

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 19, 2023

Members present: E. Anderson (Andover), R. Aylesworth (Mansfield - Virtual), M. Capriola (Mansfield - Virtual), J. Elsesser (Coventry), H. Evans (Mansfield - Virtual), J. Rupert (Bolton- Virtual), D. Walsh (Coventry), E. Wiecenski (Willington - Virtual)

Staff present: R. Miller, M. Brosseau, A. Backhaus

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

Approval of Minutes E. Anderson made a MOTION seconded by D. Walsh to accept the minutes of the August 17, 2023 meeting as presented. MOTION passed unanimously.

Proposed 2023 Regular Meeting Schedule

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to adopt the Eastern Highlands Health District Board of Directors 2024 regular meeting schedule as presented. MOTION passed unanimously.

Workforce Development Grant Contract

R. Miller provided an overview of the grant and how the funding will be utilized. D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by E. Wiecenski to authorize the Director of Health to negotiate and execute final terms for the Public Health Workforce Development grant contract with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health, contract number DPH20240054PSA. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Personnel Committee Report

Executive Session

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to enter Executive Session at 4:45 PM to discuss personnel matters in accordance with GCS 1-200(6)(a), Director of Health Performance Review. Executive session ended at 5:00 PM.

Regular meeting resumed at 5:00 PM.

M. Capriola joined the meeting.

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by E. Wiecenski that because of a positive review the board is happy to award Mr. Miller a 3% increase in annual salary retroactive to July 1, 2023, bringing his annual salary from \$123,025 to \$126,716 and the board will award a one-time bonus of \$1000. MOTION passed unanimously.

Town Reports

E. Wiecenski left the meeting at 5:05pm

Mansfield – H. Evans expressed her wish that the board focus on mental health issues moving forward. R. Aylesworth reported that the month of November will be the 20 year anniversary for Mansfield Community Center. R. Aylesworth also informed the board that there continues to be development throughout the town.

Bolton – J. Rupert reiterated that he is looking forward to revisiting the issue of regional efforts on the opioid issue

Andover – E. Anderson report on the following:

- Ground has broken for the Community Center
- 2 bridge projects and 1 culvert project are underway
- HVAC updates are being done in town buildings
- In RFP process for legislative appropriation to study activity on route 316.
- Working with DEEP on changing gates to bollards on the rail trails
- Building new senior transportation center
- Award STEAP grant for phase 2 of recreation improvements

Coventry – J. Elsesser reported on the following:

- Project to replace heating/ventilation system at the high school is moving forward
- Two ribbon cuttings occurred – one at the library for the addition and one for the second softball field
- A STEAP grant will be used to replace the playscape at Patriots Park. Improvements will also be done to the band shell, pavilion and sidewalks. In an effort at geese management a fountain will be installed in the lake in the hopes of interrupting the landing pattern. Additionally, water turbines will be installed to move geese “poop” away from the beach
- Study being done for Miller Richardson to look at concepts to change the park with a focus on safety
- Very few new houses being built in town
- Sewer project is still ongoing
- A water tower will be installed in town to provide fire suppression to the village.

Directors Report

Sport and game club – Rabies investigation

R. Miller informed the board of an investigation surrounding a rabid skunk at a game club event.

New weekly Viral Respiratory Disease Summary

R. Miller reported that he has begun sending out a new weekly report. This report provides information on COVID-19, Influenza and RSV.

Residential Radon Testing Program

R. Miller informed the board that the health district will again partner with the DPH radon program to distribute free radon tests.

General Public and Homebound COVID-19 vaccination program concluded

R. Miller reported that due to the commercialization of the COVID-19 vaccines, the health district is essentially out of the business of administering vaccines to the general public. Through the Vaccine for Kids Program, pediatric vaccine will be available. The Health District is considering holding weekly pediatric clinics.

The health district is part of the Bridge Program that will provide COVID-19 vaccine to underinsured or uninsured adults.

Pediatric influenza clinics have been held in the district – 9 clinics at which 127 shots were administered.

COVID-19 test kit distribution Program

R. Miller reported that the district distributed 2700 test kits to town halls and schools. Considering expanding distribution to daycares in the near future.

Preventative Health Strategies at Work in Connecticut grant award

This grant will be used to fund free blood pressure monitoring cuffs and educational materials. Anticipated March 2024 start date.

R. Miller expressed his gratitude for the letters of support written that were instrumental in helping to get the award.

R. Miller reported that contractors have been hired to assist with food service inspections.

Communication/Other

There was discussion about new restaurants opening in the district. This was followed by a question from a member about a searchable database of restaurants and inspection scores. R. Miller noted that with adoption of the FDA food code, scores are no longer given at the inspection. R. Miller will explore what other health districts are doing.

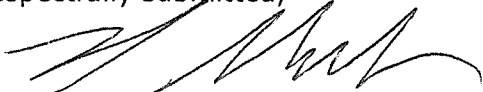
A. Backhaus informed the board that quarterly reporting will be done soon. J. Elsesser commented that review of goals and plans should be done as budget planning begins. E. Anderson initiated discussion about the emerging health issue of PFAS.

Adjournment

D. Walsh made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:47pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Next Board Meeting – December 14, 2023, 4:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Robert Miller
Secretary