equipment and unregistered / inoperable vehicles in (residentially zoned) parking lot; failure to mow lawn permitting growth to hip height; permitting residents to use fenced in area at front of building as a dump. She continues with information regarding 2013 lack of action on the owner’s part. She alleges that around March 2013 at least one unit of the property was occupied by “squatters” and that a severe fire resulted when a fire was lit in the unit due to the lack of electricity. As a result of the fire, the property appears blackened and damaged and continues to be so. Included with the letter are several photos showing some of the damage described in the letter and the temporary repairs to the building that have been made to that damage.</p> <p>Atty. Fifield complains that for 8 months the owner has taken no action to repair the fire damage and that this has had a severe negative effect on neighboring</p>	
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	<p>property values. She continues by stating that neighboring condo owners were unable to sell or rent their unit for over 6 months (at the time of her letter) because of the blighted nature of the subject property. She indicates that “major real estate broker Andrew Davis” was given “explicit feedback” that the reason prospective tenants gave for refusing to get out of their car(s) was the property in question.</p> <p>Atty. Fifield requests, under Freedom of Information Law, all documents or other information which relates to or references any open health code violation pertaining to the Blighted Property above. She indicates that she has information that some of the people occupying the property fall under Section 8, she states that she doesn’t know whether any of them have contacted the HC regarding the condition and/or safety and/or soundness of their building.</p> <p>She has additional request for actions to be taken by the Anti-Blight Board.</p> <p>Ms. Parry’s email regarding Health Exchange Healthy Minds (Mental Health) link in monthly newsletter not working. Unable to use link thru Google either.</p> <p>Mr. Jankowski asked if any issues for him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Battling cold • Traffic issues at stop signs in front of Stamford Hospital 	<p>HC has no authority to conduct inspections of housing, refer it to HD.</p> <p>Ms. Fountain does not have information at hand regarding what HD may have done</p> <p>Dr. Cobb moved that the matter be referred to HD and a letter be sent to Atty. Fifield clarifying action of HC. Ms. Parry seconded. Passed unanimously.</p> <p>Ms. Fountain indicated that she was not aware that link was non-functional; that Jay Sandack had supplied information and that he was a contact.</p> <p>Alerts from HD, few visits to warming stations No heat complaints</p>
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<p>Additional Agenda Items:</p>	<p>Dr. Decker requested the following items to be added to the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walkability 	<p>Ms. Parry moved to add the items to the agenda; Dr. Cobb seconded. Approved unanimously.</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childhood Obesity Prevention Health Initiative – K T Murphy • Greg Kearns presentation in December • Community Action Plan 	
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Minutes:

Minutes of November 14, 2013	Minutes from the November 14, 2013 meeting were reviewed.	Ms. Parry moved to approve November 14, 2013 minutes. Dr. Ballin seconded. Approved unanimously.
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Correspondence:

Memo – Requests under the FOIA	<p>Atty. Joseph J. Capalbo II, Director of Legal Affairs & Corporation Counsel distributed a memo announcing the addition of Atty. Amy J. LiVolsi as part time Assistant Corporation Counsel. Atty. LiVolsi is the contact for issues related to FOIA. She will provide training to all employees with regard to how to comply with FOIA and is available to guide responses to FOIA requests. She will be available to all boards and commissions for training and education.</p> <p>In addition to your existing FOI processes, please add notification of Atty. LiVolsi that a FOI request has been made. When notifying her include: a copy of the request itself (if written) or a summary of the request and the date it was made (if oral), and the date and nature of your reply. At this time, it is not necessary to provide a copy of the records produced.</p> <p>Atty. LiVolsi may be reached at (203) 977-4074 and at alivolsi@ci.stamford.ct.us</p>	
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Presentation

