

**Health Commission Meeting  
City of Stamford  
DRAFT MINUTES  
June 13, 2024**

Commissioners Attendance June 13, 2024

Present:

Ms. Lorraine Olson  
Dr. Tabitha Fortt (arrived at 9:20am)  
Dr. Thomas Getreuer  
Dr. Douglas York  
Dr. Marc Peyser

Guest Attendance: Ms. Jody Bishop-Pullan, Director of Health & Human Services, Mr. Mike Meyer, Director of Family & Community Engagement, Mr. Lou DeRubeis, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare, Ms. Raquelle Early, Recording Secretary

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| Call to Order | Ms. Olson called meeting to order at 9:02am. |
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| <u>Topics</u>  | <u>Actions</u>  |
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| <b>Minutes</b><br>Approval of the minutes of the Health Commission Meeting of April 11, 2024 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Motion to approve occurred at 9:02am (Approved 4-0)</li></ul> |
| <b>Correspondence</b>  |   |
| <b>Welcome Center</b><br>Ms. Lorraine Olson & Mr. Mike Meyer                                 |   |
| <b>Director of Health Report</b><br>Ms. Jody Bishop-Pullan                                   |   |

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|  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Emergency preparedness: MRC Backpack Giveaway event was successful. Participants of the event received a backpack with supplies which they learned how to pack in the event of an emergency. Due to its success, the department is looking for funding to repeat the event.</li><li>• The Department of Health's website is being updates with new information for the public that'll be organized and easier to find.</li><li>• Social media: Worked with our partners and providers around certain theme-based areas such as Pride month., did a public service announcement (PSA) with the Mayors Youth Leadership Council on sexual assault and awareness.</li><li>• Director of Housing Services, Sharona Cowan is working hard to address housing needs by providing public educational / informational sessions. Director Cowan also worked on the development of the Strategic Plan along with Ms. Pullan, the Mayor's office, and Director DeRubeis. Director Cowan has been holding workshops and is involved with several coalitions such being a panelist on conference held by the Coalition to End Homelessness.</li><li>• Mental Health: Worked with Youth Mental Health Alliance to address mental health issues among Stamford's youth as well as provide resources for those in need of mental health services. Training is still being conducted such as mental health First Aid, Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR), and suicide prevention.</li></ul> |  |
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- Environmental Health: Very busy time due to temporary events held citywide especially in the Spring that increases demand for food trucks. Director Pullan is ensuring events and food vendors are properly licensed and inspected for the safety of the community participating in these events.
- Two operation safehouse initiative in both April and May to address illegal housing situations. Sometimes this operation results in condemnations of those spaces. In addition to zoning and building rules, there are also fire safety rules to ensure proper egressing.
- Noise: Increase as the weather warms up. Keeping an eye on outdoor patios that play music and noise. Down to one inspector who's been trained for noise reading using a special meter. Other inspectors are in the process of being trained, and the remaining inspectors will be trained in the upcoming fiscal year.
- Lead: Lead levels that trigger a response and/or inspection have been increased. Due to increased lead investigations, State DPH has been reimbursing the department for every completed epidemiological or on-site investigations.
- The department is also busy with the Rent Rebate program. Maria Millan has been signing a lot of people up for health insurance. There is a grant provided by the State around public messaging focusing on the law that states

