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

Meeting Date: 3 September 2020

Meeting Time: 10:30 am– 12:00
pm EST

Meeting Location: Online
(Zoom meeting)

ATTENDANCE

Working Group Member	Title	Organization	Present
Heather Aaron	Deputy Commissioner	Connecticut Department of Public Health	Y
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	Y
Mindy Chambrelli	Sanitarian	Darien Health Department	Y
Steve Civitelli	Director of Health	Wallingford Health Department	
Amanda Clark	Environmental Analyst	Connecticut Department of Public Health	Y
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	Y
Caroline Dumont	Public Psychiatry Fellow	Yale University	Y
Nicholas Elton	MPH candidate	Yale University	Y
Mariana Fragomeni	Assistant Professor	University of Connecticut, College of Agriculture, Health and Natural	
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.	Y
Lori Mathieu	Public Health Section Chief	Connecticut Department of Public Health	Y
Anne McWilliams	Environmental Scientist	EPA Region 1	Y

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		
Michael Pascucilla	Director of Health	East Shore District Health Department	
Edith Pestana	Environmental Justice Administrator	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	Y
Mike Puglisi	Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program Coordination	University of Connecticut Department of Nutritional Sciences	
Marissa Rivera	Advocate	Disability Rights Connecticut	
Robert Scully	Sanitary Engineer	Connecticut Department of Public Health	Y
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	Y
Brian Toal	Epidemiologist	Connecticut Department of Public Health	Y
Orlando Velazco	Health Equity Director	Connecticut Department of Public Health	
Steven Walleit	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	Y
Joanna Wozniak-Brown	Senior Resilience Planner	Connecticut Institute for Resilience & Climate Adaptation	Y

Associated Staff	Title	Organization	Present
Mary-beth Hart	Director, Land and Water Resources	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	Y
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

- Public Health and Safety Working Group Announcements
 - WG reports due by COB September 14
 - Comment about how this is most likely not doable with fairness to the working group and would like to push the report back another week
 - Start date of the review period is September 17
 - Allow for one month of public review
 - EEJ Adaptation, EEJ Mapping and PH&S co-chairs forum October 5, 4-6 pm
 - Resilient Connecticut-hosted Climate Change and Public Health mini-webinar series will run throughout the month of September
 - <https://resilientconnecticut.uconn.edu/september-2020-mini-webinar-series/>
 - There will also be climate justice webinar series from September through November
- Introduction to EPA RAINE Database, *Jeri Weiss*
 - Climate Change: Resilience and Adaptation in New England (RAINE)
 - A database of reports and plans that focus on climate change at local, state, and regional levels
 - Able to search the RAINE database and refine search based on a number of factors including state, population, type of community, topics, and more
- EEJ Presentation Review and Questions
 - Review of the presentation present at the GC3 meeting two weeks ago
 - Questions & Comments about extreme heat brought up during the meeting included:
 - Concern about the heat index and how it harms LMI populations
 - Hartford has 15% reduction in energy use could reduce health impacts by \$73 per capita annually 15th highest in the nation among large metro areas
 - Flooding and soil absorbency/surface permeability is a concern
 - Solar panels reduces GHG emissions and reduces heat islands according to one report
 - The meeting notes more details about the comments
 - It is important to note the difference between mitigation and adaptation and this WG's scope does not include mitigation because this WG was originally a part of the Adaptation Working Group
 - There is a place to mention ideas/recommendations that involve the adaptation-mitigation nexus
 - There are several comments about air quality that were brought up during the meeting:
 - Question about cumulative impacts and putting forth a recommendation
 - Health vulnerabilities and vulnerable population comments
 - Indoor air quality, housing issues & energy issues, and GHHI Project
 - Vector Comments and Questions
 - How do we think about vector illnesses with an equity lens?
 - This is a point that should be addressed in the final report
 - Goudarz Molaei Comment about how vector-borne diseases presentation was not appropriately covered and inaccurate in some areas

- Laura Hayes suggestion about how all of the subject matter experts and team leads will have a chance to review the slides before it is presented again to the public
- It is important that we are inclusive of everyone's comments and expertise
- Rebecca French to set up a forum for potential breakout sessions with subject matter experts
- Extreme events comments and Questions
 - No comments or questions related to waterborne illnesses
- Nutrition and food security comments and questions
 - Food security is a major issue
 - Food hub at Northwest Hills COG
 - Federal food security
 - Martha Page – there is regional work on food security/food access and climate change
 - Kristin DeRosia-Banick – the CT Department of Agriculture is also leading a Food Systems Team and have been working initially on urgent COVID food insecurity response and eventually long-term food security, EEJ, and farmers to communities in need and would be happy to contribute to the conversation
- Implementation Questions
 - Who will carry out these recommendations?
 - Who to follow-up? What agency will be responsible for following up with these recommendations?
 - Multiple agencies will be involved with following up
 - Might be helpful to have a lead party/agency to take the lead to ensure that there is actual follow through
 - Much overlap with the Natural and Working Land group. How do you envision that the work is coordinated?
- Did not present and had no questions on mental health
- The draft report was shared with everyone and with the EEJ group
 - Important that everyone in the working group has a chance to review the recommendations
- We have additional written suggested recommendations from different working group members
- Final Working Group Report Submission & Presentation to the Public
 - Revised sections of the subtopic teams by the end of next week: September 11
 - EEJ Adaptation, EEJ Mapping and PH&S safety co-chairs forum
 - In October
 - 4-5:15 pm for presentation (45 minutes for Public Health and Safety presentation)
 - 5:15 – 6 pm for splitting into breakout rooms by subgroup and limited to only 3 rooms for PH&S; option to switch breakout rooms after 20 minutes

- Comments:
 - No comments by the public

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

Others in Attendance	
Chris Donnelly	Kristin DeRosia-Banick
Martha Page	
Shubhada Kambli	
Michelle Riordan-Nold	