

**Health Commission Meeting  
City of Stamford  
DRAFT MINUTES  
April 08, 2021**

Commissioners Attendance April 2021

Present:  
Dr. Thomas Getreuer  
Ms. Patricia Parry  
Dr. Tabitha Fortt

Absent:

Guest Attendance: Dr. Jennifer Calder, Director of Health (Arrived approximately at 9:03am), Mr. Ted Jankowski, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare, and Ms. Raquelle Early, Recording Secretary

Meeting called to order		Dr. Getreuer called the meeting to order at 8:12am.
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<u>Topics</u>	<u>Discussions</u>	<u>Actions</u>
<p><b>Proposed Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approval of the minutes of the Health Commission Special Meeting of March 11, 2021.</li> </ul> <p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maria Mossa &amp; Mossa John G. Jr., 172 Sanford Lane</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minutes reviewed by the Health Commission.</li> <li>Dr. Getreuer stated the Health Commission received the appeal from Maria &amp; John Mossa. Dr. Getreuer stated for the first time, in a long time, the Health Commission was able to get the appeal heard so quickly that it's actually finished before it's been recorded on the Health Commission's Monthly Agenda. Dr. Getreuer said going forward, the Health Commission would like to continue hearing appeals as fast as the Commission possibly can, as he believes it is the right thing to do and it's respectful to the people who are filing the appeal.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Motion to approve as amended occurred at 8:19am.</li> </ul>

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<p><b>Director of Health Report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dental Hygiene Program</li><li>• Environmental Services</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Getreuer said the appeal hearing was held on March 29, 2021 and the Commission will issue a formal write up. A formal write up was not completed to present during the Monthly Board Meeting.</li><li>• Ms. Parry asked Dr. Getreuer if the Health Commission needs a formal write up of the Appeal Hearing.</li><li>• Ms. Parry asked Dr. Getreuer why. She said the Health Commission never had a report. The Health Commission sends out a letter and the Appeal is considered closed as far as the Health Commission is concerned.</li><li>• Ms. Parry clarified the Minutes for the Appeal Hearing should be drawn up.</li><li>• Dr. Getreuer read through the Director of Health report that was provided by Dr. Calder.</li><li>• Dr. Getreuer read, the Dental Hygiene program is still suspended. The Dental Hygienists have been assisting with Contact Tracing and they have been doing Contact Tracing almost since day one.</li><li>• Dr. Getreuer read, very limited routine activities have been conducted, although After-Hour enforcement is still ongoing.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Getreuer responded a formal write up is necessary to report the results of the Appeal Hearing.</li><li>• Dr. Getreuer responded that Ms. Parry is correct, but a report should be written to state what was done with the appeal.</li><li>• Dr. Getreuer agreed.</li></ul>
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the program occurred beforehand and it's continuing.

- Dr. Getreuer said Dr. Calder has worked with the Director of Pacific House and one of the other organizations, and they all agreed because of the transient nature of the population, the Homeless Shelters need to be hit regularly, until some better system comes along.
- Dr. Getreuer read Restaurant Personnel Vaccinations is a coordinated effort to bring just the Restaurant Workers into the City's Vaccination Site, so they feel less afraid of coming forward and more likely voluntarily go to get vaccinated. The report stated this will occur starting April 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Dr. Getreuer read Contact Tracing continues. He said this continues with a full complement of what he now believes is a total of seventeen (17) or eighteen (18) Contact Tracers. DR. Getreuer said most of them are working fulltime, seven (7) days a week, twelve (12) hours a day.
- Dr. Getreuer read COVID-19 education activities targeting communities of color has launched. Dr. Getreuer stated he doesn't know the specifics on this but he is aware that the Department of Health is working with the Churches, Building One Community and other specific groups to reach Communities of Color, the Immigrant Community.

