

Darien Health Department

Advisory Board of Health

Special Meeting Minutes

March 14, 2023 via Virtual Link and Recorded for Channel 79

Members Present:

David Knauf, Staff

Review of December Minutes

Unanimously Approved

Report from the Director of Health

Proposed Budget

- Staff adjustment to add a full-time Assistant Director of Health, salary adjustment for the Sanitarian position & elimination of a part time position due burden of new development and additional responsibilities for DOH. Details provided by email. **(Motion & Vote):** ABH recommends a full-time Assistant Director of Health and a salary adjustment for the sanitarian position, and elimination of the 1 part-time sanitarian position within the department as per the proposed budget in response to the new development in town both now and in the near future – **Unanimously Approved**

COVID

- Daily monitoring of COVID cases, DOH continues to provide monthly summaries on line only. Total laboratory positive cases 4,586 to date, does not include home testing
- Test site at St. John's Church to close at the end on March – declining demand.
- Summary of Region 1 cases

Staff

- Governor's OFFICIAL STATEMENT celebrating National Public Health Workers Day was shared with the group, mentioning Darien Public Health Department.
- David: "Journal of Environmental Health" DNA Source tracking publication co-authorship – cover story! Journal shared with the ABH, hope to expand the work they did to get some more definitive answers around the sources of the contamination.
- Mindy: CEHA Scholarship award & appointment to statewide taskforce on workforce development. She was featured in a recent video on restaurant inspections (on our website) and will be working on one for radon testing next month.

- Paula: Has recently been certified as a mental first aid trainer and in collaboration with Human Services, will be offering courses to the public beginning in January 2023. She is also spearheading the formation of a Town Hall Medical Emergency Team (MERT) to enable rapid response in the event of a serious medical event in the building or on Town Hall grounds until first responders arrive. Plan to be functional in January.
- Nick: Gone from being an independent contractor to a part-time employee. Working on expanding on the Public Health Annex. Working to set up the “pod in a box” with first step being ordering the trailer which is in progress in consultation with DPW.
- Lori: Continues working remotely, reviewing plans for new food service & salons.
- Dr. Kenefick: Recommend removing the “interim” from his Medical Advisor job description. Contractual agreements on responsibilities and compensation will remain.
(Motion & Vote): ABH Recommends removing “interim” title from Medical Advisor for Dr. Kenefick – **Unanimously Approved**

Message from DPH: “We know that flu and COVID-19 are circulating and that the cases are rising,” said Commissioner Juthani. “It takes about two weeks for these vaccines to be effective so now is your opportunity before the holidays to protect yourself, your family and particularly the older loved ones in your life.”

Inspection Services

1. **Food Protection**: In the process of renewing annual food service operating permits for 120 establishments. First time using our new on-line application & payment portal. Normal/routine inspections of food service facilities continuing with inspection reports and Ratings posted on-line.
2. **Cosmetology Salons**: Completed permit renewals and inspections/reinspection’s of all 37 cosmetology salons. Inspection summaries are posted on our website.
3. **On-going**: Conduct plan reviews and pre-opening inspections of new food service and cosmetology salons in new developments – 38 new facilities in the past calendar year, some are in the new developments with many more to come in the near future.
4. **Septic Systems & Wells**: Reviewing plans and performing inspections of properties under construction served by wells & septic systems.

Radon

In partnership with the State Department of Public Health, we will be offering free radon test kits to the public – we expect a delivery of the kits in the next week or two as January is National Radon Awareness Month. Public Notice will be provided.

Health Needs Assessment

- Collaborating with Human Services Department to organize a town mental health needs assessment to be conducted beginning in January 2023. Reviewing a proposal at this time
- Currently participating in Community Health Needs Assessments being conducted by both Stamford and Norwalk Hospitals including a mental health needs assessment. DOH

is reviewing proposals from entities who could perform the mental health needs assessment over the next 6 months

Other

Participated in town-wide preparation in October for emergency response plan outreach for all departments heads. DOH has information online in advance of severe weather as well as on the Town website.

Next regularly scheduled ABH meeting is Tuesday, March 14th 2023 at 5pm.

Motion to Adjourn at 6:00 PM. Approved Unanimously

Respectfully Submitted – Kevin M. Cunningham, ABH Chair