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**Governor's Council on Climate Change (GC3)  
Public Health & Safety Working Group  
MEETING MINUTES**

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**Meeting Date:** 6 August 2020  
**Meeting Time:** 10:30 am– 12:00  
pm EST  
**Meeting Location:** Online  
(Zoom meeting)

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>Working Group Member</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Present</b>
Heather Aaron	Deputy Commissioner	Connecticut Department of Public Health	
Chris Bellucci	Monitoring Program Supervisor	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	
Todd Berman	Manager of Environmental Programs & Projects	United Illuminating	
Laura Bozzi	Director of Programs	Yale University, Yale Center on Climate Change and Health	Y
Tasheenah Brown	Deputy Executive Director	Operation Fuel	
Dean Caruso	Executive Director, Support Services & Sustainability	Yale New Haven Hospital	
Mindy Chambrelli	Sanitarian	Darien Health Department	
Steve Civitelli	Director of Health	Wallingford Health Department	
Amanda Clark	Environmental Analyst	Connecticut Department of Public Health	
Cynthia Costa	Environmental Sanitarian	Connecticut Department of Public Health	
Michele DeLuca	Deputy Director of Emergency Management	City of Norwalk	
Ken Dumais	State Hazard Mitigation Officer	Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland	
Caroline Dumont	Public Psychiatry Fellow	Yale University	
Nicholas Elton	MPH candidate	Yale University	Y
Mariana Fragomeni	Assistant Professor	University of Connecticut, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural	Y
Betsy Gara	Executive Director	Connecticut Water Works Association and Connecticut Council of Small Towns	
Cynthia Greene	Deputy Director	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency New England	
Laura Hayes	Epidemiologist	Connecticut Department of Public Health	Y
Christine Kirchoff	Assistant Professor	University of Connecticut Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering	Y
Sarah Lowe	Assistant Professor	Yale University, Yale School of Public Health	
Arie Manangan	Health Scientist	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Climate and Health	
Diane Mas	Chief Resilience Officer	Fuss & O'Neill, Inc.	
Lori Mathieu	Public Health Section Chief	Connecticut Department of Public Health	
Anne McWilliams	Environmental Scientist	EPA Region 1	

Mark Mitchell	Associate Professor	George Mason University, Center for Climate Change Communication	
Goudarz Molaei	Agricultural Scientist	The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station	Y
Jocelyn Mullins	State Public Health Veterinarian	Connecticut Department of Public Health	
Dave Murphy	Manager of Water Resources Planning	Milone & MacBroom	Y
Huân Ngô	Educator, Scientist		Y
Michael Pascucilla	Director of Health	East Shore District Health Department	Y
Edith Pestana	Environmental Justice Administrator	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	
Mike Puglisi	Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program Coordination	University of Connecticut Department of Nutritional Sciences	Y
Marissa Rivera	Advocate	Disability Rights Connecticut	
Robert Scully	Sanitary Engineer	Connecticut Department of Public Health	
Jodi Sherman	Associate Professor, Director of Sustainability	Yale University, Yale School of Medicine	
Kirby Stafford	Chief Scientist/State Entomologist	The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station	Y
Ryan Tetrault	Supervising Environmental Analyst	Connecticut Department of Public Health	
Brian Toal	Epidemiologist	Connecticut Department of Public Health	
Orlando Velazco	Health Equity Director	Connecticut Department of Public Health	Y
Steven Walleth	Sanitary Engineer	Connecticut Department of Public Health	Y
Jeri Weiss	Regional Coordinator, Capacity Development	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency New England	
Kirk Westphal	Water Resources Leader	Brown and Caldwell	
Adam Whelchel	Director of Science	The Nature Conservancy	
Aicha Woods	City Plan Executive Director	City of New Haven	
Joanna Wozniak-Brown	Senior Resilience Planner	Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation	

Associated Staff	Title	Organization	Present
Mary-beth Hart	Director, Land and Water Resources	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	
Brian Thompson	Senior Environmental Planner	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	
Rebecca French	Director of Office of Climate Planning	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	Y

