

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MINUTES

September 8, 2022

A meeting of the Bristol-Burlington Health District's Board of Health was held in the Bristol-Burlington Health District Office, 240 Stafford Avenue, Bristol, Connecticut

Present: Shannon Mulz, Chairwoman
Jack Lu
Kathy Burness
Mike Boucher, Town of Burlington
James Moylan

Bristol liaison: Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano

Staff present: Marco Palmeri, MPH, RS, Director of Health
Louise McGlone, Office Manager, Board of Health Secretary

The meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Mulz at 12:47 p.m.

1. Audience Participation
2. Approval of the Board of Health Meeting Minutes August 11, 2022

Motion by James Moylan, seconded by, Kathy Burness to approve the Board of Health Meeting Minutes of August 11, 2022.

All in Favor. Motion carried.

3. Approval of Bills paid in August, 2022

Motion by Mike Boucher, seconded by James Moylan to approve the August 2022 bills.

All in Favor. Motion carried.

4. Monthly Reports: Director of Health, Senior Dental Clinic, Public Health and Environmental Health.

Director Palmeri makes note of several things including that the union is still in negotiations, asking the Board of Health to note the legal expenses when reviewing the August 2022 bills. CPA Skip Gillis is still contracting with BBHD. Director Palmeri now has a better view of BBHD's finances, as well as uncovering and correcting issues.

Director Palmeri mentions we are very busy in all areas. BBHD is short one sanitarian. Director Palmeri is working to increase the eligibility of this position by utilizing a Workforce Development Program. Housing Code is very busy and Erica Mikulak, Housing Sanitarian is involved with public housing on a collaborative level with the City of Bristol to address issues. Mayor Caggiano is very

involved. BBHD's mission is to improve the quality of life for the residents and visitors of Bristol, Connecticut.

Director Palmeri speaks to the safety and security issue of persons outside of businesses asking for money, holding signs. BBHD's Community Health Worker and Public Health Nurse are working to gain insight as to why they are there, and attempting to connect these persons with the appropriate assistance. Chairwoman Mulz speaks to how unsafe homeless shelters can be. Director Palmeri states that Bristol's shelters have improved and are in relatively good condition. Director Palmeri has had conversations with Wheeler Clinic as well as the Community Health Center regarding referring people to these facilities and has seen improvement.

Director Palmeri states that both the School Dental and Senior Dental Programs are in full operation as school is back in session. Director Palmeri noted we expect to have an increase in the number of Husky eligible school aged children, as well as working to find a dentist to assist with dental needs within shelters and for the homeless population.

Director Palmeri stated BBHD is now once again contracting with our contact tracer again as a result of requests of the school nurses. BBHD's contact tracer is working on student/ school aged cases and referrals only. Director Palmeri notes BBHD is still closely monitoring Monkey Pox.

Bristol Burlington Health District is planning its seasonal influenza vaccination clinic. BBHD has in the past provided these vaccines to the schools and school staff. Director Palmeri mentions that it might be a good idea to combine the COVID Booster and Influenza vaccine clinics for Bristol and Burlington, as well as for the general population. The Board of Health agrees with Director Palmeri that BBHD should continue to not charge for these vaccines.

Director Palmeri states that opioids are an immense issue in Bristol. BBHD is helping to train pharmacy workers to utilize a system that can help to identify and avoid over prescribing of opioids. Director Palmeri mentions that our Program Manager, Angelika Karwowski, is doing an amazing job with this.

5. New Business

- A. Revisit BBHD's Vacancy Factor on a Quarterly Basis, as discussed previously with the board, and for the past year at the request of James Moylan. Vacancy factor only applies to programs which are funded solely by the city being School Health, School Dental and Housing.

6. Old Business

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned by Chairwoman Mulz at 1:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Marco Palmeri, MPH, RS
Director of Health