

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, January 16, 2025

Members present: E. Anderson (Andover), R. Aylesworth (Mansfield-Virtual), M. Capriola (Mansfield), J. Drumm (Coventry), J. Elsesser (Coventry), H. Evans (Mansfield-Virtual), B. Foley (Tolland-Virtual), J. Rupert (Bolton-Virtual) C. Silver-Smith (Ashford-Virtual), M. Walter (Columbia-Virtual)

Staff present: Director of Health R. Miller, Office Manager M. Brosseau, Medical Advisor Dr. Dardick

Also present: E. Melnick Strategic Planning Consultant, P. Tanaka Town of Willington First Selectman

J. Elsesser called the meeting to order at 4:34pm.

Scheduled Item: EHHD Public Hearing – Proposed FY25/26 Operating Budget, & Proposed FY25/26 CNR Budget.

J. Elsesser opened the public hearing at 4:37pm. R. Miller read the public notice into the record. (See attached). R. Miller gave a brief overview of the budget. R. Miller noted that there were no written comments received. There was no public present at the meeting to speak. J. Elsesser noted that the budget committee reviewed and modified the budget. E. Anderson initiated a discussion on level funding for vehicle replacement.

M. Capriola made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to close the Public Hearing at 4:50 pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Proposed Fiscal Year FY25/26 Operating Budget, Cost Recovery Fee Schedule & Proposed FY FY25/26 CNR Budget

E. Anderson made a MOTION, seconded by J. Drumm to adopt the budget as presented for FY 25/26 including the CNR Budget and Cost Recovery Fee Schedule. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Minutes

E. Anderson made a MOTION, seconded by M. Capriola to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2024 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Proposed Eastern Highlands Health District Strategic Plan, FY2025-FY2029

R. Miller provided an introduction to the plan. E. Melnick gave a presentation of the plan, outlining the goals and objectives. Next steps will be to develop an implementation plan. R. Miller has a draft framework and will use that to develop a draft implementation plan. R. Miller will then engage the strategic planning committee, in the coming months to finalize the implementation plan.

C. Silver-Smith made a MOTION, seconded by H. Evans to adopt the document titled, "Eastern Highlands Health District, Strategic Plan FY 2025-FY 2029" as presented on January 16, 2025 in Coventry CT. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Medical Advisors Report

Dr. Dardick stated there was nothing significant to report, noting that respiratory illnesses are being seen in the community.

Directors Report

CT Foundation of Dental Out Reach

R. Miller informed the board that he has been in conversation with the agency who is looking for a location to hold a large scale free dental clinic in 2026. Tentatively, EO Smith has been targeted as the location. R. Miller noted that the health district will be a facilitator, connecting the organizers with key partners. B. Foley noted that he has worked closely with this organization in the past and offered his assistance.

Vaccine Program Update

R. Miller reported that the vaccine program has generated more revenue than proposed in the operating budget. To date 323 shots have been administered. R. Miller noted the assistance from Dr. Dardick and M. Capriola in growing the program.

Communications

CT Dept of Ag re: HPAI H5N1 panzootic

R. Miller reported that H5N1 is a national public concern. To date there have been 65 cases (1 death) nationwide. Fortunately, there has been no evidence of person to person transmission.

Town Reports

Ashford C. Silver-Smith reported they have had a case of RSV and 4 cases of COVID. C. Silver-Smith announced there is a new Senior Center Director and Agent for the aging, Monica Gellegos.

Andover E. Anderson reported that a new restaurant, Pho House, has opened in Andover and is well received by residents. E. Anderson noted that the senior center has been open 5 months now and it has been hard work getting it up and running. They hope to offer health related programs soon.

Mansfield R. Aylesworth reported on the chronic issues with the Mansfield Community Center pool. Introduction of bacteria has resulted in the pool being drained and cleaned. Additional planned repairs will occur while it is drained. R. Aylesworth and M. Capriola expressed gratitude to R. Miller for his assistance with the issue.

Willington P Tanaka informed the board that the cannabis dispensary in town has gone out of business.

Tolland B. Foley expressed his thanks to R. Miller and L. Swanson for their response to an issue with Electric Blue.

Columbia M. Walter reported that a new food truck has opened in Columbia, Twin Beaks. They will soon be opening a retail space for selling organic meats.

Adjournment

E. Anderson made a MOTION, seconded by M. Walter to adjourn the regular meeting 5:49pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Next Board Meeting – February 20, 2025, 4:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Miller', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Robert Miller

Secretary

