



77 Main Street North, Suite 205  
Southbury, CT 06488  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
**Wednesday 6/7/2023, 5:30 PM**

**Voting Members in Attendance**

Fred D'Amico (Oxford) Board Chair  
Larry Ellis (Oxford) Vice Chair  
Michael Crespan (New Milford)  
John Michaels (Southbury)  
Dr. Jeremy Levin MD (New Milford)(Via Google Meet)  
Dean Sarjeant (Washington)(Via Google meet)  
Jack Kelly (Southbury)  
Deb Fuller (Woodbury)  
Chris Cosgrove (New Milford)

**Non Voting Members in Attendance**

Amy Bethge Director of Health

**Staff in Attendance**

Joe Kmetz (Chief Sanitarian)  
Heidi Bettcher (Public Health Nurse Supervisor)  
Jen Luis (Recording)

**MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting called to order- Board Chair Fred D'Amico 5:31 pm

**Approval of Minutes**

*Motion to approve 5/3/2023 BOD meeting minutes*  
*Deb Fuller made a motion to approve the minutes*  
*Second: Chris Cosgrove*  
*All in favor*  
*Motion Carries*

**Staff Presentations**

**Community Health Team**

Heidi Bettcher stated the district continues to offer Covid and childhood vaccines. There were about 20 childhood vaccinations this past month and are continuing to rise as more people are coming to the district that are unvaccinated. Healthy Chats with Heidi are continuing every month at our Senior Centers which are well received and in June it will be about blood pressure. Ms. Bettcher stated she has attended a workshop on how to help the community now that the emergency is over. Covid vaccines will become commercialized which districts may have to purchase instead of free from the State. Ms. Bettcher has also been working closely with the community with Covid outbreaks. She also

has been recently certified to work with the community regarding Chronic disease management. The flu clinics for the 2023 season have all been confirmed and the district will begin the marketing campaign. Ms. Bettcher has revamped the lead program to help the sanitarians with more outreach to the community with children with high lead levels. Mr. Kelly asked what are the functions of the health district with the lead. Ms. Bettcher said we do the education and make sure they go and get their follow up venous blood draw. There is a letter that the district sends to the family to go get their follow up. Ms. Bettcher also follows up with the pediatrician to make sure the family went. If the lead comes back high a second time there may need to be a lead abatement for the family. Mr. Kmetz stated that the district goes to the dwelling and to find out where the issues are and then make up an action plan. If there are issues it is very time consuming and there is no funding with the state. Mr. Cosgrove asked if we are obligated to do the lead program. Mr. Kmetz said yes it is mandated by the State. Mr. Michaels asked as a district when will we have our hands around the enormity of this task. Ms. Bethge said it varies on when we get the levels of lead back from the pediatrician so it is hard to predict. Ms. Bettcher stated health districts have always for more than 30 years been doing the lead program. Mr. Michaels asked Ms. Bethge what is her strategy to get the numbers from the doctors for the lead. Ms. Bethge said from a feasibility standpoint we can not force the doctors to give us the levels and she said Ms. Bettcher does a lot with community health and Ms. Bethge will be presenting a presentation later in the meeting. Mr. Kelly asked how many abatement cases the district is working on right now. Ms. Bettcher stated we have none at the moment and they are rare. Mr. Ellis said we don't know if we are going to have a lot. Mr. Kmetz said since he has been with the district in the past 30 years there have only been three.

### **Environmental Health Team**

Mr. Kmetz stated there is an uptick in new construction. He did not think it was going to happen because of the rates but we are more than steady. Sharon is in full swing and going great. Mr. Cosgrove asked if building is going up across all six towns and Mr. Kmetz said yes.

### **Chairman's Report**

None

### **Directors Report**

Ms. Bethge introduced Michelle Laguerre as the new sanitarian for the district for inspecting food establishments. Ms. Laguerre stated she will be sending a letter to all the food establishments regarding the new food code from the State of CT that went into effect in February. The previous food code had a passing score and with the new food code there is no passing score. The establishment will have more of an opportunity to fix the issue on site. Mr. Cosgrove asked if they are the same violations as previous or have they changed. Ms. Laguerre stated they are the same violations. Mr. Ellis asked if we have had food establishments give feedback if they liked the new food code. Ms. Laguerre said that they are upset that there is no score but it actually helps the establishment with education regarding the violations. Mr. Michaels asked how do we let the public know there is a problem at that establishment. Ms. Laguerre stated that the public can always request the inspection of the food establishment at their local health district. Mr. Kmetz stated that the health district never published scores in the past. Mr. Cosgrove said we do not want to start damaging reputations of the food establishments. Ms. Bethge indicated that the district would check with the state to determine parameters around enforcement of the new code.

Ms. Bethge presented to the board a presentation regarding Community Health and all the tasks and programs that Ms. Bettcher performs for Community Health.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

None

**Meeting Adjournment - 7:03pm**

*Motion to adjourn: Jack Kelly*

*Second: Fred D'Amico*

*All in Favor*

*Motion Carries*

Minutes recorded by:

Jennifer Luis