

HEALTH DISTRICT COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES of FEBRUARY 8, 2007
Old Saybrook Town Hall

Attendance

Selectwoman/Chairperson Maryann P. Boord. Members Dede Levy (by conference call), Karen Buckley-Bates, Donia Viola and Bill Milardo. Pamela Kilbey-Fox of the Connecticut Department of Public Health, Mary Jane Engle Health Director of the CT River Area Health District (CRAHD), Chris Collier the District's Administrative Assistant. Members of the CRAHD Board of Health: William Fritz, the Town of Clinton's First Selectman and Richard Smith, the Town of Deep River's First Selectman and Peter Ness of the Town of Clinton.

Introduction of Attendees and Start of Meeting at 5:35 pm

Chairperson M. Boord provided a background of the committee and the status of its study. When questioned if the CRAHD Board of Health would support a satellite office in Durham, the Board responded that it makes sense provided no additional operational costs are incurred.

Health Director M. Engle gave her vision of how Durham would fit into the CRAHD and how Carmody software, cell phones and scheduled meetings would overcome the distances between towns within the District.

Discussion Concerning Programs and Needs

CRAHD Health Director M. Engle explained that the Health District would assess community health needs and assure that services are provided. The services can be provided directly by the District, by subcontracting for services or by networking with existing agencies. The Health District will act as a "catalyst" and will avoid the duplication of services. Departments within the Town of Durham that provide services considered to be under the realm of human services/public health would be unaffected by the District.

Each community's needs are different and programs are implemented based on a needs assessment. Community partners such as civic groups, church groups, schools, large employers, soup kitchens, hospitals and VNAs would be identified. The Durham Fair is an example of a community-specific need for public health services. The CRAHD Board of Directors agreed that non-profit organizations should not be subject to licensure/inspection fees and that the Board would aim to keep application/inspection processes similar to the past.

Discussion Concerning the Location of the CRAHD Office

Chairperson M. Boord queried the Board regarding the location of the Health District's facilities. Presently the CRAHD's headquarters are temporarily located within the Old Saybrook Town Hall. CRAHD expects to relocate to its own building in 2008. A committee will be looking at various properties, costs and a central location, probably in Deep River. Member, K. Buckley-Bates questioned the Board regarding the impact that the new headquarters would have on the per capita cost to the municipalities within the District. The Board anticipated that the financial impact would be less than \$1 per capita.

This portion of the minutes respectfully submitted by William R. Milardo, Jr.

Health District Committee Meeting with East Shore Health District Minutes of February 8, 2007

Attendance:

Selectwoman Maryann P. Boord began discussion at 7:30 pm. In attendance: members Donia Viola and Karen Buckley-Bates.

After brief introductions, M. Boord gave a brief overview of our process to date and opened up the floor for questions from members of the East Shore Board of Directors.

East Shore agreed to a Satellite office in Durham. For staffing purposes, our current full-time sanitarian would initially be located in Durham but would then become part of the Environmental Health rotation of assignments that is currently in effect in the East Shore district. East Shore stated that Durham's sanitarian would have a different reporting mechanism, in that he would report to the district and be a district employee. They wanted to be sure that the town understood that he would no longer be working for the town directly. There was additional discussion over what his role would be within the district. It is likely that he would not hold the title of Sanitarian. The current Sanitarians in the district are unionized and Durham's sanitarian's current salary is higher than that of the district's sanitarians; however, the district believes Durham's sanitarian would be an asset to the district and that they can find an appropriate title/role for him. There was additional discussion of the benefit packages. Durham's sanitarian's current benefits include Dental coverage. East Shore does not currently provide this coverage to its employees. This issue would need to be resolved so no benefits are lost for Durham's sanitarian (per Statute requirements)

East Shore shared that they had a number of district-wide ordinances that the Town of Durham would adopt when joining the district. The committee asked for the ordinances to be shared.

There was a great deal of discussion about the Durham Fair. East Shore has a reduced rate for non-profit permits with inspections, but will not waive the fee entirely. They do have a pre-visit for vendors to educate them about food safety and do require a 2 week lead time for permitting. While applications are available and are downloadable, applicants cannot yet file on line.

There was agreement that the health district would not want to duplicate any services being offered presently by the Town of Durham. In order to clearly determine this, we would need to provide more information on what services we pay for, including the VNA, as well as, our current transportation and community health center expenses. The Health District is currently an Anthem and Medicare provider; so, the vaccines would still be at no cost to the individuals, but the district would be able to bill the insurance companies for payment. While this is not a huge number, the district may be able to generate some of the needed revenue through immunizations in order to offset some of the expenses of taking Durham into the district.

The group discussed the district's budget. In past years, the district has proposed 3-5% increases overall. Next year's increase is proposed at 4%, bringing the per capita expense to \$5.712. The proposed budget does not include the \$10,000 Durham would receive from the state should it decide to join a district.

There is a need for further discussion in the area of Mass Vaccination. Will Durham remain in the Middletown distribution area or move to East Shore? We will need to talk to the state about this.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45PM.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Buckley-Bates