

Eastern Highlands Health District  
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes  
Coventry Town Hall Annex  
Thursday, April 11, 2019

**Members present:** J. Elsesser (Coventry), J. Higgins (Andover), D. Kennedy (Mansfield), E. Paterson (Mansfield), B. Syme (Scotland), D. Walsh (Coventry), M. Walter (Columbia), S. Werbner (Tolland via phone)

**Staff present:** R. Miller, M. Brosseau, S. Miller (student intern), K. Dardick

**Call to Order:** E. Paterson called the meeting to order at 4:33 pm.

**Approval of Minutes February 21, 2019**

J. Elsesser made a MOTION seconded by M. Walter to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2019 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes March 21, 2019**

J. Elsesser made a MOTION seconded by J. Higgins to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2019 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED with M. Walter abstaining.

**New Business**

**Appointment of Auditor FY 18/19**

Mansfield Director of Finance seeks the Board's approval to adopt Blum Shapiro & Company, P.C. as auditor for fiscal year 18/19.

D. Kennedy made a MOTION, seconded by D. Walsh to appoint Blum Shapiro & Company P.C. as the auditor for Fiscal year 18/19. 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 D. Kennedy to adopt the "Resolution Signature Authorization" for fiscal year 2019/2020 contracts with the Connecticut Department of Public Health as presented on April 11, 2019. MOTION PASSED unanimously. Copy of resolution is attached.

**Town Reports**

**Coventry** – J. Elsesser reported the following:

- Vinton Village is being reconstructed and Wicked Slice will be returning there.
- Dr. Keenan has moved out of Coventry and is temporarily in Mansfield.
- Pizza on Main will be opening in the building where Francesca's operated.
- Coventry is still working on the project to tie into Bolton sewer lines.
- Hydrilla treatment will cost the town \$130,000

- 4 towns- Coventry, Bolton, Mansfield and Tolland are working together to hire an Economic Development consultant

D. Walsh asked which additional businesses will be inspected by the health district. R. Miller noted that they are cosmetology businesses – barbers, hair dressers, nail salons.

**Andover** – J. Higgins reported that an architect has presented several option for the remodeling a wing of the elementary school to accommodate the senior center.

**Columbia** - M. Walter reported that a new restaurant, Maine Moose, will be opening in Columbia

**Mansfield** – D. Kennedy reported the following:

- Francesca’s restaurant is no longer moving to Mansfield
- The 4 Corners sewer project is moving along.
- School building committee working on School consolidation project. They voted on recommendation to put it at the Southeast location. Would need to relocate a well. J. Elsesser suggest that D. Kennedy talk with the WUCC for Mansfield.
- Final budget deliberation was Wednesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>. Next step is the public hearing.

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

**Scotland** – B. Syme reported that there have been several new homes where water tests showed arsenic in the well water. R. Miller helped publish a notice encouraging people to test their water. R. Miller also suggested that it may be worth running a district-wide campaign in the future.

### **Medical Advisor Report**

J. Elsesser asked about a tick that makes you allergic to meat. Dr. Dardick informed the board that it is the Lone Star tick that can result in an allergy to red meat after several bites from the tick. The saliva from this tick has a sugar in it that is similar to sugar found in red meat. Dr. Dardick noted that the tick is rare in Connecticut. Dr. Dardick reported to the board that a new tick is in the news. The Asian Longhorn tick is rampant in Staten Island, NY. Notable about this tick is that it is able to self-reproduce. It is not known to carry disease affecting humans.

Dr. Dardick reported that there has been a recent uptick in the number of flu cases.

D. Walsh requested that Dr. Dardick speak about superbugs and measles. Dr. Dardick noted that there have only been 2 cases of measles in Connecticut. He further noted that superbugs have an increase in resistance to antibiotics.

**Tolland** – S. Werbner reported that the major focus in Tolland is in construction of a new elementary school. He noted that Holly has been excellent in working with the town on this project.

### **Directors Report**

#### **Legislative/advocacy – CADH testimonials/bill tracking**

R. Miller reported on several bills:

- HB6955 Property maintenance code bill hasn't made it out of committee. Reminded that this would have put a lot of demand on Health District staff and is an unfunded mandate.
  - There are numerous bills related to controlling tobacco and vaping products. R. Miller suspects there will be consolidation of the bills. CADH is supporting the bills. D. Kennedy questioned whether any of the bills were making it easier to buy or less restrict or if there were any proposing restrictions of selling or distributing within a radius of a school system.
  - HB6742 Act concerning Human trafficking and nail technician licensing. Unfunded mandates are being tacked onto this bill.
  - HP7133 While this bill, if fully funded will be protective of children as it is currently written, it will pose a significant burden on local health. Funding is essential. The bill has been voted out of the public health committee. This bill lowers the standard on which local public health will be required to launch an epidemiological and environmental investigation. A single case required 40-50 man hours. This would require a full time person to implement the program.
- E. Paterson asked D. Dardick about the long term issues of lead exposure. Dr. Dardick indicated that there is data to support that it leads to brain damage, and decreased intellectual functioning. The bill has been referred to appropriations. R. Miller will be reaching out to members on appropriation committee. Additionally he will reach out to legislators if it goes to the floor.

### **Substance Abuse in Our Communities Workgroup activities – mini grant award**

R. Miller reported that Eastern Highlands Health District has been awarded \$8750 in grant money. The grant will support existing staff time to review and draft a policy for pre-staging naran at public buildings, in conjunction with Mansfield Youth Services, as well as additional activities. S. Miller, EHHD intern, has been working on this project. The grant money will also fund a Drug Take Back Day.

J. Elsesser noted that Coventry's EMS coordinator attended a "Stop the Bleed Train the Trainer program" hosted by the town of Manchester. He is now a certified trainer and Coventry will be starting a "Stop the Bleed" program.

### **Advocacy**

R. Miller noted that the FDA food code delayed. Within FDA food code is a training component to ensure all inspectors meet standardized requirements for inspections. Under the new standards being developed, 50 inspections will now need to be done to certify any new food inspector: 25 will be done in house and 25 with a state official. CADH will be pushing back on this because of the burden it will place on local health.

### **Staff recruitment update**

New Chief Sanitarian, Lynette Swanson started Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup>. She has "hit the ground running".

Community Health and Wellness Coordinator interviews have been completed. An offer has been made and R. Miller is waiting to hear back.

Environmental Health Inspector position has been posted. It closes at the end of the month.

Fulltime Sanitarian position has been posted and will be closing by the end of the month. R. Miller asked all board members to be patient if they are seeing any delays in service as the district is down 1 ½ FTEs. If there are any concerns, please direct them to Rob.

**Communications**

**New Haven Register re: East Shore Health District misses restaurant inspections**

R. Miller noted that East Shore received bad press meeting the minimum mandate for food inspections. Very few Health districts are able to meet the mandate due to manpower and the way the regulations read. Due to staff vacancies, EHHD will be significantly below the mandate. The focus is being placed on high risk establishments.

**Adjournment**

D. Kennedy made a MOTION seconded by J. Higgins to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 pm.

**Next Board Meeting – June 20, 2019, 4:30 PM at Coventry Town Hall Annex**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Miller', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Robert Miller  
Secretary