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DIRECTOR of HEALTH
Russell Melmed, MPH

Colchester, East Haddam, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, & Portland

Chatham Health District Board of Health

Mar 30, 2021 02:00 PM

Zoom Meeting ID: 87114792939

Present: Andrew Tierney Stan Soby Peter Hughes
Susan Bransfield Robert Smith David Cox
Kate Morris

Others: Russell Melmed

1. Call to order

Chairman Tierney called this regular meeting of the Board of Health to order at 2:03pm.

2. Public Remarks

There were no public remarks.

3. Approval of Minutes from 2/23/ 2021

Approval of the minutes from February 23, 2021 is tabled to the next meeting.

4. Director's Report and discussion

a. COVID-19 Situational Awareness Update

Mr. Melmed stated that we are very busy with vaccination clinics. The coordination with the senior centers in vaccinating the seniors has gone very well. There has been a slack in demand as vaccinations have begun to open up to the younger age groups. Discussion has begun in regard to vaccinating homebound individuals. We have received an additional lease extension for the office space that we have been utilizing for the small vaccination clinics we have held in our office and for clinic supply storage. Dr. Palmer has been very gracious in allowing the use of the space at no cost.

b. Contact Tracing

No update.

c. Sector Rules Enforcement

No update.

d. Vaccine update

No update.

e. Environmental Health

Campground registration has begun.

Active outreach is being conducted in East Haddam after a high level of arsenic was found in a few residential wells. Arsenic is naturally occurring in bedrock and is not related to any sort of known contamination.

f. Community Health

Mr. Melmed stated that a Live Well program will be starting up soon. Nancy McAuliffe, our former Health Educator, will be conducting this training on a per diem bases from Florida.

Mr. Melmed noted that we are receiving a \$4000 sub-award from Ledge Light Health District for opioid overdose surveillance and notification.

g. Staffing

We have hired a new sanitarian, Zac Jezek. Zac will be working out of the East Hampton office to start and then will primarily work out of the East Haddam office.

h. FY2021 budget

Environmental health fees are on target. We are significantly over budget in areas such as overtime and computer equipment; which will be offset by the ELC grant and the portions of Municipal Corona Virus Relief Fund from the towns.

Brief discussion was held regarding planning for vaccinations of 16 and 17 year olds.

5. New Business

a. New vehicle purchase

Mr. Melmed stated that we are in need of a new vehicle for our new sanitarian. Mr. Melmed stated that he would be looking at the state contract as well as talking with dealerships to find the best option.

b. Bathing water testing program

Mr. Melmed noted that many of the bathing water locations that the District has been testing are private bathing areas; lake associations, Camp Ingersoll, Brownstone. State statute requires testing of public bathing areas. Mr. Melmed stated that the District has no authority over the private areas and is also concerned with the use of state lab for testing and staff time. Mr. Melmed is recommending that the District cease the testing of private bathing. Staff will contact each location and offer training for sampling and provide a list of testing laboratories.

6. Public Remarks

There were no public remarks.

7. Adjournment

Following no further business to discuss motion was made by Mr. Smith, seconded by Ms. Morris, to adjourn the meeting. Vote was unanimous in favor. Meeting adjourned at 3:01pm.