

Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 17, 2024

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

Staff present: R. Miller, M. Brosseau

J. Elsesser called the meeting to order at 4:36pm

Approval of Minutes

E. Anderson made a MOTION seconded by J. Elsesser to accept the minutes of the 7/17/2024 meeting as presented. MOTION passed unanimously.

E. Anderson made a MOTION seconded by M. Walter to accept the minutes of the 7/18/2024 meeting as modified by R Miller, changing the date from Wednesday to Thursday. MOTION passed unanimously.

E. Anderson made a MOTION seconded by M. Walter to accept the minutes of the 8/15/2024 meeting as presented. MOTION passed unanimously.

Proposed 2025 Regular Meeting Schedule

J. Rupert made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to adopt the Eastern Highlands Health District Board of Directors 2025 regular meeting schedule as presented. R. Miller noted that the June 12th meeting is not the 3rd Thursday of the month so it doesn't coincide with Juneteenth, and the meeting scheduled April 17th which is Passover, is not considered a high holy day. MOTION passed unanimously.

Public Health Preparedness Program Agreement Between Ledge Light Health District and EHHD - Ratification

J. Rupert made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to ratify the "Memorandum of Agreement for the DPH Public Health Preparedness Program, By and Between the Ledge Light Health District and Eastern Highlands Health District 2024-2029", as presented today at this meeting October 17, 2024. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Personnel Committee Report

Executive Session

J. Rupert made a MOTION, seconded by E. Anderson to enter Executive Session at 4:38 PM to discuss personnel matters in accordance with GCS 1-200(6)(a), Director of Health Performance Review. MOTION PASSED unanimously. J. Drumm joined the meeting.

Executive Session ended at 5:02 PM.

Regular meeting resumed at 5:02 PM.

E. Anderson made a MOTION, seconded by J. Drumm to accept the Personnel Committees recommendation to award R. Miller a 3% increase in annual salary retroactive to July 1, 2024, and a one-time bonus of \$1000. MOTION passed unanimously.

Directors Report

Immunization Program Update

R. Miller informed the board that EHHD is the midst of the "Get on Board, Stay on Track, Get Vaxed" campaign to support immunization for seasonal respiratory viruses. As of the end of September, 7 clinics have been held; 410 vaccines administered. These vaccines include RSV, pneumonia, COVID and flu. Additional clinics will be held.

Hypertension Prevention Program Update

R. Miller reported to the board the 15 blood pressure clinics have been held. 293 individuals attended these clinics, 24% were referred to their PCP for follow up. J. Elsesser suggested reaching out to towns with police departments. E. Anderson suggested reaching out to Public Works departments.

New weekly Viral Respiratory Disease Summary

R. Miller reported that he has resumed sending out a weekly report containing information on COVID-19, Influenza and RSV. R. Miller is hoping to further build out the report. R. Miller noted that if additional people would like to receive the report, they can email M. Brosseau (mbrosseau@ehhd.org).

Strategic Plan Update

R. Miller informed the board that a draft is almost complete. Once complete, the Strategic Planning Committee will be engaged to review and make refinements. It will then be brought to the full board.

COVID-19 test kit distribution Program

R. Miller noted that COVID-19 test kits are available in the EHHD main office. Additionally, the government is again offering free kits to households.

Advocacy Update

R. Miller reported that he has met with M. Hart of CROG regarding the NaCl issue and water softeners, and the private well data confidentiality. CROG will be sending a letter to the SSSD committee requesting a water test as part of the submittal for a water softener system to ensure that a water softener is needed. M. Hart has agreed to call the Public Health Committee Chair to see if she would meet to discuss issues related to private well data confidentiality.

Communication/Other

R. Miller called attention to the CT Suicidal Ideation and Self Harm ED Visit Report. R. Miller noted that no community is immune from this issue, and the rates for EHHD towns are relatively low in comparison

R. Miller noted the communications on EEE. Initially, mosquito isolates were detected at a high rate by CAES. Due to a dry fall, later summer the mosquito population has deadened.

Town Reports

Andover

E. Anderson reported:

- Andover has hired the first Community and Senior Center Director
- An E-Bike loaner program is in place to encourage people to get outside
- Oct 26th, a "Smart Start Adult Cycling Training" program will be held to encourage people to get back to biking
- A legislative request has been submitted to request the state to invest in trails
- The flu/COVID clinic was successful; 117 vaccines administered
- Suggested BP screening at public works

Bolton

J. Rupert reported:

- The Recreation Director has been encouraged to do more outdoor recreation activities to utilize under used outdoor rec areas
- The Heritage Farm Trail is going to CROG for review
- The town is the recipient of a STEAP grant for upgrades at Herrick Park

Coventry

J. Drumm reported:

- The town has received additional grant funding to cover 77% of the salt impacted homes on Plains Road
- Working with Connecticut Water to bring in a water tower
- A new Human Services Coordinator and a new Youth Services Coordinator has been hired
- Wasabi Restaurant has opened

Columbia

M. Walter reported:

- Hop River Bridge is open to vehicle traffic ahead of schedule
- The rec department will be holding a 'Trick or Treat' event on Oct 23rd at Rec Park
- "Searching for Migratory Ducks on the Lake" will be held Oct 19th at the town beach
- A program on the History of the Moor's Charity school will be held on Oct 20th.
- Main Moose closed early this season due to difficulties finding employees

Mansfield

R. Aylesworth reported:

- Mansfield continues to work on the water treatment system at MES
- Employee wellness fair being held 10/17/2024
- A draft of the Parks & Rec master plan was presented to the Town Council for review during the summer; the proposed final version will be presented this week.
- New eateries in town include Chipotle and Five Guys
- H. Evans note that she would like to get involved in any mental health offerings by the District

Adjournment

E. Anderson made a MOTION, seconded by J. Rupert to adjourn the regular meeting at 5:33pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Next Board Meeting – December 12, 2024, 4:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Miller', written in a cursive style.

Robert Miller

Secretary