Stamford Public Health Laboratory Presented by: James Federici, Laboratory Director	<p>Mr. Federici presented material on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status of the Well Water Testing • Implementation of the New Ordinance • Other Laboratory Services 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving the laboratory forward in 2014 <p>400,000 private wells in CT; 5,000 in Stamford No regulation of testing, home owner responsible for testing. Potability testing for new wells; probably also at time of sale.</p> <p>Status of the Well Water Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dieldan, Chlorodane contamination no proof that Scofieldtown dump site was source • 1,200 wells tested once under old ordinance • 20 wells under new ordinance, 150 signed up for test • 13% test positive for one or the other; no results yet from Arsenic and Uranium <p>Implementation of the New Ordinance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arsenic, Uranium added to Dieldan & Chlorodane testing with no price increase • VOC's dropped from testing • Open to all Stamford residents • Voluntary program • City water tested on a daily basis by Aquarion • Mass mailing regarding new program sent to homeowners with registered wells <p>Other Laboratory Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well child blood work (Hemoglobin /Hematocrit) • Lead screenings on children • Lab support for our STD clinics • Preliminary tick identification <p>Key Accomplishments in 2013</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hired new lab technician • Passed proficiency testing to become state certified in testing drinking water 	
		<p>Visit attorney organizations to promote well testing to real estate buyers</p> <p>North Stamford Association</p> <p>Flyer to be posted on information bulletin boards at clubs – tie in with health</p> <p>Pediatrician's offices</p>

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	<p style="text-align: center;">(Microbiology and Inorganic Chemistry) Moving the laboratory forward in 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab cleanup – disposal of chemicals no longer being used, some date back to when forensic testing was done • Test 750 wells under the new ordinance • Seek opportunities to promote and encourage well water testing • Participate in training at State Agricultural Station in New Haven (Tick Identification) • Obtain state certification in testing water from shellfish beds in Stamford • Investigate other testing available for Lyme Disease with an eye to performing test in-house providing results in about 1 week vs. current 4 - 6 weeks when tested by state lab • Find ways to promote the laboratory's services to the public. 	<p>HC members do not feel that Tick testing provides any benefit to taxpayer in that a faster result does not change treatment protocol.</p> <p>HC members suggest gaining certifications and picking up contracts from state to do testing; i.e. tick testing, shellfish bed water testing perhaps for all Fairfield County.</p> <p>Quantiferon TB testing. Quantiferon TB testing done under grant by state at no charge, find grant money do it here.</p> <p>The Health Commissioners thanked Mr. Federici for his presentation to the Health Commission.</p>
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Old Business

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New Business

<p>Health Initiative – K T Murphy</p>	<p>DOMUS recently got grant to promote exercise for K T Murphy students United Way of SW CT is undertaking initiative at KT Murphy Many KT Murphy students walk</p>	
<p>Obesity Prevention</p>	<p>Chartwell (lunch provider) increased use of whole grain, brown rice ... don't think outside box</p> <p>Neighborhood / school gardens are going full speed ahead</p> <p>Yerwood Center has Kids Fans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitchen was shut down by HD a number of years ago needing refurbishment. 	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pam Sloan is teaching cooking classes there for children (assumption by HC member speaking is that kitchen has been reopened by HD) 	
Greg Kearns	Gregory Kearns, Director of Planning Strategy & Marketing Development from Stamford Hospital made presentation at December non-meeting of HC (no quorum).	
Community Action Plan	<p>Hospital is planning a series of initiatives for West Side (their neighborhood) based on (their portion?) of the Community Needs Assessment. Page 143-44 of appendix 15</p> <p>Explore implementation of “Project Access” with Optimus for free specialty care and diagnostic services – physicians practices – Stamford Health Physicians Practices</p>	<p>Full report is available on-line at Stamford Hospital; “but you really want Executive Summary” (and possibly Appendix 15).</p> <p>Difficulty in providing specialty services to low income – i.e. colonoscopy to low-income population which can take up to 2 years to schedule Stamford has 2 colonoscopy suites which are fully booked.</p> <p>Dr. Decker moved that HC members review Action Plan (Executive Summary & Appendix 15) and come with ideas as to HC could approach it for next meeting. Ms. Parry seconded. Approved unanimously.</p>

Appeal:

There were no appeals		
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Adjournment:

There being no further business before the regular session of the HC, Dr. Decker moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m., Ms. Parry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Submitted by,
Pam Scott
Pam Scott/np
Recording Secretary