

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes DRAFT

Thursday, October 16, 2025

Members present: E. Anderson (Andover), R. Aylesworth (Mansfield - Virtual), M. Capriola (Mansfield), J. Elsesser (Coventry), B. Foley (Tolland – Virtual), J. Rupert (Bolton), M. Walter (Columbia – Virtual)

Staff present: R. Miller, Director of Health, M. Brosseau, Office Manager, Dr. Dardick, Medical Advisor

J. Elsesser called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm

Approval of Minutes

J. Rupert made a MOTION seconded by M. Walker to accept the minutes of the 8/21/2025 meeting as presented. MOTION passed with E. Anderson abstaining because he was in Iceland at the time of the 8/21 meeting.

Proposed 2026 Regular Meeting Schedule

The issue of the proposed 2026 meeting schedule was tabled, as the day and time of the meetings was questioned as being convenient for all. A doodle poll regarding the date and time of meetings will be sent to members of the board.

DPH FY26 Per Capita Grant Application - Ratification

E. Anderson made a MOTION, seconded by J. Rupert to ratify the submittal of the Eastern Highlands Health District's Fiscal Year 2025-2026 State of Connecticut Department of Public Health Per Capita Funding Application, as presented October 16, 2025. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Personnel Committee Report

Executive Session

M. Capriola made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to enter Executive Session at 4:42 PM to discuss personnel matters in accordance with GCS 1-200(6)(a), Director of Health Performance Review. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Executive Session ended at 4:49 PM.

Regular meeting resumed at 4:49 PM.

J. Rupert made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to accept the Personnel Committees recommendation to award R. Miller a 3% increase in annual salary retroactive to July 1, 2025, and a one-time bonus of \$1000. MOTION passed unanimously.

J. Elsesser noted that it is time to conduct a salary survey for the position. M. Capriola will complete that task.

R. Aylesworth and B. Foley left the meeting at 4:51 pm.

Directors Report

Immunization Program Update

R. Miller noted that the department is in the midst of vaccine clinics. The office continues to add more clinics to the schedule. R. Miller informed the board of the partnership with Beacon Pharmacies which offers additional vaccines including high dose influenza, RSV, Pneumonia, and Covid-19 for all age groups. EHHD is only giving influenza immunizations at this time.

E. Anderson initiated discussion about the recommended dosages and timeline. Dr. Dardick discussed various options and ultimately suggested that one should check with their doctor.

R. Miller further noted that claims are being filed successfully and we are getting paid.

Opioid Initiative Update

R. Miller informed the board that a kick off meeting has been scheduled for October 28, 2025. E. Anderson questioned how funds were distributed. R. Miller noted that the new group would be able to assist with that information.

CGA Public Health Committee – P.A. 25-97 Sewage Disposal workgroup appointment

R. Miller has been appointed to the Public Health Committee's workgroup that will review the regulations regarding sewage disposal. R. Miller noted that the threshold for responsibility of local public health will increase to 10,000 gallon systems resulting in a material increase in local health workload.

Staffing Update

R. Miller reported that the Public Health Nurse position has been filled by Angelica Dupont.

Medical Advisors Report

Dr. Dardick report that there is relatively no influenza at this time. And the covid cases he is seeing are imported cases linked to travel.

He encourages people to get the updated vaccine.

Communication/Other

R. Miller called attention to the following communications:

Governor Lamont re: Executive Actions to Protect COVID-19 Vaccines

R. Miller noted that the actions align with science based findings.

EHHD re: Press Release EHHD Urges Residents to Get Seasonal Vaccinations, including COVID-19

Governor Lamont re: Northeast Public Health Collaborative

R. Miller reported that the Governors Public Health Alliance is nationwide. Dr. Dardick noted that the will provide support to the medical community.

NACCHO re: Shutdown & Agency Contingency Plans

R. Miller noted that this will not affect the local level at this time, but will continue to monitor the situation.

OHS re: CT's Application for Rural Health Transformation Program Town Reports

R. Miller informed the board that this program is designed to keep rural hospitals open. Ct will receive \$100 million over a 5 year period.

Columbia

M. Walter reported:

- Square Peg Pizza has not moved forward with project
- Still one empty restaurant in Columbia plaza
- New cannoli and coffee shop coming soon
- Health District was helpful in tracking drainage coming from properties down to the lake. There was no source of contamination
- No significant algae bloom

Bolton

J. Rupert reported:

- No significant algae bloom
- New Dunkin Donuts to be opening in Bolton

Andover

E. Anderson reported:

- Pho House is well received
- Other restaurants in Andover, Tom's Place and Andover Pizza continue to do well
- Senior Center is up and running. The food service is running well.
- E. Anderson informed the Board of his resignation as Andover Town Manager effective next month

Coventry

J. Elsesser reported:

- HVAC project at Coventry High School is near completion; There will be a grand opening later in the month
- R. Miller noted that the town has engaged a consultant to design a water thrusting system to deal with the high bacterial counts at Patriots Park bathing area

Mansfield

M. Capriola reported:

- Mansfield Middle School is undergoing a HVAC project on the 3rd floor

Adjournment

J. Rupert made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:30 pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Next Board Meeting – December 11, 2025, 4:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Miller

Secretary