

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

Executive Board Meeting

Wednesday, February 8, 2023 at 3:30 pm
Hybrid (Zoom and In-Person) Meeting

Present: Susan Addiss, Michael Pascucilla, Virginia Fallon, Darlene Zimmermann, Michael Turcio, Elaine Anderson, Susan Deko, Marissa DeChillo-Bateman, Dr. Young

Absent: Dennis Nastri

The meeting was called to order by Susan Addiss at 3:30 pm.

1. Welcome
2. Change in the process of monthly minutes – Michael reviewed the new process as a directive from the town clerk.
3. Correspondences –
 - National Publication – JEH April 2023 - Michael announced an acceptance letter for publication in the April edition of the Journal of Environmental Health, titled “Bacterial Contamination in the Long Island Sound: Using Preemptive Beach Closure to Protect Public Health”. This article in collaboration with Yale University surveyed 15 Public Health Departments. This study is reflective of a preemptive closure policy that was developed and implemented by ESDHD based on best practices.
 - Michael announced the award letter of the patent of the solar pump-out boat.
4. Old Business
 - ESDHD Financial Advisor Investment – Updates – investments have been processed.
 - CT DPH Opioid Grant Award, Academic Detailing Project two-year funding – CT DPH Opioid Grant Award - \$80,000 award given to ESDHD for the next two years, \$40,000 a year. The state has been behind in awarding the grant. However, we are going to move forward with the process. We will be collaborating with physicians and dentists on opioid education to reduce the deaths from opioids in the district. In addition, we have begun looking at the data and have noted that our area has a very high number of deaths related to opioids. Madison had 3 deaths last week; to this date, East Haven has had 33 deaths; Branford had several deaths as well. Dr. Young discussed the presentation to the community by a Yale University Substance Abuse physician.
 - PO Vessel Regional Program 2023 – Updates & Upcoming Changes/Status – meeting took place with the Town of Branford and the State about the contract. The contractors will manage the day-to-day operations and the ESDHD will manage the entire program. This is a change from past practice which included the management of the entire grant by the contractor. Branford has accepted the grant and will be the subcontractor, assisting ESDHD in implementation of services in the other towns

including Guilford, Branford, East Haven, New Haven and West Haven. Special thanks to the Town of Branford for their continued support in the Regional PO Vessel Service.

5. New Business

- Farm River/Short Beach - Water Quality Project Partnerships – In the area of Short Beach and Farm River there have been high levels of contamination and closures noted for some time now. Discussions have taken place with the town and Save the Sound organization to take it to the next level. A literature review has begun on different studies on contamination in other areas similar to Branford. Additionally, in working with Save the Sound and volunteers from Short Beach, we will be collecting additional samples in the near future. This project will be long-term and divided into several parts beginning with looking at the outfalls in the area.
- Travel Clinic Program – Dr. Young reported that many individuals have been inquiring about the clinic weekly. We are now approved for the Yellow Fever vaccine, and now have the WHO official stamp for yellow fever.
- Coronavirus Update / Vaccination Statistics/Clinics – Local & State Update Presentation – Madison Wierzel presented the Covid statistic report. She discussed the state's new reporting system including an additional 536 cases that were missed from previous reports. She noted they may have been reported late from the lab therefore they were missed on the initial report from the state. In addition, she reported on Flu and RSV statistics.
- Branford gifted an old ambulance to ESDHD which is an updated version of the current vehicle. The old ambulance will be returned to the town for auction.
- ESDHD Vacancies – There is currently an opening in environmental health, and our public health nurse has resigned. We will need to review the grant for the specific criteria for the replacement of public health nurse, potentially part-time or per diem replacement.

6. Director's Report

- PHAB Accreditation Application Status – presentation regarding status from Barbara Naclerio. The goal is to “Improve and Protect the Health of the Public in ESDHD”, reviewed goals, timeline, and requirements, reviewed other projects, reviewed mission and vision, strategic issues, reviewed a site visit potentially in April.
- Executive Session – Legal Matter –Virginia Fallon motioned to enter into Executive Session and 2nd by Elaine Anderson. All approved. Motion to return from Executive Session by Elaine Anderson and 2nd Virginia Fallon. All in favor.
- ESDHD PH Activity Reports (Environmental, Emerg. Preparedness, Education & Nursing) – sent via email.

- ESDHD Union Negotiations – Collective Bargaining Contract 2023 – meeting with Director has taken place, waiting for dates and proposals. In the process of putting together a position statement.
- ESDHD 2023-2024 Proposed Budget Report – Director sent in a budget proposal to the towns. Waiting for town’s budget process to begin with follow-up to be brought forth to the board.

7. Motion to adjourn by Darlene Zimmermann and 2nd by Virginia Fallon. All in favor.
Adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Carrano

Angela Carrano, DNP, MSN, RN, Secretary