

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

**Board of Health Commissioners
Meeting Minutes**

April 8, 2026, 6:00 PM, Via Zoom

Present: Chair, Dr. Darnell Young, Commissioner, Dr. David Cantonwine, Commissioner, Dr. Greg Gonsalves, Commissioner, Dr. Tamiko Jackson-McArthur, Commissioner, Dr. Alice Forrester, Commissioner, Dr. Ada Fenick, Commissioner

Absent:

Staff: Maritza Bond, MPH, MDiv, Director of Health, Becky Rubenstein, Media/PH Educator

Guest: None

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:11 PM by Dr. Darnell Young, Chair Board of Public Health Commissioner. A quorum was confirmed.

II. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 11, 2026, meeting were presented for review. A motion to approve the minutes was made, seconded by Dr. Tamiko Jackson-McArthur, Commissioner, and approved unanimously.

Approved with one abstention (Dr. Ada Fenick, absent at prior meeting).

III. Public Comments or Statement

No public comments or student participation.

**IV. Board of Health Updates: Maritza Bond, Director of Health
STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS AND VISION 2034 (6 PRIORITIES/GOALS)**

Progress reported on six priority goals:

1. Strategic Goals & Progress

- Continued alignment with Vision 2034
- Community resource tracking tool expanded and being distributed for data collection.

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2. Resource Optimization

- Partnerships with:
 - Sacred Heart University, Yale School of Public Health and Griffin Hospital
 - Yale Healthcare Consulting Collective
 - University of New Haven (in progress)
 - Focus on strategic planning and program expansion

3. Workforce Development

- Over 30% of staff are bilingual
- Workforce development plan (Phase 2) underway with selected consultant

4. Partnerships Health Initiatives

- Collaboration with Cornell Scott Hill Health Center on **STI prevention**
- Planned community events for STI awareness (Fall 2026)

5. Accreditation

- 100% of required documents uploaded
- Preparing for Public Health Accreditation Board site visit

6. Environmental Health

- Working to streamline **food-based business permitting**
- Review of proposed ordinance to support small/home-based food businesses while maintaining food safety standards
- **Public Health Surveillance** decrease observed in:
 - COVID-19
 - Hepatitis B
 - RSV
- **Tuberculosis**: 6 active cases
- **Overdose monitoring** 8 year-to-date spikes
- **School health issues**: Ice and suspected bed bugs addressed
- **Lead cases**: 3 new cases; 10 year-to-date

Staffing Updates

- New hires:
 - Immunization Program Manager (regional role)
 - Lead Inspector
- Ongoing recruitment:
 - Sanitarians
 - Public Health Nurses
 - Community Health Workers
 - Overdose Prevention Navigators

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Legislative & Recognition Updates

- Participation in healthcare model workshop
- Two department presentations accepted at CDC 2026 Overdose Conference

Upcoming Events

- National Public Health Week activities
- Yale Public Health Day
- Connecticut Liver Health Day (Director Bond presenting)
- Budget Hearing: May 11, 2026

Discussion Items

Cottage Food Ordinance

- Discussion on proposed ordinance for home-based food businesses
- Focus on food safety, shared kitchens, and fee structures

Job Opportunities for MPH Graduates

- Positions available suitable for MPH graduates
- Plan to share job postings with academic institutions

Mpox Update

- No current concerns in Connecticut; monitoring ongoing

Lead Exposure Discussion

- Emphasis on both immediate and long-term health impacts
- Discussion on sources beyond housing (e.g., soil, imported goods)
- Recognition of need for continued public health messaging and mitigation

Mold Concerns

- No standardized testing method currently exists
- State-level working group addressing regulation challenges

Future Topic Proposal

- Discussing stress, trauma, and broader social determinants of health

V. Old Business

No unfinished business was discussed

VI. New Business

- Request to send calendar invitation for budget hearing
- Proposal to explore partnerships on mold testing
- Interest in expanded discussion on lead exposure impacts

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VII. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for May 13, 2026, 6:00 PM in person

The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 PM. Chair Dr. Young moved to adjourn, and Dr Forrester seconded the motion.

Action Items

- Director Maritza Bond will research regulatory guidance on mold and provide an update for Dr. Ada Fenick.
- Director Maritza Bond will review and share information regarding the proposed New Haven ordinance on cottage food licensing for Dr. Tamiko Jackson McArthur.
- Director Maritza Bond will compile and share information on job opportunities suitable for MPH graduates with Dr. Gregg Gonsalves.

Lorraine Reed

Lorraine Reed
Administrative
Assistant
Approved:

April 24, 2026

Date



Dr. Darnell Young, Chair
Board of Health Commissioners

5/14/2026

Date