

**Health Commission Meeting
City of Stamford
DRAFT MINUTES
April 11, 2024**

Commissioners Attendance April 2024

Present:
Ms. Lorraine Olson
Dr. Tabitha Fortt
Dr. Thomas Getreuer
Dr. Douglas York
Dr. Marc Peyser

Absent:

Guest Attendance: Ms. Jody Bishop-Pullan, Director of Health & Human Services, Ms. Raquelle Early, Recording Secretary

Call to Order		Ms. Olson called the meeting to order at 9:14am.
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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 March 14, 2024</p> <p>Correspondence:</p> <p>Welcome Center Initiative</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A permanent home has been found for the Welcome Center. Mike Duggan at the Lockwood Avenue Domus Bldg. is graciously providing the space. • Dr. Getreuer met with Dr. Tamu Lucero, Superintendent of Schools, who was disappointed the Cloonan school wasn't chosen. Unfortunately, Cloonan is still an active school that is in the process of being decommissioned which can take years. Should Cloonan become 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion to approve occurred at 9:14am. (Approved 5-0)

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available down the road, then the Welcome Center will be relocated.

- Community partners are ready to move forward and provide all necessary services.
- Family Centers has agreed to provide Social Workers for Mental Health services, as well as set up a medical facility to conduct physicals and immunizations. Mr. Dennis Torres, Family Centers Vice President is applying for the permits from the State.
- Ferguson Library will be providing a Librarian, and homework help and other assistance for children.
- A meeting with Assistant Superintendent, Lorie Rhodes will be conducted tomorrow, April 12, 2024, regarding this initiative.
- Although the impediments to proceed with this Welcome Center have been removed, an exact opening date hasn't been set.
- **Budget:** The department's budget was presented to the Boards of Representatives and the Board of Finance; Concerns were expressed about salary increases. These increases were caused by union contract negotiations and were applied retro actively.
- Construction on the 8th floor reception area has begun and will be completed by Monday, April 15, 2024.

Director of Health & Human Services Report

Ms. Jody Bishop-Pullan

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- Ms. Jody Bishop-Pullan met with House Speaker Matt Ritter at B1C regarding the needs of Stamford’s immigrant population as well advocating for housing and Medicaid expansion.
- **Ordinances:** Two new ordinances were adopted by the Board of Representatives that introduce fines to ensure the safety of tenants residing in multiple family dwelling facilities. Fines will be instated for:
 1. Property Owners who fail to submit their application for multiple family dwelling licensing(s) within the required timeframe, as well as meeting annual inspection/certification requirements.
 2. Property Owners who are negligent regarding order(s) issued by the Director of Health.
- **Air Quality:** Received an air quality monitoring grant from the EPA through a lengthy RFP process to identify a vendor. Will have a meeting today to identify a vendor and move forward.
- **Medical Reserve Corps (MRC):** Backpack giveaway happening Saturday, April 13, 2024, at the Ferguson Library. This is an educational event where residents learn emergency preparedness.
- **Accreditation:** 69% complete. Little gains are being made due to bigger projects being worked on and developed, including quality

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improvement, performance measurement and workforce development.

- **Emergency Preparedness:** Ms. Brittany Dube went to an Emergency Preparedness Summit last week and made a presentation on the Health Department’s work during the M-pox outbreak with Community partners.
- A Public Health Educator has been hired.
- **National Public Health Week:** Celebrations weren’t as robust as previous years due to construction in the lobby.
- Several videos were posted on social media. Laboratory Director, Mr. Jim Federici, did one on climate change and air quality monitoring. There was a video on radon testing as well.
- Director of Housing Services has been going out within the community holding educational events around the topic of housing called “Housing Matters”. Educating the public on their rights as tenants regardless of status. It is important for every tenant to know their rights.
- Youth Mental Health Alliance: Quarterly convening is coming up on Thursday, April 25, 2024. Strides have been made in the assessment in Stamford Public Schools. Our latest partner is Silver Hill, which provides intensive outpatient services. Exploring different ways to work together in the form of professional development, community engagement, and community education.

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<p>Director of Public, Safety, Health, and Welfare Report Louis DeRubeis</p> <p>Old Business: New Business:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Health: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. <u>Housing</u>: Lots of illegal housing complaints are being reported. Operation Safe House program between Health, Fire, Police, and Zoning where Inspectors investigate illegal housing complaints after hours. ii. <u>Licensing</u>: Temporary event season is kicking off. Meeting with event organizers and vendors to ensure they understand and comply with rules regarding licensing and inspection requirements. • Community Nursing: Clinic has been busy due to an increase in physicals and immunizations. • Grant funding: TB and STD grants are being amended by the State where these services will not be funded in this manner. In the interim other grants will be applied to continue providing these services. • Ms. Olson asked about ticks and mosquitoes. • No report provided. • No Old Business • No New Business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Pullan suggested having the Laboratory Director, James Federici, conduct a presentation on tick testing.
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Appeals:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Appeals 	
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Adjournment:
Motion to adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:04am.