- General Departmental Issues

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**Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare**

Mr. Ted Jankowski

- COVID-19

- Dr. Getreuer read CT Health Foundation grant extended with an additional award of \$100,000.00 to support Community Health Workers (CHWs).
- Dr. Getreuer read the Department is still working with major staffing shortages. Dr. Getreuer said he doesn't have the numbers on this but he believes the number is in the high-teens of those who need to be replaced.
- Ms. Parry asked can the Health Commission receive a more detailed report next month about the staffing shortage and what are the plans going forward.
- Mr. Jankowski said he would like to start his report by discussing the Health Department first. He said we have been in this pandemic for a longtime and the City has been preparing for it since back in January of 2020. Mr. Jankowski said that The City has conducted internal meetings with Emergency Management. Mr. Jankowski also said the Mayor has been exceptional from the beginning, as he has supported the City, getting everyone to think critically and coming up with great ideas himself all the way through. Mr. Jankowski reported The Mayor, Dr. Calder and Mr. Jankowski have put in a lot of hours and are committed to their positions. Mr. Jankowski said he believes the City has addressed everything they could address, as best as possible, and although they may have had to adapt, they have tried to be as proactive as possible.

- Dr. Getreuer stated that he will ask for it and if he can get it earlier he would get it to the Health Commission by email.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Acknowledgements</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Jankowski said the Health Department has done an excellent job, as well as Public Safety, and Schools.</li><li>• Mr. Jankowski stated the City has partnered with the Nursing Homes and the Hospital to ensure they have the PPE (Personal Protection Equipment) needed, as well as to find out how they were doing, probably even before the State was thinking about doing that. Mr. Jankowski said there have been so many positive and proactive initiatives. The City has always tried to be ahead of the need.</li><li>• Mr. Jankowski said the City has also partnered with Community Groups and NAACP to get the word out to the Community about wearing masks, and how important it is to be tested.</li><li>• Mr. Jankowski acknowledged Dr. Fortt, saying she has been involved almost all the way though. He said Dr. Fortt was there during mask giveaways, at Testing Locations and even vaccination sites. Mr. Jankowski said he appreciates all the work Dr. Fortt has been involved in with the City, even her efforts to reach the hard to reach communities.</li><li>• Mr. Jankowski also acknowledged Ms. Early, saying she has come onboard right in the middle of the pandemic and she has done a good job in supporting Dr. Calder.</li></ul>	
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# Health Commission Meeting

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- Health Department Staffing

- Mr. Jankowski acknowledged Dr. Calder, saying she has been trying to think outside the box, and be proactive in everything the City is doing. Mr. Jankowski said the Health Department staff has been working exceptionally, achieving a lot of the goals the City has sought to achieve, while being understaffed.
- Mr. Jankowski acknowledged CERT & MRC Volunteers, saying they have done an exceptional job. Mr. Jankowski said CERT & MRC have been present at everything the City has asked for, including mask giveaways, testing and vaccination sites. Mr. Jankowski said ceremonies are to come to recognize these individuals.
- Mr. Jankowski reported the Health Department has two key vacancies. He said the Director of Environmental Inspections position is vacant, however Gail McRae is acting in the position. Mr. Jankowski said the City was without a Director of Nursing for a long time and Deidre Anspach, who retired has come back and rose to the occasion.
- Mr. Jankowski said there has been a “battle field promotion” with a few of the Nurses. Mr. Jankowski reported Moira Bryson has done an excellent job dealing with everything, as far as Contact Tracing within the Schools to being involved with the Vaccination program.
- Mr. Jankowski reported Jim Federici, Director of Laboratory is the VAMS Coordinator. Mr. Jankowski said Jim Federici is coordinating with





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Vaccination’, meaning going out into the Public and getting vaccines to the people out there.

- Ms. Parry asked Mr. Jankowski what van do we have because she was under the impression that we had a van that we got rid of.
- Ms. Parry asked Mr. Jankowski who owns the van?
- Ms. Parry asked for clarification regarding if this is the van that Health Department owned/had.
- Mr. Jankowski said with the Mobile Vaccination Program what the City really would like to do, is use the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Mr. Jankowski explained the reasoning being was it’s a one dose vaccine, which he believes would be better received by those who have limited time to get the vaccine because of work or family requirements. Mr. Jankowski stated that the City is trying to increase their numbers of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

- Mr. Jankowski clarified ‘we’ have a sprinter van. Mr. Jankowski said he doesn’t want people to think the van is going to be like a Mobile Food Truck, where people are going to maybe go inside the van. Mr. Jankowski further explained the vision of Dr. Calder is that the van would carry everything that’s necessary and a tent would be set up outside to vaccinate individuals.
- Mr. Jankowski stated the City of Stamford owns the van.
- Mr. Jankowski said there were two (2) vans, one of which was like a mobile home type of van. He explained that van was too cumbersome, very difficult to get out and had special requirements to drive (CDL Driver’s License). Mr. Jankowski said the van that they have now is a regular van which has no special requirements to drive.

