

# Health Commission City of Stamford DRAFT MINUTES September 12, 2013

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

Guests Attended: Ms. Anne Fountain, Director of Health & Social Services, Ms. Pam Scott, Recording Secretary, Mr. Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare, Ms. Gail McRae, Inspector II, Ms. Lynn Galgano, Public Health Nurse, Mr. Ronald Miller, Director of Environmental Inspections

Meeting called to order		Dr. Decker called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
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Additional Agenda Items:	<p>Dr. Decker requested the following items to be added to the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Needs Assessment</li> <li>• Head Start</li> <li>• Prevention Obesity Taskforce</li> <li>• Health Insurance Exchanges</li> <li>• Impact of Drug Use in Stamford</li> </ul>	Ms. Parry moved to add the items to the agenda; Dr. Cobb seconded. Approved unanimously.
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## Minutes:

Minutes of June 13, 2013 and August 13, 2013	Minutes from the June 13, 2013 and August 13, 2013 meetings were reviewed.	<p>Ms. Parry moved to approve June 13, 2013 minutes with minor corrections. Dr. Cobb seconded. Approved unanimously.</p> <p>Dr. Cobb moved to approve August 13, 2013 minutes with minor corrections. Ms. Parry seconded. Approved unanimously.</p>
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## Correspondence:

Well Water Letter to Director Fountain from Health Commission		
Massage Parlors' Final Decision		

## Director of Health

"Breathe of Fresh Air:	Ms. Galgano and Ms. McRae presented information	
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<p>An Asthma Intervention Program”</p> <p><i>Presented by:</i> <i>Lynn Galgano, Gail McRae, and Ronald Miller</i></p>	<p>and history of the “Breathe of Fresh Air: Asthma Intervention Program.” Members of the HC asked questions and sought clarifications. Below is copy of the Breathe of Fresh Air Program Power Point presentation.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>The Need</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asthma is the most common chronic disease of childhood</li><li>• Asthma is the number one cause of school absenteeism</li><li>• Asthma home inspections are often overlooked during patient evaluation</li></ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>What is it?</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It is a <i>free</i>, home remediation and education program</li><li>• Designed to eliminate asthma triggers in the home</li><li>• Teach children and families how to <i>identify</i> and <i>reduce</i> exposure to asthma triggers within the home</li></ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Each family is offered a comprehensive intervention that includes:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Standardized baseline asthma assessment</li><li>• One on one community nurse/inspector education regarding environmental triggers and indoor air quality enhancement</li><li>• Tools to reduce exposure to asthma triggers</li><li>• Tools to aid in monitoring and self-management</li><li>• A home inspection by the housing code inspector focusing on structural or code related issues that may not be in the control of the tenant</li><li>• Medical case management services</li><li>• Follow-up assessments at 3, 6, and 12 month intervals</li></ul>	
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	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Why it works?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Individual attention provided to each family</li><li>• Health Departmental expertise in residential health and safety programs offer guidance</li><li>• Partnerships have strengthened with medical professionals and the Board of Education</li><li>• Health Department has regulatory authority of all multi-family dwellings</li><li>• Full-time staff are dedicated to the Program</li></ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Knowledge of Asthma Warning Signs*</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chest hurts or feels tight</li><li>• Itchy, watery eyes</li><li>• Itchy, scratchy or sore throat</li><li>• Stuffy, runny nose</li><li>• Getting tired or out of breath</li><li>• Cold, flu or cough</li><li>• Peak flow is less than 80% of your personal best</li></ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Why we are unique</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Asthmatic children are identified through referrals from school nurses in public, private and parochial schools, pediatricians, local clinics and Stamford Hospital.</li><li>• Each child is then entered into a database that is maintained by the Health Department.</li><li>• The Program uses State and Local codes to enforce sanitary maintenance of housing units.</li><li>• The responsibility to correct the environmental conditions that exacerbate asthma depends upon if it's caused by tenant or owner neglect. The parent is always told about environmental housing concerns whether the dwelling has them or not and accompanies the inspector on the</li></ul>	
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environmental home assessment inspection. When the parent does the walk through inspection with the asthma team, it provides them with some knowledge of what to look for when checking the dwelling for unsafe and hazardous environmental living conditions.

***Asthma and Healthy Homes***

- There was a total of 27 initial healthy home Inspections conducted between July 1, 2012 and June 30, 2013. The inspections included conducting visual assessment of the environmental living condition of each property. The walls, ceilings and floors along with other interior and exterior building components were inspected for sound condition and in good repair. There were five letters sent to property owners and twenty- six letters sent to parents that identified environmental conditions and housing violations that needed to be corrected prior to the next visit. We also distributed a Healthy Homes Book, EPA asthma information, asthma triggers warning signs, smoke detector, carbon monoxide, lead, roaches, and mold to the parent.

