



**CITY OF NEW HAVEN**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
54 Meadow Street, 9<sup>TH</sup> Floor • New Haven, Connecticut 06519



**Board of Health Commissioners**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**September 8, 2021**

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

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

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**Call to Order:**

Commission Chair Hadler called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:**

Commissioner Reynolds moved to approve the August 11, 2021 minutes; Commissioner Gonsalves seconded; minutes were approved with no objections.

**Public Comments or Statements:**

No members of the public attended the meeting.

**Updates:**

Director Bond presented the following status updates:

*COVID-19 Situational Awareness & Response Efforts*

The Covid-19 dashboard is being reviewed and updated weekly. The Department has updated guidance for businesses, public safety, and city employees. Webinars have been conducted for daycares, colleges, senior centers, and school re-openings. Reporting protocols have also been updated. AM and PM care in the schools had a delayed opening to ensure compliance with Governor's order 13D. The permit application has also been updated to include a list of all employees working in AM and PM care. Contact Tracers have been re-activated, they are currently focusing on contacting close contacts of positive cases. Community Health Workers (CHW's) continue to support vaccine clinics and are integrating other initiatives such as Healthy Homes and the recently launched car seat safety program. The Department is working closely with Overdose Data to Action which is a regional project. In partnership with Cornell Scott Hill Health Center a successful

event on Opioid Prevention Awareness Day was held on the New Haven Green. The Health Department is working on developing overdose incident response protocol in conjunction with the Police Department, Fire Department and EMS.

Recent data indicates 69.9% of age eligible New Haven residents have received their first dose of the Covid-19 vaccine and 62.8% have received their second dose. Over 240 homebound vaccines have been administered. 100% of current Covid-19 cases are Delta Variant. The Department is watching other variants in other parts of the world to help anticipate and with projections in our area.

### Department Programs

The Senior Centers are now actively opened. The Health Department provided webinars and developed protocols for the Senior Centers. A Health Department task force was activated to conduct assessments and make recommendations for a safe re-opening. The Health Department is still meeting weekly with the Senior Centers.

The Health Department has started tracking RSV data. A total of 57 RSV cases have been reported since August 15<sup>th</sup>. The risk communication team created a fact sheet on RSV to educate the community on the differences between Covid-19 and RSV.

The Department has created different dashboards and workflow models to help simplify the tracking and reporting of Covid cases in the city. Rovers containing medical supplies, safe-sex kits, safe crack-use kits, and antibiotics will be housed in various locations to help with opioid response in the city. The Rovers have iPads that will be used to collect real time data.

The Emergency Response Coordinator has been working closely with different community partners to ensure community access to vaccine clinics and engaging different partners to support Health Department efforts. The Health Department is focusing on convening efforts and making sure that community partners are afforded the opportunity to provide vaccine clinics in their respective service areas, this puts a unified approach to addressing gaps within the neighborhoods. Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) are currently being recruited. Most recently they were activated for the Hurricane, helped with the opioid event, and will help with employee Covid-19 testing.

Environmental Health staff has been helping with mask mandate compliance and education along with completing 176 food service inspections during the month of August. The Lead Program received 7 new cases in the month of August. The Department created a Veoci portal system to track all cases from 2018 to present and report on the data bi-monthly. Bathing water testing has officially concluded for the year, beaches are closed for the year. Testing will resume in May.

In Health Administration the Department is working on developing a test for the Health Programs Director position. The Environmental Health Program Director has been officially hired; Rafael Ramos will start on October 4<sup>th</sup>. The Director of Public Health Nursing and Epi Director positions will be tested in the coming weeks.

### Grants and Other Key Activities

The Home Visiting grant was renewed and is currently being executed. Ryan White grant major update is that they are losing a long-term employee. The New Haven Heal grant is a \$4 million grant recently awarded to the Health Department with an overall goal of reducing Covid related disparities and improve health outcomes across New Haven. Current active grant proposals the Department is working on include a HUD Healthy Homes Production Grant that will help expand the current Health Homes initiative to do more preventive work. The Per Capita grant is a standard state grant that is awarded based on population size, this has been submitted. ELC grant for year 2 has been submitted, this grant helps the Department implement and support the response efforts around Covid-19. The Department has submitted the application for year 2 of the overdose grant, anticipating approval for September 1.

New Haven Health Department clinic will be launching Epic electronic medical records in the next couple of weeks. The Department helped develop a portal for vaccine verification as part of the city's vaccine mandate and will be doing the vaccine verification piece along with testing employees on Mondays and Tuesdays at the new Fire Academy. The Mayor and his team recently purchased a building at 424 Chapel St which is going to be the Health Department's future home, the goal is to move the Department by next July. Director Bond is working on announcing the Health Departments five-year strategic plan and a new more user-friendly website in October.

### Board of Education

Dr. Young asked a question on the Health Departments role when a school age child tests positive for Covid-19. Director Bond explained the Board of Education manages those cases and have specific protocols when to activate the Health Department for technical support, which is when there is a potential outbreak. The Health Department is going to meet with the bus company to discuss how they can improve and utilize technology to improve the prescreening process and to get a better understanding of the vaccination coverage of their employees. The Connecticut Department of Public Health is funding weekly Covid-19 pre-screening for free for staff and children at all 41 New Haven schools.

Commissioner Chair Hadler moved to move to executive session at 6:31pm.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at 5:30 p.m., via Zoom.**

Attest:

*Damaris Velez*

Damaris Velez  
Office Manager

10/05/2021

Date

Approved:

*James Hadler*

10/13/2021

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James Hadler, Chair

Board of Health Commissioners

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Date