

# Darien Health Department

Advisory Board of Health

DRAFT Minutes

Tuesday, September 12, 2023 @ 5:00 PM

Virtual ZOOM Meeting and Recording

## Meeting called to Order at 5:04pm

**Members Present:** David Knauf (staff). James (Mac) Patrick, Dr. Joseph Miceli, Christine Castles, Andy Matthiesen, Kevin Cunningham (Chair)

**Review/approval of June Meeting Minutes** – No Changes, approved unanimously.

## Report from the Director of Health

### 1. Proposed Departmental Reorganization

- NEW Full Time Sanitarian: The position has been advertised – closing date is September 14<sup>th</sup>. Hope to interview (and hire!) immediately thereafter.
- New Position Request: will be renewing my request for an Assistant Director of Health – grants are available to expand programs and help fund the position. Part of my succession-plan.

### 2. Staff Update

- Lori Romick has submitted her resignation/retirement letter, effective September 28<sup>th</sup>. Her knowledge and professionalism will be greatly missed as she has been doing all of our food service and cosmetology plan reviews for new facilities.
- Mindy has completed a new video “*Region 1 Public Health PSA - A Day in the Life of a Public Health Sanitarian*” which can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fxEFceDPoo4>
- Mindy has had her job classification changed from Health Sanitarian to Senior Health Sanitarian with an adjustment in salary.
- Nick Jossem will be outfitting the “pod-in-a-box” mobile clinic supply trailer when it arrives.

### 3. New Buildings/Developments – Food Service and Cosmetology Salons

- New facility plan reviews, plan revisions, site visits during construction, pre-opening inspections and evaluation of food handling procedures in newly opened facilities. At least 25 new establishments have been subject to various stages of review during the past six months.

- In addition, a minimum of five (5), up to eight (8) food service establishments have closed, are being renovated and plan to reopen in the next few months under new management/ownership.

#### **4. Health Needs Assessment Proposal**

We have secured the services of Ascendant Healthcare Partners to conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment, with a focus on chronic illnesses and mental health. This is a critical time to perform this analysis so we can evaluate the impact from the pandemic. We have begun by surveying community partners that include the schools, town agencies, local clergy, YMCA, the Depot, Darien Police Department, Post 53, and Silver Hills Hospital.

#### **5. Beach water sampling program**

Has concluded for this year – no beach closures due to elevated levels of bacteria, but closed on seven (7) days preemptively due to rainfall over 1”. During the summer, we are in close communication with Parks & Rec and maintain the beach HOTLINE to inform the public of any closures.

#### **6. COVID**

Test Kits are available, free while supplies last.

Have resumed tracking positive case reports, watching for trends, especially important with schools being in session.

#### **7. Other Business**

- Vibrio: DOH expressed concerns expressed about media coverage – no cases associated with CT shellfish consumption, one from out of state consumption. Fatalities were associated with people with fresh wounds swimming in LIS. People with cuts, scrapes, fresh tattoos, piercings should stay out of the water.
- West Nile Virus – positive mosquito pools were found at both sampling stations in Darien, but no local cases; two in CT, no fatalities.
- Tilley Pond Algae – residents reporting odors in the area of Tilly Pond – Gas company & Fire Department have determined there is no natural gas leak – site visit observations conclude algae is the source of odors and fountains have been turned off to minimize aspiration of odor producing algae
- Cosmetology salon permit renewals are under way.
- Staff to keep an eye on arsenic contamination and remediation at Great Island

Next Meeting Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 5pm

Motion to Adjourn at 5:43pm - Unanimous

Respectfully Submitted – Kevin Cunningham (Chair)