

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

Executive Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, November 13, 2025, at 5:30 pm
In-Person/Virtual Meeting

Present: Michael Pascucilla, Elaine Anderson, Virginia Fallon, Dennis Nastri, Dr. Richard Young, Darlene Zimmermann, Michael Turcio

Absent: Susan Deko, Wendy Bellmore, Susan Addiss

Dennis Nastri called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

1. Welcome/Public Comments – No public comments
2. Approval of October 9, 2025, ESHD Board Minutes – Motion to approve by Darlene Zimmerman; seconded by Virginia Fallon. All in favor. *Approved.*
3. Correspondence – None.
4. ESHD Epidemiological Report – Presented by Madison Wierzel, covering:
 - Wastewater update
 - Respiratory virus summary
 - Updates on H5N1 and measles
 - Suicide data update
 - Local overdose trends
5. Old Business
 - a. Travel Clinic Update – Dr. Young – Brief report noted continued success of the travel clinic and expected seasonal fluctuations.
 - b. DPH/Yale Partnership/UCONN/SCSU/Internship Status
 - Another UCONN student may be interning with ESHD.
 - Fifty students are available this year; historically, three students participated in the \$3,000 paid internship. Awaiting student interest for this year's match.
 - SCSU student placement is pending.
6. Current/Pending Grants
 - a. Grant Updates
 - Received the executed OD2A grant for just over \$100,000.00~, a slight increase for supporting New Haven initiatives. Funding includes a new campaign to reduce stigma around overdoses and substance use disorders, with TV, print, and media outreach planned over the coming months.
 - Per capita grant will increase next year.
 - Beginning in January, the audit committee will provide regular grant reports.
7. New Business
 - Testimony – Branford Local Ordinance (10/23) – Michael Pascucilla discussed efforts to regulate land clearing by developers and preserve native trees and shrubs. The ordinance aims to reduce clear-cutting and protect local landscapes.
 - APHA/ESH D Research Presentation – ESHD was invited to present as part of a panel at APHA, with particular interest in the Short Beach and Farm River project.
 - Website – Encouraged to review the updated website; improvements will continue.

- ESHD Databases – Soft launch underway. Environmental specialists are now using tablets with immediate data upload. Minor issues are being resolved; the system has reduced paperwork and office call-ins.
- ESHD Accreditation Event – Scheduled for Friday, December 12, 2025 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Invitations will be sent; the Commissioner of Public Health will be in attendance.
- 2026 BOD Meeting Schedule – The May meeting will be moved to May 7, 2026 and the November meeting will be moved to November 19, 2026.

8. Committee Reports

- Executive Committee – Dennis Nasti – No report.
- Personnel Committee – Michael Pascucilla – Environmental Specialist position needs to be filled as it is a priority this coming FY or sooner.
- Planning/Evaluation Committee – Elaine Anderson – Discussion on restructuring to occur in the spring.
- Audit Committee – Michael Turcio – Next meeting in January.
- Budget Committee – Virginia Fallon – No report; meeting forthcoming. Recommendation is a 3–4% per capita increase for the next budget year. Motion by Darlene Zimmermann to increase per capita by 4%; seconded by Virginia Fallon. All in favor. Approved.
- Ad Hoc Committee – By-Laws – No report.
- Ad Hoc Committee – Health District Building – Darlene Zimmermann – No report; project on hold.

9. Director's Report

- Budget update – District remains financially stable. Reserve funds are being sparingly used due to recent vacancies. Hiring freeze remains in place except for maternal-child health positions. This will be reevaluated with the new year and budget cycle of FY 2026-2027.

10. Activity Reports

- Distributed via email for review. No comments.

11. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Darlene Zimmermann; seconded by Michael Turcio. All in favor.
Adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Carrano

Angela Carrano, DNP, MSN, RN, Secretary