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- 911 Communications

- Mr. Jankowski reported there are two locations for Stamford Health; one at the main campus and the other at Elmcroft. Family Centers has vaccines. Optimus is getting out approximately 400 vaccines a week and are asking for more vaccines from the State.
- Mr. Jankowski said there is a program going on right now to vaccinate the seniors and High School. CHC is currently vaccinating seniors in High School.
- Mr. Jankowski stated a lot of technology has been updated in 911 Communications Center. He said they are getting the fullest functionality that they've ever had in the City. Mr. Jankowski said Joe Gaudett, Director of 911, has made some adaptations that have helped bring the Center to where it needs to be.
- Mr. Jankowski said another piece of technology that 911 Communications is using is a program called Carbine. He said Carbine is a program where a Dispatcher, would be able to pull the coordinates to get the exact location of where the person is. Mr. Jankowski reported approximately two (2) individuals were saved as a result of having this program.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public Safety Departments</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Jankowski said they are potentially looking to use Carbine to aid them with response to Mental Health calls received on a routine basis. Mr. Jankowski reported Carbine gave a presentation on this yesterday and it may have some benefits pertaining to Mental Health Responses.</li><li>• Ms. Parry asked if a caller had to give permission for Dispatch to pull the exact location, how that would work with Mental Health issues.</li><li>• Mr. Jankowski said next month the City is bringing on a Social Service Worker at the Police Department, full time, forty hours a week and be on-call to respond to any type of mental health call, but also to make sure that the individual has continuum of care.</li><li>• Dr. Getreuer asked Mr. Jankowski if the Social Service Worker would be under the Police Department or the Health Department.</li><li>• Mr. Jankowski said the City is looking to hire more individuals for the Fire Department but like all other departments the individuals currently working has really stepped up.</li><li>• Mr. Jankowski said illegal dumping is something that is high on his list. Mr. Jankowski said that for</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Jankowski responded it would be a family member or a loved one calling on behalf of someone who is having a mental health episode.</li><li>• Mr. Jankowski responded the Social Service Worker would be under the Police Department.</li></ul>
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some reason the City is seeing a lot more illegal dumping and he is receiving numerous complaints.

- Mr. Jankowski said the City has brought on Citation Officers, who fall under the Public Safety, Health & Welfare Department, as of August 2020. Mr. Jankowski stated Frank Fedeli is the Chief Citation Officer, who was going out for COVID enforcement, as well as the Environment Inspection. Mr. Jankowski stated that Frank Fedeli was addressing a lot of the areas that the Health Department doesn't have the authority to address.
- Mr. Jankowski reported only three (3) public gathering places have been closed down since the beginning of the pandemic because of overcrowding, failure to comply with Governor Orders, not wearing masks, serving alcohol with no food, etc.
- Dr. Getreuer had asked Mr. Jankowski a question on MRC, stating it appears more MRC Volunteers are needed and if that is the case, can anything be done through Public Safety or the Health Department to advance the training of more MRC people.

- Mr. Jankowski responded that's one of Dr. Calder's head projects, stating she loves the MRC and the fact they are volunteering. Mr. Jankowski said right now everything is just overwhelmed and they do seek to increase the ranks. Mr. Jankowski said normally they have the Citizens Public Safety Academy, and that's usually their recruitment effort but they did not have one during the COVID-19 pandemic because it would be tough to get everyone in the same room. Mr. Jankowski said the next recruitment wouldn't be until September, and they will evaluate then.