***Program Improvements***

- Be flexible and consumer friendly
- Staff should include both nurses and housing code inspectors or sanitarians
- Keep a high profile in the community by joining local community groups and organizations with similar missions
- Collaborate with federal, state and local municipalities with similar programs that address asthma and environmental housing concerns

***Lessons Learned***

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incentives are needed to maintain interest in the program</li> <li>• Bilingual staff is vital to serve non-English-speaking populations</li> <li>• Educational interventions should be aimed at tenants rather than landlords</li> <li>• Asthma triggers and risk factors can be eliminated with simple cleaning methods</li> <li>• Educational books on all age levels are needed to further interest in environmental concerns within a household</li> <li>• Follow-up visits are crucial in seeing that occupants have successfully eliminated identified asthma triggers and retained information given on previous assessment visits</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Funders and Collaborators</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Stamford</li> <li>• Environmental Protection Agency</li> <li>• Stamford Health System</li> <li>• Stamford Public Schools</li> <li>• American Lung Association of CT</li> </ul>	
Director Anne Fountain	<p>Ms. Fountain informed the Commission of the following items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stamford had 1 Human West Nile case. The HD issued a News Release and posted signage in parks, as well as larvacide catch basins.</li> <li>• Health Insurance Exchange enrollment – Access CT</li> </ul> <p>CT has opted to have their own insurance program and will not be participating in the</p>	The Health Commission thanked Ms. Galgano, Ms. McRae and Mr. Miller for their presentation.

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	<p>Federal health insurance exchange. Their media campaign specifically excludes Stamford, Greenwich &amp; Groton because “we have different media markets”.</p> <p>Congressman Himes looking to have “a lot of state participation” at SGC.</p> <p>Information is to be provided to the public by trained assisters / navigators.</p> <p>Stamford applied for an assister or navigators – received grant for \$6,000 for assister who does enrollments. M. Millan doing a lot of training at this time.</p> <p>Enrollment starts 10/1/13 – training for assisters / incomplete; they must pass test in order to qualify.</p> <p>We have not been provided with list of provider enrollees.</p> <p>Ms. Fountain is attempting to be pro-active in getting information out to the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Well Testing – Ordinance Change Now testing for uranium and arsenic, dropping VOCs, continuing pesticides.</li><li>• Well Analysis Data – Well Testing Holes in data, missing well depth, distance from home; homeowners do not necessarily know this information.</li></ul> <p>Dr. Cobb suggested that the HD send data to an external organization for analysis, resulting abstraction to provide positive follow-up media coverage.</p> <p>Director Fountain responded to Dr. Cobb suggestion; the HD has already shared that information to a group, and that group is looking to city to FUND analysis process.</p>	
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**Appeal:**

10:00 am 22 Lee Street		Denied, appellant did not appear.
11:00 am 44 AkA 52 Pleasant Street	Ms. Scott presented the HC with a letter dated September 6, 2013 requesting to withdraw the appeal of 44 AKA 52 Pleasant Street.	

**Old Business:**

Community Needs Assessment	<p>Ms. Fountain commented that there has been a lag in getting results - Beth Chatty left Stamford Hospital new person hired.</p> <p>No results from JSI as yet. A series of meetings with short notice, Ms. Fountain was not able to attend all. Draft presentation to SH board at their September meeting is expected, so they can see report before release. Ms. Fountain was part of some workgroups, but not all, therefore has limited information on report content at this time.</p> <p>Health Commission had very limited input to assessment process – has not gotten any results.</p> <p>Expectation is that assessment results may be available for October meeting.</p>	
Head Start	In response to the information of WIC cuts. It is noted that Head Start is also being cut, in Stamford probably 1 classroom worth.	
Prevention of obesity	<p>Restaurant chefs in some schools in CT</p> <p>Many Stamford schools have gardens now</p> <p>Many healthy kids' meals were served during Stamford Restaurant week.</p>	
Flu Vaccine – Fall 2013	Flu Vaccination Kick-Off on 9/24/2013.	

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Impact of Drug Use in Stamford	Mr. Jankowski responded to the HC questions regarding the impact of drug use in Stamford. He stated that the Narcotics unit is on street all the time. Recent PD arrest closed down factory in a home.  HC questions the repercussions in community, such as the increase in HIV? Ms. Anne responded that the increase in HIV derives less from drug uses and more from other sources.	

New Business:

There was no new business		
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Executive Session:

No Executive Session		
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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 10:35 a.m., Ms Parry seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
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Submitted by,

*Pam Scott*

Pam Scott