

**Health Commission Meeting
City of Stamford
DRAFT MINUTES
February 8, 2024**

Commissioners Attendance February 2024

Present:
Ms. Lorraine Olson
Dr. Tabitha Fortt
Dr. Douglas York (arrived at 9:28am)
Dr. Marc Peyser

Absent:
Dr. Thomas Getreuer

Guest Attendance: Ms. Jody Bishop-Pullan, Director of Health & Human Services, Ms. Susan Lauria, Program Instructor, Ms. Teresa Drew, Director of Youth Services Bureau, Ms. Raquelle Early, Recording Secretary

Call to Order		Ms. Olson called the meeting to order at 9:10am.
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<u>Topics</u>	<u>Discussions</u>	<u>Actions</u>
<p>Minutes Approval of the minutes of the Health Commission Meeting of January 11, 2024</p> <p>Correspondence: 100 Hope Street, # 43, Stamford, CT 06906 Appeal Request</p> <p>Welcome Center Initiative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appeal request was sent to the Health Commission, as well as the State. The State is currently reviewing the appeal request. • The Commission has all the services needed to put together a Welcome Center in Stamford but continues to struggle with finding a location for the initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to approve occurred at 9:10am (Approved 3-0) • The Health Commission will not act at this time.

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<p>Director of Health & Human Services Report Ms. Jody Bishop-Pullan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Olson and Dr. Getreuer met last month with the South End Community Center, but renovations are anticipated to take about 10 years before the commission could have the welcome center there.• Ms. Olson and Dr. Getreuer also met with the Ferguson Public Library regarding space, but the challenge is that the welcome center would be in different locations.• Ms. Olson and Dr. Getreuer met with Mr. Mike Duggan from DOMUS, and they disclosed they would be very interested in partnering with the commission for the welcome center, as well as providing space.• The Welcome Center pop-up event will take place on February 24, 2024, from 9am to 2pm at the Lethal Wilder Community Center. Mr. Mike Meyer and Ms. Monica Lahiri-Hoherchak are organizing services.• Application for Accreditation has been accepted, and the department has one year to submit all accompanying documentation for each module. We are 68% complete and are currently working on larger projects such as performance measures, quality improvement plans, and workforce development.• Two master's in public health (MPH) interns currently working in the office. One intern is focusing on a lot of the health promotion work, while the other is focusing on epidemiology.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biobot, who conducted wastewater surveillance during COVID will continue to do this kind of work for other infectious diseases through grant funding.• Biobot has seventy (70) sites across the country, and Stamford is one of them. Ms. Bishop-Pullan will be taking a training later today, and another next week on how to interpret the data.• Grant funding has been provided to do a bag giveaway on April 13, 2024, of emergency preparedness kits through the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) program.• Youth Mental Health Alliance: Updated information on our mental health brochures for distribution. The community convening meeting took place January 20, 2024, featured a speaker from DOMUS. The meeting focused on the work being done within the community regarding mental health. Taking a public health approach, and not just providing clinical care. “Don’t Carry It Alone” Communication Campaign is rolling out.• Interviewing for a Health Educator to bolster Health Promotion Division. Budget has been approved this year, and second rounds of interviews are being scheduled.• Two Inspector II positions have become vacant in the last couple of months. The job has been	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Bishop-Pullan will present to the commission next month how the data works, it’s use, and interventions that can be done in areas of substance.
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posted and the department is currently awaiting the qualified list to come from HR.

- Two Inspectors I's have been moved to Inspector II positions after meeting their requirements of 2 years' employment and acquiring 2 certifications.
- The Social Services Division has been out in the community educating residents on landlord/tenant rights. This came to light due to the outage at the Hoyt Street complex and the department wanting to inform residents of their housing rights, as well as provide safe alternatives.
- Social Services also delivered bags to the warming center, to ensure folks had clothing, toiletries, and other items available to them if they were in need.
- Community Nursing is having a COVID and Flu vaccines event at the Veteran Centers on Thursday, February 15, 2024.
- Moira was able to have Narcan delivered to all schools at all levels to ensure availability to school nurses. She is also working to ensure there is a good methodology nurses are following regarding collecting information on childhood concussions.
- COVID-19: Cases, and hospitalizations, and presence in wastewater are declining.

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<p>Public, Safety, Health, and Welfare Report Louis DeRubeis</p> <p>Old Business:</p> <p>New Business: Stamford Youth Services Presentation By Ms. Susan Lauria</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. DeRubeis was not in attendance and no report was provided.• No old business.• In collaboration with other organizations, Here to Help provides support for chronically absent, at risk, and disengaged students and their families. The issue came about due to receiving referrals for young girls who exhibited high absenteeism in school.• Ms. Lauria shared a 5-minute video to address the myths surrounding human trafficking.• Ms. Lauria shared the trafficking is happening in Stamford’s middle and high schools, and the difficulty of treatment is that girls don’t necessarily realize they are being trafficked.• Ms. Lauria explained invitations to parties where older people are present, and/or being showered with expensive gifts are some of the mechanics of how a school-aged girl can end up being trafficked. The way you can identify this in the school system is through chronic absenteeism and/or children running away from home.• Ms. Olson asked how/where the girls met these boys.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Lauria responded they meet boys through parties, normal socializing, through school kids that are already involved, or in some cases through parents’ involvement.
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- Ms. Lauria stated kids at a higher risk of trafficking would include those who are looking for drugs, yearn to be loved, not engaged in pro social activities, kids being raised by single parents, girls of color, and/or new migrants.
- Ms. Lauria emphasized the importance of the Welcome Center to identify and/or screen migrant girls and boys who are being trafficked.
- Ms. Lauria stated that some basic training is needed for those who interact with young people, and parents, which should start at the Middle School level.
- Ms. Lauria attended a Department of Education webinar where they set up a very robust framework and template for schools and community organizations to create a panel type for various kinds of help, and identify everyone's role. She mentioned an organization named Love 146 that provides extensive training to both middle schools and high schools to raise awareness.

Appeals:

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:11 am.

Submitted by: Raquelle Early