

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
Coventry Town Hall Annex
Thursday, April 12, 2018

Members present: J. Carrington (Mansfield), J. Elsesser (Coventry), J. Higgins (Andover), P. Shapiro (Mansfield), P. Schur (Willington), D. Walsh (Coventry), M. Walter (Columbia), S. Werbner (Tolland)

Staff present: R. Miller, M. Brosseau, K. Dardick

Call to Order: J. Elsesser called the meeting to order at 4:34 pm.

Approval of Minutes February 15, 2018

P. Schur made a MOTION seconded by D. Walsh to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2018 meeting as presented. R. Miller noted the minutes should be amended to reflect the date of February 15 rather than February 16. MOTION PASSED to approve the minutes as amended with P. Shapiro abstaining.

New Business

Employee PPO Premium Cost Share

R. Miller presented background information to the board. Noting that none of the staff changed to the high deductible plan.

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by P. Shapiro to approve an employee health insurance premium cost share increase of 1.5% resulting in a total employee cost share of 17% for the health district PPO plan, effective July 1, 2018.

S. Werbner suggested the Personnel Committee review offering the high deductible plan to new employees. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Director Signature annual authorization resolution

R. Miller reminded the board that this is an annual resolution that needs to be adopted by the board authorizing the Director of Health to sign and execute grant contracts documents on behalf of the health district.

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by P. Shapiro to adopt the "Resolution Signature Authorization" for fiscal year 2018/2019 contracts with the Connecticut Department of Public Health as presented on April 12, 2018. MOTION PASSED unanimously. Copy of resolution is attached.

Auditor appointment for FY 17/18

Mansfield Director of Finance seeks the Board's approval to adopt Blum Shapiro & Company, P.C. as for fiscal year 17/18.

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by P. Schur to appoint Blum Shapiro & Company P.C. as the auditor for Fiscal year 17/18. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports

Finance Committee – Financial Report, period ending 3/31/18

R. Miller reported on the financials for the period ending 3/31/18. The financial committee did not meet to review this report and it was recommended that the full board accept the report. P. Shapiro made a MOTION, seconded by S. Werber to accept the financial report for the period ending 3/31/18 as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Town Reports

Tolland – S. Werbner reported that the new sign for Electric Blue is causing controversy.

Andover – J. Higgins reported that Nonna’s Kitchen will be opening April 17th.

Mansfield – P. Shapiro reported that Fenton River Grill has opened.

Coventry – J. Elsäesser reported that Reid’s will be reopening. Wicked Slice has started delivery service. A commercial dishwasher has been purchased for the Coventry Senior Center. 2 Lucas devices which are automatic CPR devices have been purchased and 38 volunteers have been trained.

Directors Report

Strategic Plan Progress Report

Viewpermit Online permit system update R. Miller reported that View Permit was officially launched on April 2nd. Staff continues to participate in weekly training events. Next will be the build out of the public portal, with a target date of June for beginning to use it. Long term plan will be to provide computer kiosks to all satellite offices for broader public access.

FDA Food code transition update R. Miller reported that staff has completed the classroom training mandated by DPH. They continue to progress on completing the online training. Next step would be to amend the sanitary code. There is a proposed legislative change to delay implementation possibly to January 1, 2019.

Legislative advocacy R. Miller reported that his office has been very involved with the efforts of the CADH Advocacy Committee. R. Miller briefed the board on a number of bills CADH is tracking & providing testimony.

Substance Abuse in our Communities Workgroup – Members have been working on efforts to monitor overdoses at the local level.

Trifold of programs and resources has been completed and is being printed. It will be distributed soon to Emergency responders, human services departments and youth services departments.

R. Miller participated in a round table discussion with Senator Murphy. Legislation highlighted was the Recovery Coaches Act which will link people admitted to EDs to services. People would be deployed to individuals at the ED to help them navigate the services available.

R. Miller will participate in a 3 person panel May 23rd, police chief and person in recovery to engage in conversation with the community at the 2nd Congregational Church in Coventry.

Discussion ensued the Recovery Coach Program.

R. Miller reported that CADH Advocacy Committee supported the bill to increase the age for buying tobacco to 21. The committee opposed legislation to legalize recreational marijuana.

Influenza season update

R. Miller distributed a letter from the Commissioner of Public Health thanking the Health District for participation in the State Flu Vaccination Days. R. Miller reported that EHHD conducted 2 clinics which resulted in vaccinated 210 people.

K. Dardick reported that cases of influenza are diminishing. He stated this was "the worst season ever".

Medical Advisor Report

K. Dardick reported that ticks are active and his office has already seen cases of tick bites and a couple cases of disease. A new strain of the bacterium borrelia has been identified. It has been confirmed that this strain has been around for many years which could account for many negative test results.

K. Dardick will be presenting a class at the Center for Learning in Retirement at UConn, on common tick borne infections. And he will be participating in a program at Windham Hospital on Advanced Care Planning.

Communications

Connecticut Health Department and Health District Annual report Summary FY16

R. Miller highlighted the restaurant inspection frequency table noting that the data is underreported and doesn't account for seasonal establishments. EHHD frequency is around 95%, significantly higher than the state average frequency.

DataHaven Press release/agreement re: 2018 Community Wellness Survey

R. Miller reported that DataHaven has been engaged to conduct a wellness survey. D. Walsh expressed concern that people don't answer calls from numbers they do not recognize. R. Miller noted the approach is an evidence based self-reported method.

Adjournment

M. Walter made a MOTION seconded by J. Higgins to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 pm.

Next Board Meeting – June 21, 2018, 4:30 PM at Coventry Town Hall Annex

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Miller
Secretary