

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

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

**Board of Health Commissioners**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 11, 2024**

**Present:** Dr. Darnell Young, Dr. Ada Fenick, Dr. Gregg Gonsalves,  
Dr. Tamiko Jackson-McArthur, Dr. David Cantonwine, Dr. Alice  
Forrester

**Absent:**

**Staff:** Maritza Bond, Director of Health

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**Call to Order:**

Commission Chair Young called the meeting to order at 5:39 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commission Chair Young moved to approve the minutes from August 14th, 2024.  
Commissioner Fenick seconded it.

The August minutes were unanimously approved.

**Public Comments or Statements:**

**Updates:**

Director Bond presented the following status updates:

*Health Department Section Updates:*

- Director Bond highlighted the increased visits to the Department's Clinic this past month. The clinic has been seeing more children for school physical exams and

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- vaccines. Furthermore, flu shots continue to be administered, and COVID-19 shots will be available soon.
- There were 340 children in New Haven that fall under the McKinney-Vento Federal Homeless Assistance Program and were all able to start school on time. Most were seen at the Department's Clinic to comply with school requirements for immunization records and physical exams.
  - The Nursing Department has been focused on compliance rates for children in New Haven public schools. Their reports showed that 92 percent of kindergarten to 10<sup>th</sup>-grade children comply. The Nursing Department expects to close this small gap by the end of the month.
  - Director Bond discussed the letter that Commission Chair Young submitted requesting sexually transmitted diseases (STD) data. Thanks to Dr. Young's letter, the Department received an update from Dr. Sosa indicating that all STD data from 2023 to the present is now available, except for Syphilis data, which will have to be requested.
  - The Department is still actively monitoring Tuberculosis (TB) cases. There are currently four (4) active cases, and one (1) patient has moved out of state.
  - Director Bond highlighted the Overdose Awareness Day held on August 30<sup>th</sup>, hosted by Tempestt Latham, Health Programs Director, in partnership with Cornell Hill Health Center. The purpose of this event was to increase awareness, educate about prevention, and provide resources to harm reduction that are available to the community. Furthermore, Director Bond recognized Tempestt for her efforts putting this event together.
  - The Department currently has a grant for overdose action. One of the requirements of this grant is the ability to demonstrate that the Department is linking people to care. As part of this effort, the Department currently has three (3) Overdose Prevention Navigators that were specifically hired to serve New Haven. Additionally, there are ten (10) Overdose Prevention Navigators for the whole region. The Department also created a dashboard to track all outreach efforts and prevent duplicative efforts. This dashboard will ensure that adequate services are being provided to the community.
  - Respiratory illnesses remain an issue nationwide. The Department has been tracking the number of cases in New Haven. The Department is currently working on creating an initiative that would include a campaign for respiratory illnesses, coordinating with different vulnerable groups to provide them care and set up on-site clinics, and continuing to give out test kits.
  - Director Bond highlighted two new board members who will be joining the Lead Advisory Committee. Dr. Heather Reynolds and Dr. Frank Mongillo have been asked to join this committee. The goal of this committee is lead prevention.
  - The Environmental Health division continues to engage community members through outreach efforts, prevention, and Healthy Homes Initiatives. The Department has

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partnered with local libraries, giving out HIPAA filters and Swiffer mops to improve indoor air quality. Community members interested in receiving these supplies must attend a training through the Healthy Homes Program.

- Director Bond highlighted the Air Quality Monitors Press Coverage on August 26<sup>th</sup> when Mayor Elicker and City Engineer Giovanni Zinn joined Director Bond to educate the public on the Air Quality Index, how to protect yourself during poor-quality days, and how to access free supplies at upcoming community educational sessions.
- The Office of Vital Statistics continues to issue Elm City Identification (ID) cards. Anyone can obtain this ID, provided that they submit the required documentation.
- Commissioner Jackson-McArthur asked if we supply Narcan to community members if they want them. Director Bond responded that any person requesting Narcan would have to go through training and obtain their certification.
- Commissioner Forrester asked if the Department was giving out vacuums and air filters to New Haven residents. Director Bond responded that the Department is giving out the actual equipment through the Healthy Homes Initiatives and all recipients must attend a training.
- Commissioner Fenick asked if anyone could obtain this ID and if this ID is acceptable anywhere. Director Bond responded that the Elm City Card is available to anyone. Furthermore, Director Bond explained that this ID is only to show that you are a resident of New Haven and to identify yourself. Most establishments will not accept it as a valid ID.

*New Business:*

- Commissioner Fenick suggested that board members begin to look at motor vehicle, pedestrian, and bicycle safety in New Haven and start making rules based on the information available on CDC. Director Bond responded that this issue is out of her jurisdiction and that board members can give their input to the Economic Development Committee and Michael Piscatelli, Economic Coordinator, who is currently leading the bicycle lanes efforts throughout the city.
- Commissioner Gonsalves asked if data concerning traffic and bicycle fatalities is being collected so that the Health Commissioners can gather, analyze, and use it to promote pedestrian and bicycle safety awareness. Director Bond responded that the Economic Development Committee continuously collects this data, some of which has already been published numerous times in different media outlets.
- Commissioner Gonsalves suggested to have the Economic Development Committee meet with the Board of Health Commissioners and discuss what initiatives they are currently working on and brainstorm on possible initiatives that both the Board of Health Commissioners and the Economic Development Committee can work on

CITY OF NEW HAVEN  
Health Department



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together to educate all citizens. Director Bond responded that Commission Chair Young would have to submit a request for the Economic Development Committee to come in and have a discussion. Furthermore, she urged all Commissioners to submit their input to the Economic Development Committee.

- Commissioner Jackson-McArthur asked for speedbumps, especially in the Beaver Hill area of New Haven. She has observed the continuous speeding of motor vehicles in this neighborhood, and this is a safety issue for children.
- Commission Chair Young moved to approve the personnel report. Commissioner Jackson-McArthur seconded it.

Commission Chair Young moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:18 pm. Commissioner Jackson-McArthur seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 9, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Attest:

*Geovanny Rivera*

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Geovanny Rivera  
Administrative Assistant

09/18/2024

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Date

Approved:

*Darnell Young*

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Dr. Darnell Young, Chair  
Board of Health Commissioners

10/09/2024

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Date