



JUSTIN ELICKER
MAYOR

CITY OF NEW HAVEN
COMMUNITY SERVICES ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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MARITZA BOND, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH

Board of Health Commissioners

Meeting Minutes

April 8, 2020

Present: James Hadler, Chair; Frank Mongillo, Commissioner; Heather Reynolds, Commissioner; Darnell Young, Commissioner;

Staff: Maritza Bond, Director of Health and Joanne Courtemanche, Executive Administrative Assistant.

Absent: Reid Davis, Commissioner.

Call to Order:

James Hadler called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Public Comment:

No one from the public was present at the meeting.

Approval of Minutes:

Commissioner Hadler moved to approve the March 18, 2020 minutes with the revision to the time; it was seconded by Commissioner Mongillo and Commissioner Reynolds. The minutes from the March 2020 meeting were approved unanimously.

Director's Report - COVID-19 Updates:

Maritza Bond, Director of Health, provided the COVID-19 updates. Highlights include:

- We have officially launched Shelter One (at Career High School)
- The City is using an evidence-based process to implement contact tracing (using the SARS model)
- Review of data collection to get a picture of the demographics
- City has had 409 positive cases; 13 untimely deaths (with a possible margin of human error)
- It's difficult to get a clear picture of ethnicity due to lack of information at the data entry lab level
- Of the tested folks: 29% are Black; 16% are White; 18% are Hispanic; and 1% are Asian (37% unknown due to lack of information)
- Of the positive cases: 44% are between 25 and 49 years of age; 22% are age 65 and older; and 24% are between the ages of 50 and 64

- Mortality rate is as follows: 42 is the youngest death, 70 years is the average age of death, and the oldest death is 93 years of age
- Comorbidity of deaths: the younger deaths have existing underlying conditions
- There are 150 New Haven residents inpatient at the hospital: 43% are Black, 17% are White; 28% are Hispanic and 13% are of unknown ethnicity
- Of the 150 inpatients, 42% are over the age of 62; the youngest is 10 years old and the oldest is 93 years old
- March 5th was the first test administered in New Haven, and we did not receive the results until March 13

Presentation of mapping system in place for the City of New Haven

- A review of the “hot spots” (areas of the community being affected) will allow the City to create public health interventions and provide education to communities.
- Commissioner Reynolds: So we’re doing “boots on the ground” public health work; what a great way to do public health education.
- Director Bond: Yes, we are increasing the number of interviews I’m doing in order to educate the residents. I am on social media, radio, billboards, etc. We’re using the old model, but it really works for behavioral change and allows us to located clusters in the community that are being affected.

Presentation of the City’s contact tracing process

- The City has recruited 56 students from Yale School of Medicine and the Yale School of Public Health who have been trained for contact tracing, and have agreed to the confidentiality agreement; City’s epidemiologist has been an integral part of this program
- Three phases of the program: Index of Case Intake (oversight of 3 students); Contact Tracing (oversight of 2 students); and Contact Notification
- Intake script includes demographic information, medical history, symptoms, employment information, residential information, primary care provider information, etc. in order to obtain the most helpful information for data as well as for tracing
- We are looking back 48 hours from the date of onset of symptoms in order to comply with the CDC guidelines
- Our process also promotes the use of the City’s hotline and website and other support services
- April 4th was the official launch of this project and the notification goes through Yale, as they already had the process in place

The City’s next steps:

- The City will be collaborating with our health partners in order to:
 1. Improve data collection for more accurate demographic information
 2. Evaluate our contact tracing capacity
 3. Develop models of projections to help prepare for the future
 4. Expand our mobile rapid test efforts for the local community
- We are currently working with community health centers because they have a limited capacity (to test, access to PPE, etc.); we’re helping to increase the telehealth services in order to reach the community.

- Director Bond is personally providing technical support to the City’s stakeholders; as well as providing recommendations and protocols

Master dashboard for contact tracing:

- Call volume = 207 calls; 29 with high priority
- Of the 207: We closed out 105 interviews, 83 interviews in process/pending; 19 had no value
- Information is broken out by gender

Commissioner Reynolds: Has the City looked at the option of mobile testing vans going into the various communities?

Director Bond: We are discussing the options, but no one is set up for that. We are planning to create testing sites that we can set up/break down in different areas of the City on any given day.

We are in desperate need of swabs

Public Health Campaign Kickoff: Spread the Facts, Not the Virus

- Everything is being done in English and Spanish:
 1. PSAs
 2. ESPN Interview
 3. Spanish and English radio stations
 4. Digital billboards
- The billboards are honoring the first responders and healthcare professionals in the City, so we’re asking people to send in photos

Commissioner Reynolds: The Board is impressed with Director Bond’s tenacity and level of work being performed.

Director Bond: I have a great team, my Epidemiologist Brian Weeks, my Public Health Nurse Director Jennifer Vazquez, and Brooke Logan is running the department for me.

Commissioner Reynolds: Have we looked at mental health support? Yale has a “decompression room” for health care workers to go to when they need to deal with their emotions.

Director Bond: We do need to do some work in that regard; that’s a great idea.

Commissioner Mongillo: When the cases start to subside, what will the City’s plan be?

Director Bond: There is a great research article I will send to you about going back to normal, and what does the new normal look like. We do have a new standard that the City is considering: there are hand sanitizing stations that will remain throughout the City, we’ll promote wearing masks in public when you’re sick, and Yale is planning for an online curriculum for the fall semester.

Board went into Executive Session

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

An update on COVID-19 issues.

Other Business

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on May 13, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

Attest:

Joanne Courtemanche

Joanne Courtemanche
Executive Administrative Assistant

5/5/20

Date

Approved:

Jim Hadler

Jim Hadler, Chair

5/5/20

Date