

54 Meadow Street, 9th Floor • New Haven, Connecticut 06519 • 203-946-6999

Justin Elicker, Mayor • Maritza Bond, MPH, Director of Health

Board of Health Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
January 11, 2023

Present: Dr. James Hadler, Gregg Gonsalves, Dr. Frank Mongillo, Heather Reynolds, Dr. Darnell Young, Dr. Alice Forrester

Absent: None

Staff: Maritza Bond, Brooke Logan, Damaris Velez, John Brannelly, Jenn Atkins, Tom Butcher, Trish Clark, Dorothy Cohen, Julia Einhorn, Rafael Ramos, Bo Sandine

Guest: Dr. Mehul Dalal

Call to Order:

Commission Chair Hadler called the meeting to order at 5:47 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the November 2022 were reviewed. It was suggested that the “The NAAAT Test” be changed to “The NAAT Test.” The error was noted and changed. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Heather Reynolds and seconded by Darnell Young.

Public Comments or Statements:

No members of the public.

Updates:

Director Bond welcomed the Commissioners to the meeting and noted it was their first in-person meeting in nearly three years. Director Bond did a reflection of the last three years of the COVID-19 pandemic in New Haven and thanked both the board and leadership team for the



54 Meadow Street, 9th Floor • New Haven, Connecticut 06519 • 203-946-6999

Justin Elicker, Mayor • Maritza Bond, MPH, Director of Health

many contributions they made during a difficult period in our city and our country. All staff members then introduced themselves and their roles within the Health Department.

Dr. Mehul Dalal gave remarks and thanked Commissioners for their volunteer service to the city's Board of Health.

COVID-19 Situational Awareness & Response Efforts

by Dorothy Cohen

- The Department continues to monitor Covid-19 at the community level. CDC currently categorizes New Haven as high-risk level. NAATs tests in past 7 days categorizes us as high risk.
- The Department has seen a decrease of 7-Day Case Rate. 157 cases per 100,000 which is about 20%. It is an increase but today it is already starting to go down.
- XBB.1.5 accounts for at least 75% of all reported cases in New England. It is the most transmissible variant to date and so far, appears to be about the same severity as other Omicron strains (BA.4, BA.5). Even so, there have been increases in hospitalizations in the Northeast, but experts believe that this may be due to more people getting infected in general, as well as the more from the older and higher risk population. Deaths continue to remain low (relative to the first COVID strains).
- City-Wide Vaccinations – 1st Dose 78.5%, 2nd Dose 68.9% and Additional Dose 37%.

RSV

- Hospitalizations have decreased. The trend is going down but at its peak it was very high so there is still a lot of concern. There is talk of a second peak with Type B.

Administration Updates by

Brooke Logan

- New contracts for Wastewater surveillance to expand it beyond COVID and looking for an education partner.
- A few vacancies remain especially in Nursing.
- Got a new APRN so they were able to open at Brennan Rogers.
- Physicals are still being done for students.
- Sexual Health Clinic re-opened and saw 17 patients in December.

Health Programs

by Julia Einhorn



54 Meadow Street, 9th Floor • New Haven, Connecticut 06519 • 203-946-6999

Justin Elicker, Mayor • Maritza Bond, MPH, Director of Health

- Interventions to decrease COVID rates.
- Community Health Workers (CHW) out in full force interacting with over 500 residents. Highlight was Christmas Tree Lighting on the Green and partnered with Cornell Scott who vaccinated 35 people at the event while CHWs met with 400 residents at the event.
- VAXgiving campaign for families to submit photos of their fully vaccinated families.
- One grant was able to order 2,000 test kits that will be distributed.
- Overdose prevention... it looks like our peak has been reached in 2021. It looks like they have become to plateau for 2022. It looks like 118 overdose fatalities in 2021. They are training Housing Authority staff on how to use Narcan.
- Cannabis campaign to help prevent youth from accessing it was launched.

Ryan White

by Tom Butcher

- \$33 Million has come into the region to help combat HIV and AIDS. Viral suppression rate is nearly 94% which helps prevent the transmission of HIV. Expenditure rate is nearly 99%.
- 10 years HIV New Infection Rates were about 870 annually and today they are about 174 annually.
- 64% of the rate of HIV infections are African Americans. Working with Black Faith Leaders to increase viral suppression rates in certain ZIP Codes.
- Tom wants to create a mode for STI Clinics to offer same-day referrals for PREP.

Environmental Health

by Rafael Ramos

- Lead Division – less cases in December compared to summer months when they are at their heights. Try to be pro-active instead of re-active. Spike in July – summertime kids are playing outside... windows open... parents are getting their children physicals to start the school year. Try to offer cleaning demonstrations. They did 45 outreach events.
- Food Service Inspections – working on a new approval rating system A, B and C like has been adopted in other cities like New York City.

Epidemiology

By Dorothy Cohen

- New Tuberculosis Dashboard is being developed entering data back to 2013 – four active cases are being followed.



CITY OF NEW HAVEN

Health Department



54 Meadow Street, 9th Floor • New Haven, Connecticut 06519 • 203-946-6999

Justin Elicker, Mayor • Maritza Bond, MPH, Director of Health

- Shootings are being tracked. 139 this year. A lot more self-inflicted due to ghost guns. Calculator you can estimate the cost of shootings... this past year \$212 million.
- Dashboard to look at various demographics like gender. Mental Health visits increased from 221 to 319 in one year.

Vital Statistics

by Trish Clark

- Over 36,000 Birth and Marriage Licenses and Death Certificates this past year.
- \$690,000 in revenue for the City of New Haven.

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

by Jennifer Atkins

- Jenn Atkins introduced herself as new staff to the position. Started three days ago. Jenn is a firefighter, EMT worker and 911 dispatcher in New Haven. Was running emergency preparedness in the Norwest Hills. She holds her Associate's and will be finishing her Bachelor's soon.
- Just finished National Emergency Management training. Excited to be able to work with the entire team. Starting to work with Medical Reserve Corps and doing inventory.

Director Bond presented each of the Commissioners with certificates of appreciation for their service to the Board of Health.

Dr. Hadler moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 pm. Commissioner Young seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 11, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., via Zoom.**

Attest:

John Brannelly

John Brannelly
Special Assistant to The Director of Health

1/17/2023

Date

Approved:



CITY OF NEW HAVEN
Health Department



54 Meadow Street, 9th Floor • New Haven, Connecticut 06519 • 203-946-6999

Justin Elicker, Mayor • Maritza Bond, MPH, Director of Health

James Hadler, Chair
Board of Health Commissioners

Date

DRAFT

