

**Health Commission** □  
**City of Stamford** □  
**DRAFT MINUTES** □  
**January 8, 2015** □

Commissioners Present: Dr. Barbara Decker, Ms. Patricia Parry, and Dr. Margaret Cobb

Guests Attended: Ms. Anne Fountain, Director of Health & Social Services, Ms. Pam Scott, Recording Secretary, Ms. Joanne Ettore, Sr. Outreach Worker

Meeting called to order	Dr. Decker informed the commissioners that Ms. Stephanie Paulmeno will not be attending the meeting today, due to a conflict with her schedule.	Dr. Decker called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.
Additional Agenda Items:	<p>Dr. Decker requested the following items to be added to the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Cobb invite to join Obesity Taskforce</li> <li>• People Friendly Stamford</li> <li>• Elderly Pedestrian article</li> <li>• Hoarding Taskforce – Joanne Ettore</li> <li>• Commissioners call into the commission meeting</li> <li>• Attorney Mike Toma presentation to the Commission</li> </ul>	Ms. Parry moved to add additional items to the agenda; Dr. Cobb seconded. Approved unanimously.

**Minutes:**

Minutes of December 11, 2014	Minutes from the December 11, 2014 meeting were reviewed.	Ms. Parry moved to approve December 11, 2014 minutes with corrections. Dr. Cobb seconded. Approved unanimously.
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**Appeals:**

There were no appeals		
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**Director of Health Report**

<b>Anne Fountain, MPH</b>	<p>Ms. Fountain introduced Ms. Joanne Ettore, the Senior Outreach Coordinator. She will be presenting to the Health Commission on the Hoarding Taskforce.</p> <p>Ms. Fountain updated the Health Commission on the following items:</p>	
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- **Go Red Day** event, February 6, 2015 in the Government Center Lobby from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be many activities in the lobby blood pressure screening, healthy eating demonstration, and a fun walk/run led by Fleet Feet Sports.

This is a collaborated effort with the City, Stamford Hospital and the American Heart Association.

- Flu season – we see an epidemic here in Stamford as in CT and the nation. The State reported 180 hospitalized last month. We have 444 confirmed cases as of 12/27/14. We are asking the Board of Education to give us stats on absenteeism.

- Cold Weather – This year the Mayor has arranged with Inspirica to open warming centers 8:00 p.m. – 8:00 a.m. to take the homeless people off the street.

The information has been distributed in the newspaper, website, blasted media and word of mouth.

They have planned to take in 40 people.

- Eden Huang – is being honored with the Spirit of Volunteerism Award from the United Way- Volunteer Center. The event is Friday, January 9, 2015.
- Ebola Update – lifting the requirement traveling from Mali. We had one person that we were monitoring that ended 12/23/14.

Ms. Parry mentioned Stamford Hospital had an Ebola drill, and there was not a response from the Health

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	<p>Department that day. Ms. Fountain stated that there is a backup plan and the backup plan worked.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget – they are changes the way they are looking at the budget - programmatically. We are hoping to maintain what we have.</li> </ul> <p>We also requested funding for the SNAP program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Plan – Ms. Paulmeno wants to talk to the Health Commissioners, Director Jankowski and the Mayor as part of our strategic plan; to get their input.</li> </ul>	
<p style="text-align: center;"><i><b>Joanne Ettorre</b></i>  <i><b>Senior Outreach Coordinator</b></i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i><b>Hoarding Taskforce</b></i></p>	<p>Ms. Ettorre informed the Health Commissioners of the number of tasks that she assist the elderly population with:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Municipal Agents</b></p> <p>Municipal Agents for the Elderly assist town residents aged 60+ by providing information and referrals to state, local and federal services and benefits programs.</p> <p>Bridgeport: Rose Marie Hoyt (203) 576-7989</p> <p>Darien: Olive Hauser (203) 656-7329</p> <p>Easton: Katy Tressler (203) 268-1137  Fairfield: Terry Giegengack (203) 256-3166</p> <p>Greenwich: Rick Weiner (203) 622-3719</p> <p>Monroe: Barbara Yeager (203) 452-3771</p> <p>New Canaan: Mel Neville (203) 594-3077</p>	

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Stamford: Joanne Ettorre (203) 977-4747

Stratford: Shirley Dominguez (203) 385-4055

Trumbull: Jean Fereira (203) 452-5199

Weston: Charlene Chiang-Hillman (203) 222-2663

Westport: Susanne P. Lebrija (203) 341-1071

Wilton: Cathy Pierce (203) 834-6238

**Area Agency on Aging**

Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) are private, non-profit organization that receives Federal Older Americans Act (Title III) funds. AAA fund the following services: Social Services, Nutritional Services, Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Services, Family Caregivers Support Services and Adult Day Care Aide Positions to provide day care services for Alzheimer's disease and related dementia.

AAA may also provide direct services in the areas of community education, advocacy, case management, information and assistance, benefits counseling and training.

The State of Connecticut is broken into five regions.