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| <p><b>Public, Safety, Health, and Welfare</b><br/>Mr. Lou DeRubeis</p> | <p>children under 13 years of age could be insured under Husky regardless of immigration status.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nursing services are winding down due to schools closing for the summer. Transitioning to Summer school and some nurses will be working during that period working on registrations. There is a grant focusing on immunizations and physicals which will there by extend the hours at the clinic. We work closely with partners such as Family Centers, Community Health Centers, and Optimus to ensure children are getting their appointments.</li><li>• Air quality: Received a grant from the EPA that's taken a long time to get. Currently being reviewed by the Law Department. Working with communities in terms of where the air monitors will be located.</li><li>• Dr. Peyser asked about cooling centers.</li><li>• Opened his presentation by complimenting Director Bishop-Pullan and leadership team on proactive and reactive initiatives.</li><li>• Health Department and Human Services: Re-organization that involved the HR, Administration, Director Bishop-Pullan and leadership team.</li><li>• Mental Health Alliance: Spoke with Representative Karen Camparelli about mental health and expanding the same services</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Director Bishop-Pullan stated that with the help of several community partners, cooling centers have been set up and a list will be published on the Public Safety website.</li></ul> |
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| <p><b>Old Business:</b></p> <p><b>New Business:</b><br/>Anti-Blight Commission</p> <p>Tick Testing Presentation by Director James Federici</p> | <p>provided to the Youth Mental Health Alliance to those who are eighteen years of age (18) and above fomenting a mental health coalition for the adult population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Director DeRubeis wants to have more internal discussions both City wide and with individual departments on how to move forward on this endeavor by making sure the right private partners and stakeholders are involved; will circle back in the fall.</li><li>• Public Safety Training: Health and Wellness training being provided for all public safety and health personnel. It’s important to understand that trauma isn’t one incident, but a series of incidences throughout a period.</li><li>• No old business to report.</li><li>• Requires a representative of the Health Commission to participate, and open to any commissioner. Dr. Peyser has offered to do it.</li><li>• A motion for a vote was held to appoint Dr. Peyser to the Anti-Blight Commission.</li><li>• The tick testing program has been available for 20 years through the Health Department. If a person finds a tick on their body, he/she can bring in the tick into the Health Department along with a submission form. Once the submission form has been completed, and</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• (Approved 4-0) Dr. Peyser is now appointed to represent the Health Commission on the Anti-Blight Commission</li></ul> |
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confirmation of the tick is identified as a deer tick, it is then submitted to the CT Agricultural Experiment Station in New Haven, CT who are funded by the CDC to conduct surveillance testing. Once the results of the tick test are received by Director Federici, he forwards them via email to the resident and keeps a copy on file.

- Over the past three years, the laboratory has averaged 180 ticks that have been received and forwarded for testing. About 84% are tested out of the 180 total submitted ticks.
- Stamford's positivity rate for lime disease parallels what the State averages. Last year, State averages were at around 27%. And Stamford's average positivity rate was at 30%.
- Dr. Peyser asked about turnaround times for these tick tests.
- Other services provided by the laboratory: beach water testing begin on Memorial Day and run until Labor Day for the presence of enterococcus organism. A minimal amount of enterococcus is allowed in beach water, but should the threshold amount be breached then beaches will be closed, and retested the following day. Beaches cannot reopen until levels of enterococcus return to acceptable levels. Another issue that will lead to beach

- Director Federici stated that depending on the time of year, for example Summer, it may be 7 – 10 business days as opposed to Winter where results may take as little as a week may be 5 business days. Except during holidays when results may take longer to complete.

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closure is an accidental discharge of sewage by the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) as well as over an inch of rain fall. Well water testing, working closing with environmental during food borne illness outbreaks, lead testing of drinking water.

- Larvicide: Conducted by All Habitat by treating all 10,000 catch basins throughout the city with larvicide which maintains the mosquito population low. Spot checking of all catch basins is also conducted to ensure larvicide efficacy. There are the 3 trapping sites in Stamford that are tested for the presence of Triple E, West Nile and Zika virus by the CT Agricultural Station. Trapping site tests run from June through October, and results are posted on the Agricultural Experiment Station's website.
- After the first reported Triple E or West Nile virus case is confirmed, the Health Department is notified, and tasked with alerting the public on preventative measures via social media. Such preventative measures such as: disposing of stagnant water, ensuring window screens are tight and have no holes, check yourself once finished with a hike and when doing yardwork.
- Animal Control: If a Stamford resident unknowingly has a bat in their home, it is sent to the CT State laboratory for rabies testing which is completed within 24 hours upon confirmation of exposure.
- On average approximately 3% of bats test positive for rabies. Although the probability is

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|  | low for rabies transmission from bats, it's still good practice to get the bat tested. |  |
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| <b>Appeals:</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No Appeals</li></ul> |  |
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**Adjournment:**

Motion to adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 9:48am.

Submitted by: Raquelle Early