

Connecticut River Area Health District

Serving the Towns of Clinton, Deep River and Old Saybrook

First Selectman, Richard Smith, Chairman

Michael Dunne, M.D.

First Selectman, William Fritz, Secretary

David Shearer, M.D

Peter Neff, Treasurer

455 Boston Post Road, Unit 7
Old Saybrook, CT 06475
Phone: 860-661-3300 Fax: 860-661-3333

Minutes

Monday, July 29, 2013

Regular Meeting of the CRAHD Board of Directors

455 Boston Post Road, Suite 7

Old Saybrook, CT 06475

11:00 AM

A. Call to Order

Chairman Dick Smith called the meeting to order at 11:15 am

B. Roll Call

Chairman Smith identified the following as present: Board Member David Shearer, Board Member Michael Dunne, Board Secretary Willie Fritz, Director of Health Jim Monopoli, and Chris Collier, Clerk

C. Approval of Minutes from June 24, 2013 Regular Meeting

DUNNE moved, **SHEARER** 2nd, motion to approve minutes from June 24, 2013 Special Meeting

APPROVED 3 - 0
ABSTAIN 1

D. Old Business

- **Further Discussion/Action on Draft Public Health Services Agreement, Settlement and Release, and Joint Defense Agreement with Old Saybrook WPCA**

Board Chairman Dick Smith and Director of Health Jim Monopoli met with Attorney Jane Marsh of Deep River to discuss her review of the proposed PH Services Agreement with the Old Saybrook WPCA. Her review indicated

some concerns with the draft agreement, however Attorney Marsh is not interested in representing CRAHD moving forward.

Monopoli presented the board with a copy of a letter to Elsa Payne, Chairwoman of the WPCA, requesting that the WPCA table any decision on the PH Services Agreement until they receive feedback from CRAHD.

Since the meeting with Atty Marsh, the WPCA Attorney Wertam, proposed changes to the Agreement: Sections D1, E1, and E3. These changes are pending review by an Attorney representing CRAHD.

Reservations were discussed by the board to have Attorney Marsh's remarks submitted to the WPCA, as she will not be representing CRAHD. Attorney Mark Branse was again approached by Monopoli to potentially represent CRAHD, but a no conflict letter, submitted to the WPCA would need to be signed by the WPCA prior to any arrangement, since Atty Branse also represents the WPCA on an unrelated matter. Monopoli was told by Robbie Marshall of the WPCA that the WPCA tabled this item at its 7/22/13 meeting, and did not take action on the letter.

Further discussion regarding the PH Services Agreement, which is still pending, took place as well as the addendums related to co-representation of CRAHD and WPCA by Atty Wertam upon an appeal of a WWMD order by the health Director, and an agreement to pay CRAHD invoices from 9/18/12 forward.

Discussion took place regarding the need for an attorney to represent the district. Director Monopoli received a proposal from Attorney Clendenen of New Haven to represent the district. Monopoli indicated that Clendenen came highly recommended by another health district, and also represented the Town of Branford for many years.

Director Monopoli stated that he would not be comfortable moving forward without legal representation.

Chairman Smith inquired as to whether or not the WPCA will reimburse the district for legal fees.

FRITZ moved, **DUNNE** 2nd, motion to give authorization to Director Monopoli to hire Attorney Clendenen to represent CRAHD, and to sign the engagement letter.

APPROVED 4 - 0

- **Status of Application for 3rd Party Reimbursement**

Director Monopoli has been working on the district becoming a provider of flu and pneumonia vaccines. Board Member Dunne has agreed to be the Medical Advisor for this program. He will need to submit his own medicare application under CRAHD's national provider number and provide malpractice insurance for himself. Dunne stated that he does not have personal malpractice insurance currently. The district will explore the cost of this. Monopoli stated that the application for Medicare is nearly finished. Applications for private insurances

have been started, however, cannot be completed until the Medicare number is received, as it may be required as part of their applications.

Director Monopoli has explored contracting with a billing service, TransactRx, who can do all billing for the District. There will be a one-time \$250 initial fee then a \$1.50 per claim fee.

Director Monopoli stated that providing vaccines can be a worthwhile and convenient PH service to the public and show another aspect of CRAHD.

Because the application process is lengthy, vaccination clinics may not start until next year.

- **Further Review/Action on Mission Statement for CRAHD**

Director Monopoli revised the current Mission Statement to be more inclusive of the functions of the Health District, specifically regarding providing core public health services.

FRITZ moved, **SHEARER** 2nd, motion to approve and adopt the draft Mission Statement option 1, which reads:

To provide quality core public health services to the district towns through a variety of education, monitoring, promotion, empowerment, advocacy and enforcement activities with the goal of improving the health status of its residents.

APPROVED 4 - 0

E. New Business

- **Legal Representation for CRAHD**

Covered in discussion under Old Business

F. Directors Report

Director Monopoli explained that \$2,700 additional funding was added to this year's Preventative Health Block Grant re: skin cancer education program. That amount was incorporated into this year's operating budget. Monopoli showed the breakdown and changes to line items in the budget to reflect the increase.

An appeal has been filed by Joel Anderson, owner at 13 George Drive in Old Saybrook of a WWMD order. Monopoli is anticipating a hearing date to be scheduled from the DPH. He will meet with Shipman & Goodwin regarding the appeal. Director Monopoli is obligated to send orders to homeowners in the WWMD per the ordinance.

Director Monopoli is still waiting for more information regarding the Tobacco Cessation grant with MCSAAC. It will likely be September before they hear if they successfully received the grant.

Director Monopoli met with 3 Shoreline Health Directors regarding the possibility and filling a need for a regional pump out boat. DEEP has reported that funds are available for pump out boats for the shoreline. There is a possibility for 2 boats to cover gaps in service from Branford to Old Saybrook. The towns along the shore from East Haven to Old Saybrook will benefit from the boat service. Marina owners who Monopoli spoke to so far are in support of the service. Discussion was held regarding the challenge of dumping and disposing of waste from the boats to possibly holding tanks or other means placed conveniently along the shore.

SHEARER moved, **DUNNE 2nd**, motion support further exploration and potential acquisition of the regional pump out boat(s) services through DEEP.

APPROVED 4 – 0

G. Adjournment

SHEARER moved, **DUNNE 2nd**, motion to adjourn at 12:03 PM

APPROVED 4 - 0

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Collier

Clerk