

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes
Coventry Town Hall Annex
Thursday, August 17, 2017

Members present: M. Capriola (Mansfield), B. Devito (Ashford), J. Elsesser (Coventry), P. Schur (Willington), P. Shapiro (Mansfield), J. Stille (Bolton), M. Walter (5:25 pm Columbia), D. Walsh (Coventry), S. Werbner (Tolland)

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

Call to Order: J. Elsesser called the meeting to order at 4:39 pm.

J. Elsesser introduced and welcomed our guest, J. Higgins, the Town Administrator for Andover.

Approval of minutes of June 15, 2017 J. Stille made a MOTION, seconded by S. Werbner to approve the minutes of the June 15, 2017 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously with M. Capriola abstaining.

New Business

Ratify State DPH per capita grant application FY17/18

R. Miller reported to the board that this per capita grant application has been submitted, awarded and the money has been received and requested ratification of the application. D. Walsh made a MOTION seconded by P. Shapiro to ratify the Eastern Highlands Health District's Fiscal Year 2017 State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Per Capita Funding Application as presented August 17, 2017. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Ratify Tolland Employee wellness contract FY17/18

R. Miller informed the board that this agreement with Tolland is to provide wellness services to Tolland Town employees. J. Stille made a MOTION seconded by D. Walsh to ratify the Town of Tolland/Eastern Highlands Health District Employee Wellness Service Agreement, as presented August 17, 2017. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

FDA Food Code Transition Plan

R. Miller presented an overview of the salient changes that will affect local health departments and food establishments as a result of the adoption of the FDA Food Code signed into law June 21, 2017. R. Miller also outlined for the board a transition plan to meet the 2 significant dates of October 1 and the effective enforceable July 1, 2018 date of the FDA food code.

R. Miller noted that budget implications would include a potential loss of revenue due to the reclassification of food establishments. There was discussion by the finance committee at their meeting on this topic. Members of the finance committee believe the best way to handle this is to clarify the fee schedule. J. Elsesser stated that the fee schedule for the current fiscal year has been adopted and can remain in effect. Parenthetically, notation would be made on the fee schedule. B. Devito concurred. P. Schur also concurred and noted that the fee definition can be different than the inspection classification.

J. Stille initiated discussion on the 70-100 hours of training staff will need to complete prior to July 1, 2018. Board members suggested explicit guidance be provided to line staff to facilitate a balance between training and workload.

Subcommittee Reports

Finance Committee – Quarterly financial reports for the period ending 6/30/17

J. Stille reported that the finance committee reviewed the statement the period ending 6/30/17 and accepted the report. The agency realized an operational surplus of \$20, 598 for FY 16/17

FY 17/18 Update

The finance committee discussed other grants noting that under the Governor's executive order budget the lead grant has zero funding and the per capita grant is fully funded for the current fiscal year.

J. Stille reported on a survey done by R. Miller regarding possible fees for non-profit food establishments as part of a cost recovery effort. Details of the survey were discussed. There will be further discussion at the October Board meeting. The board requested that management survey other districts.

Personnel Committee – Timeline DOH performance review process

D. Walsh reviewed the timeline and encouraged all board members to participate. M. Capriola informed the board that a reminder would be sent out Friday, August 18th.

Town Reports

Scotland – B. Syme reported that a new restaurant has opened in Scotland: The Scotland General Store.

Mansfield – P. Shapiro informed that board of 3 new restaurants in Mansfield: Grille 86, Monster Ice Thai Ice Cream and Tang Karaoke. M. Capriola noted that CT Fastrack will be coming to Storrs. Also off campus students will begin moving in the weekend of the 19th with on campus students moving in the weekend of the 26th.

Tolland – S. Werbner reported that Senator Murphy would be at the Tolland Training Center next Wednesday (8/23/17), 3:15 pm regarding the crumbling foundation issue.

Bolton – J. Stille reported that Bolton Lakes Regional Water Pollution Control Authority met with the Town of Coventry to continue discussion of extending sewer up 44 into Coventry. J. Stille noted that Stanley cup will be at the Bolton Ice Palace Monday 11:30-1:30.

Coventry – J. Elsesser provided updates on the CT Water Project on Main street and the Lake Gate Project

Columbia – M. Walter announced the opening of a new winery in Columbia. He also noted that Columbia has passed a fracking waste ban ordinance.

Dr. Dardick noted that the lyme/tick season has dramatically decreased due to the heat of the summer.

Directors Report

Strategic plan progress – ViewPoint Online Platform

R. Miller reported that a “go live” date has been set with View Point. The target date is January 1, 2018.

Solar Eclipse

Dr. Dardick spoke briefly about the solar eclipse and asked that the Health District do something to get information out about needing the appropriate glasses to view the eclipse.

Quarterly activity report – period ending 6/30/17

R. Miller directed the Board members’ attention to the histograms noting that deep test holes are down, septic permits and B100a permits are about the same, complaints are down and Food Service is down due to a staffing vacancy. Well permits are up probably due to the drought.

Communications

R. Miller called attention to the article **Newstimes re: Group of Connecticut Municipalities explore lawsuit against opioid drug makers**. J. Elsesser noted that a public information meeting will be held in Waterbury later this month. If anyone is interested J. Elsesser has the details. R. Miller reported that the Health District continues to work with the substance abuse workgroup. Presently they are working on compiling information to develop a referral card.

D. Walsh inquired whether there was anything being done to increase the number of suboxone certified practitioners. R. Miller noted that legislation was passed to increase the number of patients a practitioner could treat.

DPH re: Private Well Testing

Well water fairs will be held at the Chaplin library and the Ashford library. Additional details will be sent to Board members.

J. Stille asked that the board consider finding a source for funding to have similar events at other towns in the district.

Adjournment

J. Stille made a MOTION seconded by B. Syme to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 pm.
MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Next Board Meeting, October 19, 2017, 4:30 PM at Coventry Town Hall Annex

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Miller
Secretary

