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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Working Group Member</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Heather Aaron</td>
<td>Deputy Commissioner</td>
<td>Connecticut Department of Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chris Bellucci</td>
<td>Monitoring Program Supervisor</td>
<td>Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Todd Berman</td>
<td>Manager of Environmental Programs &amp; Projects</td>
<td>United Illuminating</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laura Bozzi</td>
<td>Director of Programs</td>
<td>Yale University, Yale Center on Climate Change and Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tasheenah Brown</td>
<td>Deputy Executive Director</td>
<td>Operation Fuel</td>
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<td>Dean Caruso</td>
<td>Executive Director, Support Services &amp; Sustainability</td>
<td>Yale New Haven Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mindy Chambrelli</td>
<td>Sanitarian</td>
<td>Darien Health Department</td>
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<td>Steve Civitelli</td>
<td>Director of Health</td>
<td>Wallingford Health Department</td>
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<td>Amanda Clark</td>
<td>Environmental Analyst</td>
<td>Connecticut Department of Public Health</td>
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<td>Cynthia Costa</td>
<td>Environmental Sanitarian</td>
<td>Connecticut Department of Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michele DeLuca</td>
<td>Deputy Director of Emergency Management</td>
<td>City of Norwalk</td>
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<td>Ken Dumais</td>
<td>State Hazard Mitigation Officer</td>
<td>Connecticut Division of Emergency Management and Homeland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Caroline Dumont</td>
<td>Public Psychiatry Fellow</td>
<td>Yale University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholas Elton</td>
<td>MPH candidate</td>
<td>Yale University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mariana Fragomeni</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>University of Connecticut, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural</td>
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<td>Betsy Gara</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Connecticut Water Works Association and Connecticut Council of Small Towns</td>
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<td>Cynthia Greene</td>
<td>Deputy Director</td>
<td>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency New England</td>
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<td>Laura Hayes</td>
<td>Epidemiologist</td>
<td>Connecticut Department of Public Health</td>
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<td>Christine Kirchhoff</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>University of Connecticut Department of Civil and Environmental Health</td>
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<td>Sarah Lowe</td>
<td>Assistant Professor</td>
<td>Yale University, Yale School of Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arie Manangan</td>
<td>Health Scientist</td>
<td>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Climate and Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diane Mas</td>
<td>Chief Resilience Officer</td>
<td>Fuss &amp; O'Neill, Inc.</td>
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<td>Lori Mathieu</td>
<td>Public Health Section Chief</td>
<td>Connecticut Department of Public Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anne McWilliams</td>
<td>Environmental Scientist</td>
<td>EPA Region 1</td>
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<td>Mark Mitchell</td>
<td>Associate Professor</td>
<td>George Mason University, Center for Climate Change Communication</td>
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<td>Goudarz Molaei</td>
<td>Agricultural Scientist</td>
<td>The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station</td>
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<td>Jocelyn Mullins</td>
<td>State Public Health Veterinarian</td>
<td>Connecticut Department of Public Health</td>
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<td>Dave Murphy</td>
<td>Manager of Water Resources Planning</td>
<td>Milone &amp; MacBroom</td>
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<td>Huân Ngô</td>
<td>Educator, Scientist</td>
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<td>Michael Pascucilla</td>
<td>Director of Health</td>
<td>East Shore District Health Department</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edith Pestana</td>
<td>Environmental Justice Administrator</td>
<td>Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Puglisi</td>
<td>Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program Coordination</td>
<td>University of Connecticut Department of Nutritional Sciences</td>
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<td>Marissa Rivera</td>
<td>Advocate</td>
<td>Disability Rights Connecticut</td>
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<td>Robert Scully</td>
<td>Sanitary Engineer</td>
<td>Connecticut Department of Public Health</td>
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<td>Jodi Sherman</td>
<td>Associate Professor, Director of Sustainability</td>
<td>Yale University, Yale School of Medicine</td>
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<td>Kirby Stafford</td>
<td>Chief Scientist/State Entomologist</td>
<td>The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station</td>
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<td>Ryan Tetrault</td>
<td>Supervising Environmental Analyst</td>
<td>Connecticut Department of Public Health</td>
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<td>Brian Toal</td>
<td>Epidemiologist</td>
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<td>Orlando Velazco</td>
<td>Health Equity Director</td>
<td>Connecticut Department of Public Health</td>
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<td>Steven Wallett</td>
<td>Sanitary Engineer</td>
<td>Connecticut Department of Public Health</td>
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<td>Jeri Weiss</td>
<td>Regional Coordinator, Capacity Development</td>
<td>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency New England</td>
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<td>Kirk Westphal</td>
<td>Water Resources Leader</td>
<td>Brown and Caldwell</td>
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<td>Adam Whelchel</td>
<td>Director of Science</td>
<td>The Nature Conservancy</td>
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<td>Aicha Woods</td>
<td>City Plan Executive Director</td>
<td>City of New Haven</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joanna Wozniak-Brown</td>
<td>Senior Resilience Planner</td>
<td>Connecticut Institute for Resilience &amp; Climate Adaptation</td>
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| 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
Mohammad
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:

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