Western Connecticut Area on Aging  
84 Progress Lane Waterbury CT 06705  
203 757 5449 <http://www.wcaaa.org>

North Central Area Agency on Aging 151 New Park Ave  
Suite 15 Hartford CT 06106 860 724 6443  
<http://ncaaact.org>

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Eastern Connecticut Area Agency on Aging 19 Ohio Ave  
Norwich CT 06360 860 887 3561

<http://www.seniorresourcesec.org>

Agency on Aging of South Central Connecticut One Long  
Wharf Drive Suite 1L New Haven CT 06511 203 785 8533

<http://www.aoascc.org>

Southwestern Connecticut Area Agency on Aging 10  
Middle Street Bridgeport CT 06604 203 333 9288

<http://www.swcaa.org>

**Code Enforcement and Social Service Agencies to help**

Hoarding seems to be one of the major concerns that have been on the rise. Moreover, for seniors, it is very difficult for the problem to be fixed as it is very costly. Often many community agencies (Protective Services for the Elderly, Senior Services, Probate Court, and Mental Health Authorities) join as a team to help the senior to fix the problem.

**Supportive Programs Offered**

CT Home Care Program was designed to enable individuals who are at risk for institutionalization the option to stay in the community safely.

Mental Health Waiver (Working for Integration Support and Empowerment)/WISE encompass the recovery orientation adopted by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services. Each person in the WISE program would participate in Person Centered Planning Process.

Money Follows the Person (MFP) is a project administered

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by the Department of Social Services and varies in the respect that someone is already in the nursing home to return to the community with the freedom of choice regarding where they live and the support that they will receive.

WISE vs. MFP

The major difference is MFP person is already in a nursing home, and WISE person is at risk for nursing home placement, and a WISE person has serious psychiatric disability.

Protective Services for the Elderly Department of Social Services works with individuals who are 60 years and older from physical, mental and emotional abuse, neglect and abandonment and/or financial abuse and exploitation. DSS social workers devise a plan of care aimed at assuring an elder's safety while preserving the person's right to self-determination. Under certain circumstances, the Department may apply to the Probate Court for the appointment of a Conservator whose role is to make decisions on behalf of an incompetent person.

**Stamford's Hoarding Taskforce**

This multi-agency task force's purpose is to coordinate with community agencies to address hoarding cases in residents, especially elderly in the city of Stamford.

Our is goal is to foster and promote lines of communication across agencies, provide a better understanding of each agencies responsibilities and limitations and develop collaborative response to assist residents who are at risk of jeopardizing their housing, their health and public's health.

Ms. Ettorre will forward the schedule of Stamford taskforce meetings.

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The task force will develop strategies to ensure consistency in our response to safely handle these challenging situations while accumulating proper supports to address the uniqueness of each hoarding case.

**Objectives of the Taskforce**

- To develop a plan to address hoarding in a thoughtful and effective way.
- To develop support groups (or re-connect people)
- To develop a group of resources to help quickly address the hoarding cases we receive
- To develop a prevention program

**Taskforce**

Stamford's Task Force has been meeting on the third Tuesday of the month in the 6<sup>th</sup> floor training room at 10am.

Participants include:

Stamford Fire  
Stamford Police  
Environmental Health Inspectors  
Social Services Division of the Health Dept.  
Department of Social Services Protective Services for the Elderly Division  
Senior Services of Stamford

The Taskforce is always looking for new members from City offices and community providers.

**Statewide Taskforce**

In September 2014 the development of the Statewide task

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	<p>force emerged as many municipalities were reporting cases of hoarding, and we have difficulty handling these cases. The task force meets every other month in Newington. The last meeting was November 5, 2014. The next Task Force meeting will be January 7, 2015. If you are interested in the Statewide Task Force, please contact Karen Gagliardi, the secretary for Newington Human Services at <a href="mailto:kgagliardi@newingtonct.gov">kgagliardi@newingtonct.gov</a></p> <p>The Statewide Task Force is in the process of developing Training Videos, Legislation in order to secure funding, Uniform Protocols, policies and procedures and resource development.</p> <p>The Statewide Task for is sponsoring The Hoarding Conference May 2015. This conference will be held at Central Connecticut State University. More information will follow from the Statewide Task Force.</p>	<p>The Health Commissioners thanked Ms. Ettorre for her time and effort devoted to the senior population.</p>
<p><b><i>Stephanie Paulmeno, MS, RN, NHA, CDP, CCP  CEO, Global Health Systems Consultants, LLC</i></b></p>	<p>Ms. Fountain introduced Ms. Paulmeno to the commissioners.</p> <p>Ms. Paulmeno apologized for not being aware of the meeting.</p> <p>Dr. Cobb stated that the Health Commission is interested in understanding the process of the strategic plan, where she is the process and if the health commission can be of assistance from a higher level.</p> <p>Ms. Paulmeno offered to come back and do a formal presentation to the Health Commission at a later date. While shared with them of where they are at this point in the process.</p>	

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She started on the basis of the report and has already met with the department division heads individually and in focus groups.

It began with a set questions asking the division heads to share their priorities and where they saw champions within and for their division. The group worked on refining the department mission, vision, purpose, and value statements.

