

54 Meadow Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor • New Haven, Connecticut 06519 • 203-946-6999

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Justin Elicker, Mayor • Maritza Bond, MPH, Director of Health

**Board of Health Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2023**

**Present:** Dr. James Hadler, Dr. Frank Mongillo, Heather Reynolds, Dr. Gregg Gonsalves, Dr. Alice Forrester and Dr. Darnell Young,

**Absent:** None

**Staff:** Maritza Bond, Director of Health

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**Call to Order:**

Commission Chair Hadler called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The Minutes from the January 11, 2023 meeting was approved with an edit to the date of the February 8 for the next meeting. Motion made by Dr. Mongillo and seconded by Heather Reynolds.

**Public Comments or Statements:**

No members of the public on Zoom or submitted written testimony.

**Updates:**

Director Bond presented the following status updates:

*COVID-19 Situational Awareness & Response Efforts*

The Department continues to monitor Covid-19 at the community level. It is currently categorized New Haven as medium risk level.

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### Administrative Update

One of the major things that we're working on is an EPA grant that we're trying to collaborate with the new climbing director working for the city of New Haven, along with other into department and external partners to strengthen the application. And that's due next week.

The Health Department is trying to apply for that funding opportunity that will allow us to really try to build an infrastructure, and we'll rebuild an infrastructure around recycling in the city and potentially get an electric truck that was supply support for our recycling efforts as well as addressing food waste in our city and partnering with the local organization around food waste.

One of the things that's been very prevalent in in the last two weeks is our overdose. Those fatalities here in the city of New Haven. So I thought that I'm it's just do a situational awareness specific to that and then transition over on some local ordinance efforts that we're working on as well as our State legislation efforts that we are working on.

### Fatal Overdose Interview

From January 25<sup>th</sup> to February 7<sup>th</sup> New Haven had 12 fatalities throughout the city, and then in two neighboring cities in particular. In comparison to last year with the same exact time period, we had six.

Looked at data from Office of the Chief Medical Examiner and looking at fatal overdoses. We had no fatalities in the month of December and then we just jumped to 12 that quickly and towards of the end of January into February. For 2023 we are concerned about two major neighborhoods, the Hill neighborhood, New Hallville and Prospect Street area.

It appears to be crack cocaine laced with Fentanyl. There has been a meeting with providers in New Haven to address this issue.

How do we reduce fatalities and provide the support? We've invested in Harm Reduction Rovers. DESK, City Compass and the Fire Department each has one, so we have them throughout the city. We have different resources to help avoid the fatalities, because the reality is that some people may not be ready to get treatment. Treatment is available for those who want that too

### Local Legislation - Three Ordinances



# CITY OF NEW HAVEN

## Health Department



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Food Grading System Ordinance – The Health Department is in the final stages of getting the grade rating system in the City of New Haven for full service establishments. They will be giving restaurants a letter grade that's tied to the scores of their inspections that they already have been completed. Many surrounding towns already this type of system as well as across the state and county. That will be voted on February 21, 2023 at the Board of Alders.

Salon Ordinance - By State statute, the Health Department is required to conduct inspections once a year and it wasn't happening until Director Bond joined the City of New Haven Health Department. With COVID, its implementation was delayed. Director Bond is working to write a salon ordinance that would include tattoo parlors and hair salons.

Nuisance Ordinance - Third ordinance that the Health Department is working on is with Alder Sarah Miller. It is a Nuisance Ordinance for establishments that are commercial properties, and or that are tied to commercial/housing properties. The Nuisance Ordinance will address nuisances such as potential storefronts that are selling drugs. Law enforcement is just not able to act so the Nuisance Ordinance will allow us to discontinue a license and pose fines both on the owner and the tenant who may be renting from a commercial building. This ordinance is still being drafted. Today we had a meeting with Corp. Council and working through some of the legal language.

### State Legislation

State legislation. We work very closely with 2 lobbyists. The city of New Haven has lobbyists that are monitoring. He bills, and I'm. Also a board member of the Connecticut Associations of Directors of Health. and so we also get a weekly a review of every single public health legislation that's being proposed. and then we can take a position. So the most recent bill that was being proposed by the Public Health Committee is House Bill, 6488, an act concerning cigarettes, tobacco products, electronic nicotine delivery systems and vapor products while in vehicle. And so I did submit written testimony.

### Other Matters

Dr. Young pointed out that February is Black History Month and Children's Dental Health Month. It is a good reminder for parents to have their children get their regular checkups. Director Bond will ask Bo Sandine to reach out to Dr. Young for a quote. Dr. Gonsalves said once the post is created it could be shared with the Commissioners so they can share it on their platforms.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 8, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., at New Haven Health Department, 54 Meadow Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, New Haven, CT 06519. Parking in the adjacent parking garage at 73 South Orange Street, New Haven, CT 06519. COVID testing kits will be available for anyone who requests them.**



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Dr. Young moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:28pm. Commissioner Reynolds seconded it. The meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

*John Brannelly*

John Brannelly  
Special Assistant to The Director of Health

2/10/2023

Date

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Approved:

James Hadler, Chair  
Board of Health Commissioners

Date

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