Eastern Highlands Health District
Board of Directors Regular Meeting Minutes

Thursday, April 16, 2026

Members present: J. Elsesser (Coventry), J. Rupert (Bolton), B. Foley (Tolland-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

J. Elsesser called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm

Approval of Minutes

M. Walter made a MOTION, seconded by J. Rupert to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2026 meeting as presented. MOTION PASSED with C. Silver-Smith abstaining.

Auditor Appointment for FY 25/26

J. Rupert made a MOTION, seconded by M. Walter effective April 16, 2026 to appoint CliftonLarsonAllen LLP as the auditing firm for Eastern Highlands Health District for the Fiscal Year 2025/2026 (July1, 2025 to June 30, 2026), MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Finance Committee

Financial Report period ending 03/31/26

R. Miller presented the salient items of the financial report ending 3/31/2026

J. Rupert made a MOTION, seconded by B. Foley to accept the financial report as presented. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

CT DPH Proposed FY27 Budget for Grant Payments to Local Public Health

R. Miller noted that the line item for Local Public Health is an increase from what the district currently receives. He further noted that there is still much work to be done and the budget is not yet adopted.

Directors Report

CADH Legislative Session Report

R. Miller reported on the bills CADH is monitoring. He noted that HB5167 addressing well data confidentiality passed through the Public Health Committee due to the efforts of EHHD and CADH.

Quarterly Activity Reports – 12/31/25 & 03/31/2026

R. Miller presented the following items of the quarterly report:

- Work on the water circulator at Patriots Park
- Assisted in supporting free dental clinic scheduled for April 17 & 18

- Advocacy work to get HB5167 passed
- Emergency response to train derailment in Mansfield

Windham Hospital Community Health Needs Assessment/Implementation Plan

R. Miller noted that the assessment does not encompass all of the Health District Towns.

Health District Staffing Update – job opening

R. Miller informed the board that 3 candidates will be interviewed next week for the position of Assistant Health Director/Sanitarian II. T. King is working 15 hours per week to assist during the transition.

Strategic Plan Implementation Report

R. Miller reported on the progress of the implementation of the strategic plan.

Medical Advisors Report

Dr. Dardick reported that he is seeing a drop in respiratory infection rates.

Dr. Dardick informed the board that Pfizer has released data on the efficacy of the lyme vaccine.

Town Reports

Columbia M. Walter informed the board that he is working with Rob, Glenn, the State and Facilities Director in dealing with elevated PFAS levels in the water at the school. He will be seeking federal funding to help with the cost of deactivating the well and bringing in a tanker.

Ashford C. Silver-Smith reported that the town is pursuing the replacement of 2 bridges as part of the federal local bridge program. C. Silver-Smith noted that the Fire department is seeking a significant increase in funding. B. Foley offered assistance.
C. Silver-Smith informed the board of the passing of Christine Abikoff, the executive assistant to the Board of Selectman.

Tolland B. Foley thanked R. Miller for his advocacy work on HB5167.

Adjournment

J. Rupert made a MOTION, seconded by C. Silver-Smith to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 pm. MOTION PASSED unanimously.

Next Board Meeting – June 18, 2026, 4:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Miller

Secretary