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DIRECTOR of HEALTH
Russell Melmed, MPH

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

Chatham Health District Board of Health, November Regular Meeting

Time: November 29, 2022 02:00 PM

Zoom Meeting ID 86280958117

Present: Andrew Tierney Rosemary Coyle Stan Soby
 Dave Cox Kate Morris Peter Hughes (arrived 2:02)
 Ryan Curley (arrived 2:06)

Others: Russell Melmed

1. Call to Order

Chairman Tierney called this meeting to order at 2:00pm.

2. Additions to the agenda

There were no additions to the agenda.

3. Public Remarks

There were no public comments.

4. Director's Report and discussion

a. COVID-19 Situational Awareness Update

Mr. Melmed stated that COVID-19 situational awareness is currently stable. There is a lot of respiratory illness out but COVID-19 has not surged as it did last year at this time.

b. Administration

Mr. Melmed stated that we continue to work with HS Gov Tech, anticipate going live with a portion of the platform early 2023.

Mr. Melmed stated that we have purchased Touchview, a hybrid meeting technology platform. This was being purchased out the FDA grant.

Mr. Melmed noted that food service licensure renewal packets were sent out this week.

Mr. Melmed stated that we are currently working with the Town of Colchester on a buildout for sanitarian office space.

Mr. Melmed stated that we are looking to purchase a new vehicle in the near future.

Mr. Melmed noted that the State of Connecticut has officially identified Juneteenth as a holiday. Mr. Melmed will be bringing the District Board meeting dates and Holiday schedule to the next meeting and will be including Juneteenth to that schedule for consideration. Chairman Tierney requested Mr. Melmed survey the towns to see their status in observing the holiday.

c. Environmental Health

Mr. Melmed stated that we are working on developing a portal for residents to report sodium and/or chloride intrusion in private drinking water wells. This is a requirement to be implemented by January 1st and annual reports to be submitted to DEEP.

Mr. Melmed stated that the State has also passed a tiered reduction of a threshold for Lead poison interventions. This will increase environmental staff work load in lead cases.

Mr. Melmed noted that there was a new requirement for water testing that went into effect September/October for the testing of Arsenic, Radon, and Uranium in private drinking water wells for new construction. In addition, all private drinking water results are to be held "Confidential".

Recommendation was made to include a question on the portal for reporting sodium/chloride in drinking water asking if the property has a water softener system.

Mr. Melmed stated that the State has officially launched the itinerant food vendors MOU process.

d. Community Health

Mr. Melmed stated that East Haddam Ambulance Association is now participating in the Naloxone Leave Behind Program. Towns that are now participating are East Haddam, Colchester, and Portland. Mr. Melmed stated that we are also partnering with the Alliance for Prevention and Wellness to send out messaging that includes resources and a contact person along with the Naloxone kits.

Mr. Melmed stated that we are still conducting flu and COVID-19 clinics.

Mr. Melmed stated that a public test kit distribution event was held. The event was not very well attended. We have now supplied kits to social services, food banks, and senior centers.

Mr. Melmed stated that our COVID Response Coordinator and our COVID Outreach Worker have been working on a messaging campaign for respiratory diseases; COVID, flu, RSV.

Mr. Melmed stated that we are also still working with the Sexual Assault Crisis Center of Eastern Connecticut to conduct training in salons and cosmetology establishments on recognizing signs of sexual assault and sexual violence and give them resources for their clients.

e. Staffing, Budget and Grants

Mr. Melmed stated that we did have a Sanitarian give their notice and their last day will be December 14th. We do have a part-time food inspector that has agreed to and signed an offer letter to come on full time.

Mr. Melmed noted that we did layoff a part-time grant funded employee. The grant ended on November 17th.

Mr. Melmed stated that the ELC2 Grant is nearing execution.

Mr. Melmed noted that we did receive an Opioid Response Grant that we partnered with Ledge Light Health District and Uncas Health District. Chatham Health will be receiving approximately \$20,000.

Mr. Melmed noted that we did receive the State Per Capita funds.

Mr. Melmed noted that our audit is ongoing and hope to have a draft for the next Board meeting.

Mr. Melmed noted that we did add the Town of Portland to our Everbridge contract. It is not understood why Portland has not been on. This will be an additional expense to that budget line item.

5. New Business

a. Approval of minutes from 9/27/2022

Motion was made by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Curley, to approve the minutes of September 27, 2022. Vote was unanimous in favor.

b. Transfer of \$1,625.66 from Emergency Response designated reserves into HAN-EVERBRIDGE line item

Motion was made by Mr. Hughes, seconded by Ms. Coyle, to approve the transfer of \$1625.66 from Emergency Response designated reserves into HAN-EVERBRIDGE line item. Vote was unanimous in favor.

6. Public Remarks

There were no public remarks.

7. Adjournment

Following no further business to discuss, motion was made by Mr. Soby, seconded by Ms. Morris, to adjourn the meeting. Vote was unanimous in favor. Meeting adjourned at 2:45pm.