## AGENDA & NOTES

### Welcome and Announcements

#### Agenda Item(s)

*Facilitated by Laura Hayes, CT DPH*

- Draft of the report is due August 12
- Hopefully will have a draft version ready for tomorrow (August 7)
- Formatting and references will be done next week
- Will be presenting to the EEJ Working Group to ensure equity and environmental justice
- Fall 2020 and Spring 2021 will have Yale clinic made up of graduate students that will help with the GC3 Public Health and Safety Working Group and the Equity and Environmental Justice Working Group
  - Help with literature reviews
  - Give students a chance to be involved with policy action
- Climate Change and Vector-borne Disease in Connecticut, *Dr. Goudarz Molaei*
  - Vector-borne diseases has tripled since the early 2000s
  - 9 new pathogens and range of ticks and mosquitoes has expanded since the early 2000s
    - There are a number of diseases that are transmitted by ticks and mosquitoes
  - Global warming will increase the incidence of vector-borne diseases
  - There are a number of other factors that affect the incidence of vector-borne diseases including human responses and built environment
  - Temperature changes will affect the survival of different species and life stages
  - Humidity will aid tick survival
  - Climate change enhances virus transmission
  - A majority of tick submissions come from Fairfield County
  - There will be an increased contact between vectors and humans
  - Pathogen load will increase with ticks and mosquitoes
  - Is there work on vectors other than mosquitoes and ticks that should have focus?
    - There is additional work on other vectors being done at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES)
  - How has surveillance expanded over the past decade at the CAES?
    - Mosquito-borne virus testing has increased and expanded on the number of diseases being researched at the station
    - Additional testing of tick-borne diseases (e.g. babesiosis and anaplasmosis ) was added in 2015
    - Research on a number of mosquito- and tick-related issues have been ongoing at the station
- Social Vulnerability Indices, *Dr. Laura Bozzi*
  - Social Vulnerability Index uses U.S. census data
  - Four major categories with a number of factors that affect the score
    - Socioeconomic status
    - Household composition and stability
    - Minority status and language
    - Housing and transportation
  - There are drawbacks such as the exclusion of health status
  - The EEJ is pursuing a mapping tool

- The reports can be downloaded at the county level
- The CDC SVI is publically available on their CDC website
- Review of cross-cutting recommendations
  - Two potential general cross-cutting issues
    - To launch an initiative to establish long-term support for adoption of the CDC BRACE framework in Connecticut in a coordinate fashion
      - Comments:
        - Maybe develop a work group to help launch this initiative
        - Learn from and coordinate with other states in New England that have more progress than Connecticut
        - Is there any funding benefits or any other benefits for formally adopting this CDC BRACE framework?
          - CDC would like to expand the program and budget so there is potentially funding opportunities
        - Perhaps focus more on a coordinator role for climate change and public health
      - Develop a guide on climate resilience ordinance for local implementation
        - How and where local ordinances are being coordinated throughout the state
        - Comments:
          - There might a lot of resources out there for green infrastructure & land use planning for local communities; not sure how much more this recommendation adds to the resources that are out there
          - The information for the guidance is there but the physical resources or power might not be there for the local communities
        - This has been very useful information which suggests we might not need a cross-cutting recommendation section
    - Health communication impacts is important at the local level and will be important for climate mitigation
    - This concept of health communication and identifying vulnerable communities is embedded in the BRACE framework
  - Comments:
    - How do we translate this information to the average Connecticut civilians?
    - It sounds like there might be a cross-cutting recommendation for climate change and health communication; civilians respond to risk and how their risk levels changes with response to climate change issues
    - The most at risk population might also be the ones to not receive information on climate change issues and recommendations
    - A need for communication and coordination of climate change and health

**NOTE:** Slides and/or presentations are available on GC3 Working Groups web page: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/Subcommittee-and--working-groups>

Provide comments to [DEEP.Climate.Change@ct.gov](mailto:DEEP.Climate.Change@ct.gov)

Others in Attendance	
