

EAST SHORE DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING  
688 East Main Street, Branford, CT 06405

**Executive Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday February 8, 2024 at 5:30 pm**  
*In-Person/Virtual Meeting*

Present: Susan Addiss, Michael Pascucilla, Elaine Anderson, Dr. Young, Dennis Natri, Virginia Fallon, Darlene Zimmermann, Michael Turcio, Wendy Bellmore

Absent: Susan Deko

The meeting was called to order by Dennis Natri at 5:36 p.m.

1. Welcome
2. Public Comment – none
3. Darlene Zimmermann made a motion to accept the January 18, 2024 minutes. Susan Addiss 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor. Minutes accepted.
4. Correspondence – normal correspondence
5. Guest Presentations
  - Student internship presentation
    - A. Sarah Esenther, Brown University, Ph.D. Candidate
      1. Reviewed Microbial Source Tracking in Short Beach project.
      2. Reviewed statistical data results
    - B. Sara Levy Schulwolf, University of Connecticut, M.P.H./MD Candidate
      1. Reviewed DPH Pipeline Initiatives
      2. Explored career paths and opportunities
      3. Discussed connections and mentorship
      4. Discuss projects and service
    - C. Nicholas Cairo-Devlin
      1. Reflection on past 6-month experience at ESDHD on Harm Reduction. Discussed involvement and results in harm reduction initiative, overdose & suicide
6. Epidemiology report – Madison Wierzel recorded report played, reviewed data, including hospitalizations, vaccination statistics.
  - Presentation on suicide and overdose
    - A. Review statistical data of suicide in East Haven and Branford. Branford has been above the state average 2015 to 2019 and 2021 to 2023. Discussed age, race, and self-harm rates. Not enough data for North Branford.

## B. Reviewed ODMAP statistical data for all towns

### 7. Old Business

- ESDHD Vacancies – OD2A – new position, grant-funded. Received approximately 50 applicants. Received Memo of Understanding from the state, waiting for contract.
- Marsha is retiring after 14 years at the end of the year. We will be posting a position by the end of the year for bookkeeper/office manager.
- Travel Clinic Program – Update by Michael.
- Yale Partnership/Summer Internships – Waiting for notification from Yale. Yale chose ESDHD as host, waiting for candidate to choose us.

### 8. New Business

- Yale & UConn Partnership/Summer Internships – may have funding for new programs from UCONN, potential scholarships to be given.
- Current/Pending Grants – Grant Funded Position Status –
  - Pending grants
    - We recently received an FDA grant for \$10,000 for improvements in to the food safety program.
    - An MRC grant from NACHO for over \$10,000 was also received and will include SCSU student participation.
    - A \$48,000~ Long Island fund for the Short Beach Project. Submitting next week for \$48,000~ grant to DEEP for the Farm River Shellfish project.
    - ESDHD partnered with New Haven Health Department on a CDC harm reduction grant and received funding for a 5-year full-time position to serve ESDHD, including the towns for Madison and Guilford.
  - ESDHD 50<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration – This year. Celebration tentatively planned for the fall.
  - By-Laws - Michael Pascucilla proposed to form a committee (the Bylaws are from 1974)
  - Personnel Policy Updates – Labor Attorney and HR from Branford reviewed and have made suggestions for updates. After the upcoming meeting, results will be brought to the personnel committee and then tentatively to the Board in April.
  - ESDHD Personnel Discussion – Executive Session – Darlene Zimmerman made a motion to go into executive session, Susan Addiss 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Elaine Anderson made a motion to return from the executive session at 7:30 pm. Darlene Zimmerman 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. All in favor.

### 9. Director's Report

- Budget Update – Continue discussion
- ESDHD PH Activity Reports (Environmental, Emerg. Preparedness, Education & Nursing)

10. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Virginia Fallon and seconded by Susan Addiss.  
All in favor. Adjourned at 7:33 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Angela Carrano*

Angela Carrano, DNP, MSN, RN, Secretary