



North Central District Health Department

- Enfield—31 North Main Street, Enfield, CT 06082 * (860) 745-0383 Fax (860) 745-3188
- Vernon—375 Hartford Turnpike, Room 120, Vernon, CT 06066 * (860) 872-1501 Fax (860) 872-1531
- Windham—Town Hall, 979 Main Street, Willimantic, CT 06226 * (860) 465-3033 Fax (860) 465-3034
- Stafford—Town Hall, 1 Main Street, Stafford Springs, CT 06076 * (860) 684-5609 Fax (860) 684-1768

Patrice A. Sulik, MPH, R.S.
Director of Health

RECEIVED BY EMAIL

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
 Zoom Meeting
 Wednesday, February 10, 2021
 6:00 PM

RECEIVED
 VERNON TOWN CLERK
 21 MAR -3 AM 11:20

Members Present: Diane Wheelock-Chairman, Fred Journalist, Catherine Cannon, Ben Rodriguez, Maria Whelden, Trisha Vayda, Shannon Grant, Chris Abraham, Len Norton, Jason Walsh, William Meier

Members Absent: Michele Kervick, Dianne Trueb, Greg Stokes, Dawn Hunt, Dawn Maselek, Victor Mathieu, Matthew Maynard

Also, Present: Joe Muller, Enfield Town Council Liaison, Patrice Sulik – Director of Health

Call to Order/Determination of Quorum

Diane Wheelock convened the meeting at 6:02 PM after determining there was a quorum present.

Chairman’s Report

Director of Health

Patrice reviewed vaccination progress to date. Concern was raised by Board Members regarding the number of people that have been vaccinated. Len Norton expressed that East Windsor Town leadership was not pleased that some individuals were turned away from an East Windsor clinic based on their ineligible status for being vaccinated. VAMS does not serve the purpose of determining an individual’s eligibility for vaccine, although some thought that was the case. Discussion ensued and Board Members stated that the Board should not tell the Director to violate a vaccination agreement with the state. Initially, there was lack of clarity regarding eligible/not eligible status; eventually the state clarified eligibility, but there was lingering confusion about eligibility status.

The Towns expect the Health District to take the lead in vaccination efforts for Health District Towns. There are other COVID vaccine providers in the District-hospitals, private providers, the Town of Vernon, Community Health Centers, and pharmacies. Some of these providers are working collaboratively to get vaccine dispersed into the community.

The need for increased messaging within the community was discussed and Patrice asked if the Board was ready to move forward with a Facebook page-there had been previous conversations about having a Facebook page prior to the pandemic; but the need for more messaging is critical at this time. The District’s Health Educator has drafted a Facebook Page and the Board will be notified when it is launched.

Action on Consent Agenda

Committee Updates and Discussion

1. Finance – Maria Whelden, Chair- Quarterly Financials through 12/31/20, were reviewed.
2. Short and Long-Term Planning – Ben Rodriguez, Chair-no update.
3. Capital Improvements – Shannon Grant, Chair-no update.
4. Personnel – William Meier, Chair-given the need for additional staff to respond to the pandemic, Bill Meier discussed the additional positions that would be needed immediately.

A **motion** was made by Bill Meier and seconded by Maria Whelden to hire another Public Health Preparedness staff member to support COVID response. This position would be filled for a two (2) year time period. The cost through the end of the current fiscal year would be \$22,505 to support this position.

The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Bill Meier and seconded by Maria Whelden to also add another Public Health Nurse eight (8) hours a week and two (2) temporary administrative positions to support phone work and data entry. A temp agency will be used to secure the administrative positions. The cost through the end of the current fiscal year to support these positions is \$44,064.

The motion carried unanimously.

The Board's expectation is that every attempt will be made to seek reimbursement for these additional costs.

New Business

Adoption of Minutes

A **motion** was made by Fred Journalist and seconded by Bill Meier to waive the reading of the Minutes of the Public Hearing and Special Meeting of the Board of January 13, 2021 and that Minutes of said hearing and meeting be approved. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, a **motion** was made by Jason Walsh and seconded by Fred Journalist to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrice A. Sulik
Director of Health

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 - Location to be determined.