

West Haven Board of Health Meeting
July 13, 2021
6:30pm, via Zoom

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TOWN AND CITY CLERK
OF WEST HAVEN
2021 AUG -9 PM 3:09
Peter C. Hopkins
TOWN AND CITY CLERK

Present: Heather Shea, Chairwoman, Jean Mullins, Secretary, Dr. Mohamad, member, Kathy Tucker, member. Absent: Cebi Waterfield, Director Maureen Lillis

Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.

Old Business:

Dr. Mohamad led a discussion regarding Covid-19 updates and the start of school. The last scheduled clinic took place the previous Friday. Vaccines are now widely available at pharmacies. We will monitor what happens in the fall and see if there's a need for boosters, etc.

State is looking at CDC guidelines for school opening in fall. He suggests we decide locally on what best models should be going forward. Dr. Mohamad stated that children twelve and under will be vaccinated in the near future, He stated that we should wait and see after the pharmaceutical companies submit their AUA applications to the CDC. The rate of infection amongst young people is still very low. He suggests that policies be based on West Haven data as opposed to State data.

Chairwoman Shea stated that numbers in West Haven are high and stable with vaccinations. West Haven is currently 57% with one dose and 52% two doses.

New Business:

Kathy Tucker led a detailed discussion regarding the Board's work going forward on issues of race and equity. She spoke about the differences between health disparities and healthcare disparities. She also explained social and structural determinants of health, racism as a public health crisis, Mrs. Tucker went on to say that we have been in two pandemics, Covid-19 and racism. She also explained environmental justice, racial trauma, trust and medical experimentation,

Member Tucker spoke about the contributing factors of racism. She stated that "If change is not being made to improve the contributing factors to racism, such as systems, structure, policies, practices and norms at the individual, meso and macro levels, then they are being perpetuated."

It was suggested by member Tucker to connect with Community Alliance and get together and figure out ways to implement their vision that was proposed to the City Council to make racism a public health emergency in the City of West Haven. Following the presentation a question and answer session ensued. Chairwoman Shea thanked member Tucker for her presentation.

A discussion ensued regarding the possibility of the Board of Health adopting by-laws. After a dialog, it was decided that the Board would continue with only the rules dictated by the City Charter.

Chairwoman Shea is looking into signing up the Board in NACCHO. Therefore the Board will have the same page. Member Tucker requests the Community Alliance be invited as well. Course is done individually online. There is no cost.

Dr. Mohamad suggests proposing Board ideas to the Mayor and other City leadership.

A discussion ensued regarding member Tucker's earlier presentation and going forward.

It was recommended to set up booth at the Savin Rock Festival and future West Haven festivals like the Apple Festival, etc.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52.

Respectfully submitted:

Jean Mullins, RN