

**Health Commission Meeting  
City of Stamford  
APPROVED MINUTES  
December 14, 2023**

Commissioners Attendance December 14, 2023

Present:  
Ms. Lorraine Olson  
Dr. Tabitha Fortt (arrived at 9:07am)  
Dr. Thomas Getreuer  
Dr. Douglas York  
Dr. Marc Peyser (arrived at 9:06am)

Absent:

Guest Attendance: Ms. Jody Bishop-Pullan, Director of Health & Human Services, Mr. Louis DeRubeis, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare, Mr. Ebrima Jobe, Assistant Director of Health/Director of Environmental Health & Inspections, Ms. Monselue Perez, Public Health Community Nursing Supervisor, Mr. Michael Meyer, Director of Community Engagement, Ms. Monica Lahiri-Hoherchak, Ms. Raquelle Early, Recording Secretary

Call to Order		Ms. Olson called the meeting to order at 9:04am.
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<u>Topics</u>	<u>Discussions</u>	<u>Actions</u>
<p><b>Minutes</b> Approval of the minutes of the Health Commission Meeting of November 9, 2023</p> <p><b>Correspondence:</b></p> <p><b>Stamford Welcome Center Initiative</b> Mr. Michael Meyer Ms. Monica Lahiri-Hoherchak</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> <li>• Ms. Lorraine Olson stated the Health Commission would like to take on an initiative for a Welcome Center in Stamford.</li> <li>• Many community partners would like to be involved in the Stamford Welcome Center but</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motion to approve occurred at 9:04am. (Approved 3-0)</li> <li>• Ongoing discussions for the Welcome Center Initiative will occur at every meeting going forward.</li> </ul>

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December 14, 2023**

there are current challenges with identifying the appropriate space. Accessibility is a key factor in determining an appropriate location to ensure people can easily get there.

- The Salvation Army has offered space for the Welcome Center but only on a temporary basis of two days a week for a few hours. Ms. Lorraine Olson stated the Welcome Center needs to have a permanent space.
- Dr. Getreuer asked Ms. Lorraine Olson who is really the target audience for the Stamford Welcome Center to help understand what area we should be looking at.
- Mr. Meyer stated the intent of the Stamford Welcome Center is meant to serve the entire community, providing support to families in understanding the various services (Medical care, educational system, etc.).
- Mr. Mike Meyer encouraged the Commission to look at Norwalk, CT and use them as a model. In addition, he recommended using community partners who expressed interest in helping.
- Dr. Getreuer asked Ms. Monica Lahiri-Hoherchak if in her search for Stamford Welcome Center locations, had she considered Boys & Girls club.

- Ms. Lorraine Olson responded by informing the Commission that Dr. Getreuer met with Ferguson Library, and they had the same questions. Ms. Lorraine Olson’s vision is for the Commission and community partners to talk each month in efforts to answer this question as a team.

- Ms. Monica Lahiri-Hoherchak responded that would be a great location, but she hadn’t spoken with them.

**Health Commission Meeting  
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December 14, 2023**

**Director of Health Report**  
Ms. Jody Bishop-Pullan

- Mr. Mike Meyer cautioned the commission is getting involved with a bunch of partners before determining the target audience and services we are looking to provide. He further indicated it may not be a bad idea to use the space at the Salvation Army to see what happens.
- Two grants being applied for:
  1. Immunization support
  2. Workforce development.
- Contracts coming through from the state of CT.
- Attended Northeast Regional Epidemiology Conference 2 weeks ago.
- A lot of staff time has been dedicated to the transition of the City’s new Licensing and Permitting system.
- Environmental Health Professionals Day was celebrated on November 17, 2023, and recognized by Mayor Simmons.
- Working on filling an Inspector II position that has recently become vacant.
- There was an MRC Recognition Ceremony held where Dr. Thomas Getreuer received an award for volunteering the most hours.
- Emergency Response Planner trained the staff on the Incident Command System which was implemented during the pandemic and other times of emergency.
- Dr. Getreuer stated that he is not in agreement with having temporary locations. He suggests we dedicate the time and effort to finding a permanent location that people can get used to.

**Health Commission Meeting  
City of Stamford  
APPROVED MINUTES  
December 14, 2023**

**Public Safety, Health, and Welfare**  
Lou DeRubeis

- The employee who was recently hired as the Manager of Public Health Programs is working on some of the department’s larger projects, such as Performance Management, Quality Improvement and Workforce Development.
- Social Services has been doing a lot of work in the community, as they’ve been presenting on Landlord/Tenant relationships, providing information on housing rights.

Infectious Disease:

- COVID-19 cases: 79 confirmed cases.
- The team that was hired on one of the department’s grants is set to end in February 2024.
- COVID-19 home test kits have been purchased and distributed to families and community partners.
  
- Stamford has had its 5<sup>th</sup> pedestrian fatality. In the early morning hours, a vehicle has stuck and killed an Elderly woman on West Main Street while on her way to work. The investigation is still ongoing.
- The incident which happened almost just a year ago, had been reported on the news this past month that the suspect in the double pedestrian fatality on Washington Blvd. has taken a plea deal and is currently awaiting sentencing in March 2024.

**Health Commission Meeting  
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<p><b>Old Business:</b></p> <p><b>New Business:</b> Henry Street Clinic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A big part of the mayor’s objective and goal for the city is Vision Zero, bringing down pedestrian fatalities.</li><li>• A woman in her mid-twenties has taken her own life a few weeks ago on Washington Boulevard after struggling with mental health crisis back in the Summer of 2022.</li><li>• The Affordable Housing Trust Fund met last week to fill a Housing Coordinator position that was unfortunately voted down. Currently working with the Administration and the Department of Health to address homelessness and affordable housing.</li><li>• A cabinet level meeting was conducted regarding the long-term plan for the City’s Air Quality program. Currently at the phase where Bridget Fox, Chief of Staff, has been drafting correspondence in efforts to solicit additional information for vendors to provide the administration with guidance.</li><li>• Dr. Fortt asked Mr. Lou DeRubeis if a reason was given as to why the housing coordinator position was voted down.</li><li>• No Old Business</li><li>• A presentation was delivered about the Henry Street Clinic located at 137 Henry Street by Ms. Monselue Perez.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Lou DeRubeis responded he doesn’t know the specifics, but he will dive deeper into the reasoning behind the decision.</li></ul>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Marc Peyser questioned access to services, communication with the school nurses, and recordkeeping.</li>   <li>• Dr. Tabitha Fortt commented having worked with the Stamford Department of Health, finding someone that can do everything is called a school nurse and public health nurse already.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Monselue Perez responded that the Clinic has very good communication with the school nurses. She also stated the Clinic has an EMR system through Patagonia which connects directly to CT Wiz.</li> </ul>
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<b>Appeals:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No Appeals</li> </ul>	
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<p><b>Adjournment:</b> Motion to adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:18am.</p>
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Submitted by: Raquelle Early