

424 Chapel St • New Haven, Connecticut 06511 • 203-946-6999

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

**Board of Health Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2024**

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

Staff: Maritza Bond, Director of Health, Thomas Butcher, Ryan White Project Director

Call to Order:

Commission Chair Young called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Young moved to approve the minutes from December 13, 2024, Commissioner Gonsalves seconded it.

The minutes were approved with two minor edits. The suggested edits from the previous minutes included: The last minutes approved were November 08, 2023, not September as listed. There was also a discussion item during the last meeting regarding sexually transmitted infection (STI) data and how the Department has not received updated data from the state since 2019.

Public Comments or Statements:

No public comments or statements

Ryan White Part A - Presentation:

Tom Butcher presented data on the Ryan White Part A eligible metropolitan area, New Haven and Fairfield Counties. 2020 data is the most recent available data from the Department of Public Health, 6,601 people living with a diagnosis of HIV. Care WARE is a HRSA sponsored data collecting database used throughout the country. Based on the data collected 91% of people

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in the Metropolitan Area are virally suppressed. The regional service delivery system is meant to allow people who live with HIV to remain in the communities they want to live in and to have access to services within 20 miles of their home. Ryan White Part A has been receiving federal funding since 1993, the average yearly award is \$5,793,780. Funding is based on the number of people living with HIV as reported by the Centers for Disease Control. Current regional quality improvement projects include improving health screenings, vaccinations, acuity scales, and suppression. Dr. Young asked a question about how the Ryan White program is promoted. Tom informed the Board that advertising is not an approved expense under HRSA. A discussion ensued on how the Health Department works to promote clinic services and provides education for infectious diseases. Other partners also promote Ryan White funded programs and services individually.

Health Administration Updates:

Director Bond provided an update on the Department's American Rescue Plan (ARPA)-funded projects. Several ARPA-funded projects have been completed, including a partnership with Save the Sound that tested the water quality in the city's rivers, which are often used for fishing. The report is being finalized and will be shared in a future meeting.

In addition, a workforce development assessment was completed using ARPA funding, and a plan has been implemented. The Department was also recently awarded a grant from the State Department of Public Health (DPH), which will fund the workforce development plan. Director Bond gave an overview of the department's current operating budget. The budget includes over \$40 million awarded to the department in grants and \$5.9 million in general funds. The department is actively working to fill vacancies.

The Health Department Clinic has been closed since December 21st, due to the department's relocation. The DPH licensure inspection is slated for January 11, 2024, and Director Bond hopes the clinic will reopen shortly thereafter. During the closure of time, nine community immunization clinics were organized. There is inconsistency with the COVID-19 data since wastewater is no longer analyzed locally, and individuals test themselves at home and do not disclose positive results. The department is presently analyzing hospitalization data to monitor COVID-19 and other respiratory disorders. There has been an uptick over the past six months.

Director Bond announced that Thursday, February 1st is the Health Department's open house and ribbon cutting event, Director Bond has asked the commissioners to attend if available.

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Commissioner Mongillo has officially stepped down as a board member. Dr. Tamiko-Jackson is expected to be voted in at the end of January.

Commission Chair Young moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 PM. Commissioner Forrester seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled in person for February 14, 2024 at 424 Chapel St.

Attest:

Damaris Velez

Damaris Velez
Office Manager

4/10/2024

Date

Approved:

Darnell Young

Darnell Young, Chair
Board of Health Commissioners

4/10/2024

Date