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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Removal of Dr. Yoon’s name as contact on Health Commission’s webpage.</li></ul>	<p>a half to a third of them. Dr. Getreuer said if the Health Commission moves the meeting to 9:00am the Commission has a better chance of getting both of them attending on a regular basis. Dr. Getreuer stated no time is a problem for him.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dr. Getreuer made a motion to move the Health Commission Monthly Board Meeting time to 9:00am starting with the Health Commission’s next meeting (May 2021).</li><li>• Ms. Parry said on the Health Commission’s webpage, housed under the Health Department, it listed Dr. Yoon as the Commission’s staff contact which is incorrect. Ms. Parry stated there is no staff contact and if anybody should be listed there, she believes it should be Ms. Early.</li><li>• Dr. Getreuer asked Ms. Early if she should be listed as the Staff Contact for the Health Commission.</li><li>• Ms. Parry interjected asking, hasn’t the secretary always been the Staff Contact for the Health Commission and if not, the Chair should be the staff contact or remove Staff Contact from the Health Commission’s webpage. Ms. Parry said she thinks all communication goes through Ms. Early’s position as the Health Commission’s secretary.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Jankowski said that 9:00am works for him as well.</li><li>• Dr. Calder stated 9:00am works better for her.</li><li>• Motion approved (3-0). Ms. Parry stated that a notice to go out immediately notifying the public of the time change.</li><li>• Ms. Early does not know definitively.</li></ul>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health Commissioner's Personal Information for Public View</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Getreuer then posed the question to Dr. Calder, asking would that be an appropriate appointment to have Ms. Early as the Staff Contact or would she prefer not.</li> <li>Ms. Parry said there is no Notice of Meeting that gives the Public any information about the Health Commission or how to reach the Commissioners. Ms. Parry stated it was always included in the face sheet and the Commissioners always got a copy of it, every time there was a meeting and the Commission does not receive that anymore.</li> <li>Dr. Getreuer asked Ms. Parry other than the Agenda of the Meeting, what notice would Ms. Parry be referring to.</li> <li>Dr. Getreuer asked Ms. Parry if the Notice that Ms. Early sends out with the Zoom link is not adequate.</li> <li>Ms. Parry stated the Notice of Meeting that gets posted to the Health Commission's webpage is not sent to the Commissioners. Ms. Parry stated this Notice used to have all the Commissioner's name and contact information attached which was a very different format.</li> <li>Ms. Parry said in the past the Commission always received three (3) attachments:</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dr. Calder responded she will speak with HR (Human Resources) to find out if that's an appropriate assignment for Ms. Early.</li> <li>Ms. Parry responded there is a Notice of Meeting.</li> <li>Ms. Parry responded no because it's not the Notice of Meeting.</li> </ul>
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1. Notice of Meeting
2. Minutes to review
3. Agenda

- Dr. Getreuer asked Ms. Parry does the Health Commission want their personal information to be shared with the Public and why?
- Dr, Getreuer stated he believes the Public should be able to reach the Commission through a Staff Contact and shouldn't necessarily be able to reach the Commissioners directly.
- Ms. Parry asked Dr. Getreuer why.
- Ms. Parry asked if other Commissions are not posting who the Commissioners are.
- Ms. Parry said she is concerned that the Public is trying to reach out to the Commission and they have no contact information. She said that here is a situation Dr. Getreuer is referring to and Ms. Parry has no knowledge of it.

- Ms. Parry said the Health Commission is publicly appointed so shouldn't the public be able to reach the Commissioners.
- Dr. Getreuer referred to what happened recently with the Soccer Moms' and all the letters the Commission has been getting. He said he felt it was inappropriate the way they were reaching out to the Commission.
- Dr. Getreuer responded yes they are posting who the Commissioners are but he is referring to Contact Information.
- Dr. Getreuer said he would go back to the email thread and confirm Ms. Parry was on the emails and if not, he would forward them to her.



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<p><b>New Business</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Response to Vaccination Exemption Form Proposal from Health Commission</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Getreuer asked Dr. Fortt her opinion on the Public having Commissioner’s contact information.</li> <li>• Ms. Parry said having a Staff Contact is fine as long as it can be ensured the information gets to the Health Commission.</li> <li>• Dr. Getreuer said the response he has received is there is nothing wrong with what the Health Commission is asking except for timing. Dr. Getreuer stated it might make more sense to wait until things calm down with the COVID-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• Ms. Parry said she believes it should be addressed now but she thinks it’s something that should be planned for when it will be implemented; should it be adopted, but certainly not before September.</li> <li>• Dr. Getreuer asked Ms. Parry to put something together that the Health Commission can send off to Dr. Calder to review and give her ruling on it.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Fortt said she likes the idea of the Public having a Staff Contact to reach the Health Commission.</li> <li>• Dr. Getreuer said this would be a lot easier to sort out once the Health Commission finds out who the Staff Contact should be.</li> <li>• Ms. Parry agreed.</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 9:21am.</p>
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Submitted by: Raquelle Early