

**Health Commission Special Meeting
City of Stamford
APPROVED MINUTES
February 10, 2023**

Commissioners Attendance February 10, 2023

Present:

Ms. Lorraine Olson
Dr. Thomas Getreuer
Ms. Patricia Parry
Dr. Tabitha Fortt (Arrived at 10:04am)
Dr. Viviane Trinh

Absent:

Guest Attendance: Ms. Jody Bishop-Pullan, Director of Health, Mr. Lou DeRubeis, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare, Ms. Raquelle Early, Recording Secretary

Call to Order		Ms. Olson called the meeting to order at 9:02am.
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<u>Topics</u>	<u>Discussions</u>	<u>Actions</u>
Minutes Approval of the minutes of the Health Commission Meeting of January 19, 2023 Correspondence: Director of Health Report Ms. Jody Bishop-Pullan	• None • Budget - Submitted and will be presented March 21st and 27th. Some minor cost increases but overall the budget is flat compared to last year. • Account Clerk I retired last fall. The position will be changed to an Account Clerk II and a new hire for the position will start on February 27, 2023.	• Motion to approve occurred at 9:03am. (Approved 5-0)

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Nursing: One school nurse resigned and the vacant position has been filled already.• Dental Case Manager position has been filled.• Inspectors have been busy with inspections; given the season No Heat Complaints are taking priority.• Food Establishments Changes - Implementing FDA Food Code Regulations by the State soon. ViewPoint Cloud currently does not communicate inspection ratings with the Public, the vendor stated this function is not available.• The City is in the process of changing financial, as well as licensing and permitting systems. New financial system vendor is Oracle, launching on March 1st.• Infectious Diseases: Low number of COVID and Flu cases reported. RSV is Zero. Monitoring of all for hospitalization and death.• COVID vaccine clinics are ongoing. Demand is very low. New funding able to increase health promotion efforts. Partnered with Griffin Health and State. Targeting high needs population.• Radon Program featured on News 12. Kits were distributed. Outreach workers will follow-up with residents to submit their test to the Health Department.• Lab: Lead testing (as a licensing requirement for daycare centers) is ongoing. | |
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Director of Public Safety, Health, and Welfare Mr. Louis DeRubeis	• Social Services: Medicare/Husky Program Outreach Worker, Maria Millan is working with families regarding enrollment eligibility to identify and contact children ages 12 and under. • Medicaid: Must be enrolled/re-enrolled by April 1st, or will lose benefit. • Ms. Parry asked if Medicaid was being billed for COVID Vaccines. • Ms. Parry asked if the Pertussis vaccines were free. • Ms. Parry asked if Travel vaccine clinic are closed. • Mr. DeRubeis would like to acknowledge all the strong leadership under the Public Safety umbrella and all the departments working collaboratively in the community. • Organizational changes are in progress within the Public Safety Department to make services more efficient to residents in regarding to 911 calls and non-emergency services. • The Health Department has merged back with Social Services, causing a name change to Department of Health and Human Services. • Ms. Bishop-Pullan's title will be changing to the Director of Health & Human Services. Sharona Cowan will remain the Director of Social Services, she will be reporting directly to Ms. Bishop-Pullan	• Ms. Bishop-Pullan answered no. • Ms. Bishop-Pullan is unable to provide and answer at this time. • Ms. Bishop-Pullan answered yes.
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	as opposed to Mr. DeRubeis. This change will increase efficiency and coordination of services. • Budget Cycle: \$5,000 line item for MRC & CERT asked for the first time in the Fiscal Year 2023/2024 budget, in order to improve collaboration between Public Safety and the Health Department via. community involvement. • Bylaws are being formalized and creating Board of Directors for CERT members. Proposing three slots for Board of Directors, the fourth would be an Executive Director. • Tapping into corporate partners for community involvements as well as our clergy population. • Create incentives to induce more community involvement in MRC and CERT via. stipends, tax breaks. • Ms. Parry asked if CERT and MRC members must be registered with the State. • Region 1 mass casualty recovery exercise highlighted unplanned housing contingencies. A meeting is being set. • Working diligently with other jurisdictional partners for long-term housing for newly arriving migrants. • Trying to secure a venue in order to serve the needs of migrants and to provide security for medical	• Yes CERT & MRC members must be registered with the State.
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	screening and organizational logistics. Need temporary shelters to process 24 to 48 hours; probably outside of Stamford.	
Old Business:	- Vision Zero Campaign – Aggressive approach to pedestrian safety. Partnered with State DOT, Traffic Board and Engineering to restructure cross walks and intersections to slow down traffic. - Increasing Police presence in particular areas throughout the City. - None	
New Business: Rapid Community Assessment of Childhood Immunizations	Ms. Bishop-Pullan presented findings from the Early Childhood Immunization Rapid Community Assessment results. She discussed parents’ experiences regarding targeted audience, assessment methods and common barriers.	
Community Needs Assessment Analysis	- Ms. Bishop-Pullan provided a presentation on the Community Health Needs Assessment results and Community Health Improvement Plan. She reported the top three priorities are: - Behavioral Health: - Access to Primary Care - Housing - There are multiple data collection methods that include Data Haven, secondary data from the USPHS, and 75 personal interviews.	

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Health Commission Website	• Behavioral Health suffers from a limited system capacity. Hospital encounters: mental health is secondary only to hypertension. Older adults (75+) make up most of the hospital encounters. That is increased this year. What are we doing to address this need? – Stamford Youth Mental Health Alliance, Mothers and Babies Program (maternal mental health issues) and the Postvention team (new, and very successful). • Access to Primary Care: there are multiple problems with access, not the least is a shortage of primary care physicians accepting new patients. A Rapid Community Assessment found that Stamford has a high level of unvaccinated children born after 2018. The CDC visited on November 14 – 18, 2022 and discovered significant barriers to access for vaccines for children due to a lack of knowledge on the part of the responsible caregivers. They trust Pediatricians and schools. Community leaders and clergy can also guide access as well. • Housing: Greater than 40% of Stamford residents are housing insecure defined as spending greater than 30% of income on housing. • Director Bishop-Pullan discussed improvement strategies which support addressing community issues. • Ms. Olson asked Commissioners to consider adding various initiatives the Commission is	
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	involved in, as well as adding their email address under their name on the website. • Commission discussed the Health Commission group email regarding who should respond to questions and concerns from the public. • Ms. Olson stated should would prefer the Commissioner Contact section to list her as the Chair first and the rest of the Commission shall follow.	• Ms. Olson will provide the Commission with her ideas of how the website should look.
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Appeals:	• No Appeals	
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Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:51am.

Submitted by: Raquelle Early