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## **BOARD OF HEALTH**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **February 6, 2017 Special Meeting** **Minutes**

##### **A. CALL TO ORDER AND ATTENDANCE**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Judith Sartucci at 2:17 PM in the Caucus Room of the Berlin Town Hall, Berlin, CT.

Present: Charles Brown (Director of Health), Patricia Checko, Jerilyn Nagel (via conference call), and Judith Sartucci.

Excused: no one

Quorum present.

Guest: Carolyn Wysocki (Board member)

Date notice posted: February 3, 2017

**B. PUBLIC FORUM** – Carolyn Wysocki sat in via conference call as an interested CCHD Board member and contact person for the CT Association of Boards of Health (CABOH) on advocacy issues.

##### **C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Checko, seconded by Sartucci to approve the record of votes (ROV) of the March 6, 2016 Committee meeting as submitted. In favor: Brown, Checko and Sartucci. Opposed: no one. Abstention: Nagel. **Motion carried.**

**D. OLD BUSINESS** –none.

##### **E. NEW BUSINESS**

###### **1. Review of 2016 Bylaws Amendment and new Executive Committee responsibilities from Board**

- Sartucci reviewed the role and responsibilities of the Executive Committee and the changes made by the Board in recent months. The Board's bylaws were amended last November to delegate more responsibility to the Executive Committee.
- Under the new collective bargaining contract signed last summer this Committee will hear Step 2 in the grievance process. Further activity deferred at this time. Committee will consult with Board attorney should any grievances be filed and proceed to Step 2.

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- Also, in lieu of a separate advocacy committee last September the Board directed that the Executive Committee review federal and state legislation and any advocacy issues that arise and either respond on behalf of the Board or bring to the Board with recommendations for action.
- Committee discussed how to proceed. Will need to meet frequently while the state legislature is in session. Brown to poll committee members online for meeting dates and times.

**F. Review of Advocacy Issues and Pending Legislation**

**1. State Legislation**

**a. General session**

- The State Legislature is in session and this year is the long session (Jan. to June), so numerous bills are being introduced. State fiscal crisis is overshadowing much of what the Legislature will be able to do.
- 3 state senators and 6 state representatives serve our 4 member towns. Repr. Joe Aresimowicz of Berlin is the new Speaker of the House; Sen. Terri Gerratana is again co-chair of PH Committee; Sen. Doyle again co-chairs the general law committee; Repr. Catherine Abercrombie of Meriden/Berlin chairs Human Services; Repr. Byron of Newington is on Human Services with a special interest in the elderly.
- Brown, Checko and Wysocki identified numerous bills, including the public health legislative proposals being introduced by DPH. Committee grouped the bills and then went through to determine the following general categories:
  - Bills on consolidation of local health departments, qualifications of district directors of health, cuts to aid, quarantine laws, lead, etc.
  - Tobacco control and related legislation
  - Opioid epidemic and related legislation
  - Food safety including food vendors
  - Property maintenance statute revisions
  - Bills dealing with data and access to health information
- When hearings are held, notice re: bills to be heard come up quickly. Committee will need to decide which should receive testimony and whether to have Brown or a board member present in person or just send to the Committee. February and March will be the months for most of hearings.

**b. Review of specific bills:**

- DPH proposal to consolidate all local health departments and health districts into 8-9 large regions and increase funding required from towns to support public health. To date 7 separate bills are being filed to prevent this action. Language for DPH bill not raised yet, nor public hearing scheduled. **Most important bill to follow this session.** Need to begin to draft testimony. Brown and Sartucci to do.
- HB 5569 – would overhaul the quarantine law. Brown and Checko to follow.
- Food safety – HB 5165 and 5171 regarding reciprocity of licenses for food vendors. CCHD opposed last year. Brown to pull previous testimony and update.
- Model Food Code – revision of statutes to implement FDA food safety law in state. Brown and environmental health staff to review and make recommendations.
- Property Maintenance – revision of statutes – HB 5177. Checko to draft testimony and circulate to Committee.
- Bill on certification of community health workers – no position recommended at this time.
- Tobacco control bills – Checko reviewed. Will assist with testimony for HB# 5384, proposal to raise age from 18 to 21 for purchase of tobacco products. Purpose to interrupt the cycle in teens and young adults.
- Bills on health data and insurance exchanges – HB 6482 and 2755. Proposal to share immunization registry data with the LHD's; second bill would provide real time access to individual data for VSR. Suggest CCHD submit testimony, but will wait for actual bill language. Checko to draft.
- Opioid epidemic – numerous bills coming out – Brown will review and recommend which to follow and to submit testimony.

**2. Federal Legislation**

- Sartucci raised the issue of congressional plans to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Besides the impact on health insurance coverage there is a Prevention and Public Health Fund attached to the ACA that funds major public health activities in the country including a substantial amount of work done by the CDC. Committee agreed to draft and send a general letter to each of the two US senators and Congressman Larson (1<sup>st</sup> District) voicing concern about the impact on public health.

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- Sartucci to draft and circulate to the Committee for comment.

**G. NEXT MEETING.** Brown to poll Committee members online for meeting date and time for next week and regularly after that.

Follow-up:

- Meeting dates and times - Brown
- Monitor and forward proposed legislation, hearing dates, etc. – Brown and Checko
- Bill review and draft testimony – Brown and Committee members.

**H. ADJOURNMENT - A MOTION** was made by Checko, seconded by Nagel to adjourn.  
**Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 4:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Judith A. Sartucci  
Recorder pro tem

REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY COMMITTEE: February 17, 2017