

Eastern Highlands Health District  
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes  
Virtual Meeting Via Zoom  
Thursday, January 20, 2022

**Members present:** E. Anderson (Andover), R. Aylesworth (Mansfield), J. Elsesser (Coventry – 4:49pm), L. Hancock (Tolland), S. Powers (Scotland), C. Silver-Smith (Ashford), T. Nuccio (Tolland), D. Walsh (Coventry), M. Walter (Columbia), E. Wiczenski (Willington)

**Staff present:** R. Miller, C. Bradshaw-Hill, K. Dardick, M. Brosseau

Vice Chair M. Walter called the meeting to order at 4:34pm

***Scheduled Item: EHHD Public Hearing – Proposed FY22/23 Operating Budget, & Proposed FY 22/23 CNR Budget.***

E. Wiczenski made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to open the Public Hearing at 4:34pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously. R. Miller read the notice into the record. (See attached) R. Miller noted that there were no written comments received. No public present. T. Nuccio made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to close the Public Hearing at 4:37PM. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by E. Wiczenski to accept the minutes of the December 9, 2021 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

**Proposed Fiscal Year 22/23 Operating Budget, & Proposed FY 22/23 CNR Budget**

E. Anderson made a MOTION, seconded by E. Wiczenski to adopt the FY 22/23 Operating and CNR budget as proposed. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

**Town Reports**

**Andover** – E. Anderson reported that Andover has seen a heavy spike of COVID-19. The town distributed test kits and N95 mask. D. Walsh inquired about the Bunker Hill Road project. E. Anderson provided an update.

**Willington** – E. Wiczenski reported an increase in COVID-19 cases. They continue to mask in town buildings. They have seen an increase in cases amongst staff. However none have been linked to peer-to-peer transmission. Boards and committees are meeting remotely. E. Wiczenski reported that Willington distributed test kits and N95 masks.

**Mansfield** – R. Aylesworth reported that the town wide mask mandate remains in effect for Mansfield. Test kits and N95 masks were distributed.

**Tolland** – L. Hancock reported that masks and test kits were distributed.

**Columbia** – M. Walter reported that masks and tests kits have been distributed. Additional items will be picked up Friday, 1/21. M. Walter informed the board that staff has been affected by COVID-19. Masking requirements in town buildings remains in effect.

**Ashford** – Due to technical difficulties, C. Silver-Smith was unable to provide a report.

**Coventry** – J. Elsesser reported that test kits were distributed. The town now has a waiting list of 250 people wanting test kits. J. Elsesser informed the board that the UConn School of nursing is building air filter setups for the schools.

## **Directors Report**

### **COVID-19 Activity Update**

R. Miller reported on the activities related to COVID-19 in which his office has engaged. He noted that there has been an extreme amplification of cases. The weekly reports generated now include a positivity and incidents rates for each town.

Dr. Dardick noted that COVID is still out there and in addition his office is seeing strep, viral infections and other infections indicative of people not wearing masks. Of his patients no vaccinated patients have been hospitalized due to COVID. Unfortunately, they have seen deaths due to COVID in unvaccinated individuals.

Discussion ensued regarding positive home tests not being reported and overall case numbers not being accurate.

R. Aylesworth ask Dr. Dardick how to increase the number of 5-11 year olds that are vaccinated. Dr. Dardick expressed that he was unable to speak to that.

R. Miller reported that the position of Public Health Nurse may be filled very soon.

### **Executive Session**

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by M. Walter to enter executive session in accordance with CGS 1-200(6)(a), Director of Health Performance Review. MOTION PASSED unanimously. Executive Session began at 5:21pm. Executive Session ended at 5:54pm.

D. Walsh made a MOTION seconded by E. Wicewski, that the Directors salary be increased to \$119,545, which is the average of the recent survey conducted on Directors of Health Salaries. In addition the Board authorized a one time performance bonus that they are calling a "COVID bonus" of \$5000. J. Elsesser noted that the record should show this raise is retroactive to July 1, 2021. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

R. Miller thanked the Board and his staff for their continued support.

R. Aylesworth, S. Powers, E. Wicewski and D. Walsh left the meeting at 5:57pm.

### **EHHD Annual Report to DPH**

R. Miller reported that annually, pursuant to state statute health departments are obliged to provide an annual report in a format prescribed by the state. 5 or 6 years ago a CT general statute was passed establishing 10 Essential Services for basis of health departments to be eligible for funding from the state health department. There were no thresholds established for these services. The Department of Public Health recently created thresholds they are telling health departments they have to meet. These standards were developed without any input from local public health. R. Miller reported that an evaluation has been sent to him that shows that 8 of 13 standards are either NOT MET or only partially met. R. Miller informed the board that it will require a part-time FTE to meet all these standards. He notified the board that this is an issue that will need to be revisited. R. Miller suggested the

following items be reviewed in the future: updating the strategic plan, developing the community health needs assessment and working toward meeting state standards.

**DataHaven Equity Report**

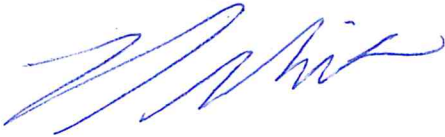
R. Miller encouraged everyone to review the report for their individual town.

**Adjournment**

E. Anderson made a MOTION, seconded by M. Walter to adjourn the regular meeting at 6:06 pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

**Next Board Meeting – February 17, 2022, 4:30 PM**

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Miller

Secretary

