

**Health Commission Meeting  
City of Stamford  
DRAFT MINUTES  
February 10, 2022**

Commissioners Attendance February 2022

Present:

- Ms. Lorraine Olson
- Dr. Thomas Getreuer
- Ms. Patricia Parry
- Dr. Tabitha Fortt (arrived at 9:12am)
- Dr. Viviane Trinh (arrived at 9:32am)

Absent:

Guest Attendance: Ms. Jody Bishop-Pullan, Acting Director of Health, Mr. Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare, Mr. Ebrima Jobe, Director of Environmental Health & Inspections, Ms. Raquelle Early, Recording Secretary

Meeting called to order		Ms. Olson called the meeting to order at 9:03am.
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<u>Topics</u>	<u>Discussions</u>	<u>Actions</u>
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Parry asked that the Health Commission webpage be added to the agenda as a topic of discussion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion to approve adding this topic to the agenda occurred at 9:05am. (Approved 3-0)</li> </ul>
Approval of the minutes of the Health Commission Meeting of January 13, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Parry proposed grammatical corrections to the minutes.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion to approve as amended occurred at 9:07am. (Approved 3-0)</li> </ul>
<b>Correspondence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 101 Crystal Street. Owner of property is appealing Health Department orders regarding housing violations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hearing scheduled for March 21 9AM by Zoom conference.</li> </ul>

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**Director of Health Report**

Ms. Jody Bishop-Pullan

- Clinics are up and running at Henry Street. Clinic offering blood pressure screening, and other chronic disease prevention tactics.
- COVID – 19: Test kits have been distributed by State Department of Health to the City and all schools.
- Vaccination program remains active in the community at multiple locations. Westover School, and the state supported site at St. Mary's are the most popular by visit numbers. Hours will be reduced at both sites in accordance with data received from the State of around 100 cases per week, and a 3 – 4% positivity rate which has been stable.
- Contract Tracing: Moving away from individual case investigation. Focusing on nursing homes, day cares, schools and congregate settings.
- Emergency Preparedness: Distributed thousands of masks and test kits. Requests still coming in from City agencies and non-profits.
- Community Needs Assessment with Stamford Hospital is ongoing.
- Presenting Health Department budget to Finance Committee.
- Intern(s): A Nursing intern from University of Bridgeport will be working with the Health Department. Filming a video with Region 1

- Ms. Parry asked if the Health Commission would get a copy of the budget before submission to the Finance Committee. Ms. Bishop-Pullan agreed to do that.

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**Director of Environmental Inspections**  
Ebrima Jobe

**Director of Public Safety, Health, and Welfare**  
Mr. Ted Jankowski

health districts for social media to promote Health Departments and the work they do. Ebrima will talk more about that. Looking to set up more MOUs with other schools for more intern applicants

- COVID – 19 Support: Supporting private industry with distribution of 84 antigen test kits to 41 restaurants, and approximately 5 boxes of masks.
- VPC: Working with Oracle and the inspectors, and created a new Cosmetology online application. Making application process more user friendly.
- Scheduled two trainings: VPC and Veoci for both new and existing staff.
- New video production. Topic will be Radon, and to be taped Friday, March 11, 2022.
- 96% vaccination rate in the general population of Stamford. Meeting regarding how City buildings will be reopening. Keeping four-person maximum in elevators as of today.
- Communication center: providing crisis intervention training. Partnering with Liberation Program, and Stamford Public Schools to have a response team dispatched from 911 communication center any time an overdose call is received. The response team will consist of a

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Recovery Coach, a Peer Counsellor, and a representative from the police department.

- Speaking with the City risk manager regarding placing Narcan at defibrillation device locations in City buildings.
  
- Stamford Police Department receiving a \$550,000 grant over a three year period to expand on mental health response to include an extra embedded mental health worker for juvenile mental health calls.
  
- Stamford Fire Department is working on a Public Safety Education Campaign within the community.
  
- Social Services – working harder with senior citizens to address mental health issues aggravated by the isolation caused by the Pandemic.
  
- Commissioner Lorraine Olson to meet with Mayor Caroline Simmons at 3pm today re: mental health alliance as well as requesting Dr. Yoon be part of Health Commission meetings.
  
- Ongoing work with Vita Collaborative. Continuing to work with them on mental health issues
  
- Commissioner Lorraine Olson wants to invite the current embedded social worker to speak

**Old Business**

Mental Health Crisis Update

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<p>Mask Mandate Update</p> <p><b>New Business:</b> Stamford Hockey League Safety Equipment</p> <p>Director of Health Position</p> <p>Health Department Staffing Update</p>	<p>about what they are doing with EMS, P.D., and the Fire Dept.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mask mandates, and mitigation strategies have changed in schools. Cases in schools remain stable. Nurses and dental hygienists have returned to performing their screenings.</li> <li>• Dr. Getreuer referenced an accident that occurred in New Canaan resulting in the death of a hockey player. Suggested neck guards for players need to be looked into. There could be serious liability issues for the City if an accident like this occurs on City property.</li> <li>• Commissioner Lorraine Olson asked for clarification on the process on how the selection process for Health Director works.</li> <li>• Nursing: Community Nursing. Still down a nurse. A school nurse has expressed interest in this position.</li> <li>• School nursing – A school nurse will be starting this month on March 21, 2022. One more vacancy remains before school nursing is at capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Bishop-Pullan will contact the agencies involved in running the City owned rinks for information</li> <li>• Mr. Jankowski replied that eight candidates are being interviewed by a panel that consists of Mr. Jankowski, former Director of Environmental Health and Inspections, Ron Miller, and Medical Director, Dr. Henry Yoon. Once the candidate pool is reduced to two candidates, Health Commissioner Lorraine Olson along with another Commissioner can interview them as well and make a recommendation to Mayor Simmons.</li> </ul>
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<p>Health Commission Appeal Process</p> <p>Health Commission Webpage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commissioner Lorraine Olsen addressed the open Dental Hygienist position. Believes there should be at least four.</li> <li>• Staffing: Two new inspectors have been hired and are shadowing with other inspectors. One of the new inspectors is certified in septic. Another inspector will be coming on board on March 28th as an Inspector II, and is a Registered Sanitarian (RS). She is already certified in Lead, Food, Septic, and Pools.</li> <li>• No formal appeal process in place. Raquelle proposed having an online form that breaks down the appeal process.</li> <li>• Raquelle addressed updating outdated information.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Bishop-Pullan stated that the position is in the Budget being submitted.</li> <li>• Ms. Parry was dubious that this was necessary. Feels that this might place an undue burden on computer illiterate citizens.</li> <li>• Dr. Getreuer will work with Ms. Early to develop the form.</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Appeal:</b>          There were no appeals</p>		
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<p><b>Adjournment:</b>          Meeting adjourned at 11:22am.</p>
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Submitted by: Raquelle Early