Ms. Paulmeno stated that she needed to meet with Mayor Martin, Director Jankowski and the Health Commission for their input.

Ms. Parry expressed her interest in meeting with Ms. Paulmeno on a different level to give her input. Dr. Decker followed by stating that the Health Commissioners agreed to meet with her individually.

Ms. Paulmeno shared her professional background with the Health Commission and how it ties in what she is doing now.

She also mentioned the discussions with the health department staff about the services they provide and what may be duplicate services in the community; as well as conversations with Director Fountain about other health department applying to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) to become an accredited health department.

The thought was while in the process of the strategic plan, we should use PHAB format so if it is decided at a later date that the Stamford Health Department would like to

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	<p>apply for PHAB certification they could move forward.</p> <p>Ms. Paulmeno questioned whether she should be meeting with the Social Services Commission. Ms. Fountain explained that is an interesting dynamic, although she attends their meeting. They will discuss this at another time.</p> <p>Ms. Parry stated that she was assuming Ms. Paulmeno was going to use the community needs assessment that was just done by Stamford Hospital. Ms. Paulmeno said, yes. She is also pulling in much information from other sources. Organizations that she and boards that she has involvement with.</p> <p>Dr. Decker spoke of the makeup of the Health Commission per the Charter; which is unlike the Board of Health in other communities.</p> <p>Ms. Paulmeno stated that she was very impressed with the health department staff.</p> <p>Dr. Cobb questioned the strategic plan and how is it being utilized. Director Fountain said this was only for the department of health and social services.</p> <p>There was discussion about the CT State of DPH Strategic Plan that can be found on the website.  <a href="http://www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/admin/org/ctdph_strategic_plan.pdf">www.ct.gov/dph/lib/dph/admin/org/ctdph_strategic_plan.pdf</a></p>	<p>Ms. Paulmeno will contact the commissioners individually to set up meetings.</p> <p>The Health Commission thanked Ms. Paulmeno for the overview of the process for the strategic plan.</p>
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<b>Old Business:</b>		
<b><i>Dr. Cobb invites to join Obesity Taskforce</i></b>	Dr. Decker informed the commissioners that Dr. Anne Brewer will be inviting to Dr. Cobb to join the Obesity Taskforce Committee.	

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**New Business:**

<p><b><i>People Friendly Stamford</i></b></p>	<p>Dr. Decker saw on an email that People Friendly Stamford a civic organization that promotes walking, safe cycling, and pedestrian stuff. Helped to get an ordinance approved by the Board of Representatives. She thought it was interesting as it applies to transportation improvement projects; but not interstate highway, pedestrian paths or where the expense would be too great.</p> <p>The ordinance is called Complete Streets; it is an initiative that tries and makes the street safe for everyone; motorists, pedestrians, elderly and the disabled.</p> <p>According to this ordinance, the Office of Operations is to produce a manual for implementation of transportation improvement projects to make them amenable to complete streets.</p> <p>It mandates inclusion of infrastructure designed to accommodate pedestrians in any projects within 1,000 feet of a school, commercial center, or bus stops.</p> <p>Ms. Parry questioned if this was an ordinance that just passed. Dr. Decker stated it passed on January 5, 2015.</p>	
<p><b><i>Elderly Pedestrian - article</i></b></p>	<p>Dr. Decker shared a column written by Jane Brody in the <i>Science Times</i>. The article called Where Feet and Wheels Meet. It is about the pedestrian hazards of the elderly. The elderly is known to have significantly</p>	

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	<p>more traffic crashes than people younger.</p> <p>A discussion followed about the pedestrian safety in Stamford.</p>	
<p><i>Conference call into the commission meetings</i></p>	<p>Ms. Parry commented that Dr. Schuster asked at last month meeting if he can call into the commission meeting, as sometimes it would be difficult for him to get here in person. The Commission was asking for input from legal on that matter.</p> <p>Dr. Decker spoke with Attorney Mike Toma, he gave her some regulations; you have to have a physical meeting in a public place where the public can attend. What was unclear in her email to the Commissioners were – whether everybody on the Health Commission could attend remotely or whether just one or two people could attend remotely?</p> <p>Ms. Parry question would be – if someone could not attend physically, can they attend by phone call.  Dr. Decker said the answer is yes.</p> <p>Ms. Parry requests to hear from Attorney Toma. Dr. Decker responded that he would be at the February meeting.</p> <p>Ms. Parry suggested that Dr. Schuster is present for Attorney Toma's presentation next month.</p>	
<p><i>Attorney Mike Toma presentation to the Commission</i></p>	<p>Dr. Decker requested that Attorney Toma reiterate the legal basis for the health commission deciding on appeals from health department orders.</p>	

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	Ms. Fountain distributed copies of the Housing Standards, the Statues and Regulations for housing codes as a reference for the commissioners.	
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**Adjournment:** ☐

There being no further business before the regular session of the Health Commission; Dr. Decker moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. Ms. Parry seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Submitted by,  
*Pam Scott* ☐  
Pam Scott  
Recording Secretary

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