

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
March 8, 2023**

Present: Dr. James Hadler, Dr. Frank Mongillo, Heather Reynolds, Dr. Darnell Young

Absent: Gregg Gonsalves, Dr. Alice Forrester

Staff: Maritza Bond, Director of Health, Damaris Velez, Office Manager

Call to Order:

Commission Chair Hadler called the meeting to order at 5:45pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Mongillo moved to approve the minutes from February 8, 2023, Commissioner Reynolds seconded.

Minutes were approved with no edits or objections.

Public Comments or Statements:

No members of the public.

Updates:

Director Bond presented the following status updates:

General and Situational Updates:

- State DPH Commissioner Manisha Juthani, MD will be visiting the Health Department on March 17th at 1:30pm. Commission Chair Hadler is not available

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

to attend. An email will be sent out to all board members to inquire about who is available to attend.

- The time has come to recruit members to the Board. Commissioner Reynolds asked all commissioners to think creatively about what expertise or backgrounds they would like to see on the Board.
- COVID-19 numbers continue to go down, currently there is no concern within the school district. The Department is actively doing campaigns and focusing on communities with low vaccination rates. The Department is currently tracking Bivalent COVID strain.
- We are seeing a decline in Flu cases and all viral infections in New Haven. Commissioner Reynolds asked if The Department has data on residents who are vaccinated and still get the flu. At this time The Department is only able to track Flu vaccines administered by The Department. The Department collects data from reported flu cases, hospitalizations, and flu related deaths.

Administration Updates:

- The Department has submitted a grant application for an EPA grant to streamline recycling in the city with an educational piece to it.
- The Department is currently working on a grant application to renew the Lead Abatement grant.
- The Department has recently executed a contract with an outside consultant who is currently looking at needs of the workforce and areas of improvement.
- The Department's general fund budget request including 3 new positions and line-item increases has been approved by the Mayor.
- The Department is still experiencing staffing shortages, especially with Public Health Nurses. Public Health nurses are being actively recruited. Interviews are underway for the Nursing Director and Special Assistant positions. A part-time position was recently filled.

Programmatic Updates:

- The clinic has begun offering STI testing and services along with physicals and vaccines. Staff is working with BOE to talk about strategies to refer students to the Health Department's clinic as soon as they are identified as needing a physical.
- COVID-19 and flu vaccines are still being offered, demand has decreased significantly.
- The Department is currently monitoring gun violence in the city. The Department does not respond to gun violence. Data is being collected from the Police Department

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

and shared with CSA and external partners. Areas with the highest number of overdoses in the city are the areas with the highest number of gun violence.

- The rollout of The Departments grading system for food establishments has been delayed due to recent changes in FDA code. Staff is currently training on the new system.

Dr. Mongillo moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:30pm. Commissioner Reynolds seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., via Zoom.

Attest:

Damaris Velez

Damaris Velez
Office Manager

02/17/2023

Date

03/08/2023

Approved:

James Hadler

James Hadler, Chair
Board of Health Commissioners

Date

