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

Meeting Date: 17 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	
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	Y
Stewart Chute	Toxicologist	Connecticut Department of Public Health	
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	
Caroline Dumont	Public Psychiatry Fellow	Yale University	
Nicholas Elton	MPH candidate	Yale University	Y
Paul Farrell	Director of Air Planning	Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection	
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	Y
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	
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		
Martha Page	Executive Director	Hartford Food System	Y
Michael Pascucilla	Director of Health	East Shore District Health Department	Y
Marcia Pessolano	Supervisor, Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity Program	Connecticut Department of Public Health	Y
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	Y
Marissa Rivera	Advocate	Disability Rights Connecticut	Y
Michelle Riordan-Nold	Executive Director	Connecticut Data Collaborative	Y
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	
Brian Toal	Epidemiologist	Connecticut Department of Public Health	Y
Orlando Velazco	Health Equity Director	Connecticut Department of Public Health	
Steven Wallett	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 and Lori Mathieu, CT DPH

- Public Health and Safety Working Group Announcements
 - Report will be submitted for public comment on Monday September 21 at noon
 - Web posting is to be expected for September 22
 - There is currently not a section for other Working Groups; this will be on hold until we have the opportunity to review such recommendations
 - We would appreciate it every takes a look at the report and make any final comments this week (within the next 24 hours)
- Overview of public forum September 21, 4:30 – 6:00 pm , Rebecca French
 - 1.5 hours for speakers by sector (4 speakers)
 - Overview is big picture introduction
 - Breakout session is for facilitating discussion and not a one way presentation
 - Public Health and Safety Working Group will be presenting alongside the finance Working Group which is expected to only have 1 speaker
 - Leaving at least 45 minutes for a breakout session
 - Limiting 4 breakout sessions for Public Health and Safety
 - Registration might be required for breakout sessions
 - 5 minutes saved for introduction and overview of GC3
 - Public comment will go from September 22 to October 21
 - Will the council be there/can we expect the council to be there?
 - The council is invited to this forum
 - Hoping to have this forum as the primary presentation to everyone including council members
 - Potentially a follow-up Q&A with council members
 - Will there be note takers and moderators assigned to the breakout sessions?
 - There will be note takers but volunteer note takers would be appreciated
 - Note takers will need to take note of comments in real time
 - Moderators will not be provided and should be from the Working Group for the breakout sessions
 - Are there specific questions that we should expecting or answering in the forum?
 - In an ideal world there would be questions prepared but due to the limitations on staff there will not be
 - A topic area of addressing vulnerable populations, funding, why is this recommendation made this way
 - How is the public being reach out to for this forum?
 - Due to the lack of staff we are having the GC3 members reaching out in their network and advertising in order to have as many people involved as possible

- Social media, listservs
 - Public outreach is often considered a zero budget work but requires a lot of work
 - Let the chief elected official and other municipality staff know about this forum
 - Help us spread the word!
 - <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Climate-Change/GC3/Public-Forums>
- Subtopic Team Report outs
 - Extreme Heat recommendation changes, Laura Bozzi
 - Recommendation changes and explanations are seen in red and start around 43 minutes in the Zoom recording
 - Air Quality recommendations , Brian Toal
 - Starts around the 46 minutes and 30 seconds
 - Recommendations:
 - Evaluate effectiveness of air pollution alert system, ozone
 - Increase number of pollen monitoring stations (only one at Waterbury hospital and they are self-funded)
 - Research air pollution impacts at a more local level
 - Comments:
 - Are there mitigation steps that can be taken on air pollution (not ozone)
 - Can phase 2 of this report address these mitigation questions
 - Focusing this report on climate change and adaptation because DEEP has much greater focus on air quality and air pollution report
 - Vector-borne Diseases, Goudarz Molaei
 - Starts around the 55 minutes
 - How to address issues related that affect vulnerable populations:
 - Manage water resources
 - Reduce social and economic disparities
 - Promote health of migrant populations
 - Enhance vector surveillance and risk-mapping in vulnerable neighborhoods
 - Reduce environmental risk factors for vector-borne diseases
 - Plan for vector-borne disease following natural disasters
 - Recent evidence of tick invasion and range expansion
 - Gulf Coast tick, *Amblyomma maculatum*
 - Asian longhorned tick, *Haemaphysalis longicornis*
 - What are the near-term/short-term actions that we can prioritize?
 - Tick control has been left to homeowners where government does not play a part in tick control
 - One approach would to coordinate with health departments and mosquito controlling organizations
 - Massachusetts and New Jersey have good examples to look to for mosquito and tick control
 - Extreme Events, Laura Hayes
 - Starts around 1:08 (68 minutes into the Zoom recording)
 - Nine recommendations
 - Create and maintain a statewide inventory of redundant back-up power services at critical facilities - Hurricane Isaias indicated that is

- a pressing issue and problem that needs to be addressed
 - Enhance support for communication and outreach programs to educate residents about all aspects of extreme events
 - Establish access and functional needs emergency preparedness response
 - Create an updated hurricane and storm evacuation plan
 - Develop water conservation communication guidelines
 - Develop GIS database for water systems and critical facilities
 - Update planning guidelines
 - Feedback from EEJ WG
 - Impacts of combined sewer outfalls/overflows
 - It might be helpful to have a greater state agency to organize emergency evacuation between local municipalities
 - Honor the local work being done but there still needs communication and organization at the state level
- Waterborne Illness, Diane Mas
 - Starts around 1:18 (78 minutes)
 - Eight recommendations are being put forth
 - Use Clean Water State Revolving Funds for sewage systems
 - Develop statewide GIS database and framework for continued updates – private wells and decentralized sewage systems
 - Develop monitoring system for water quality parameters critical to the shellfishing industry in real-time
 - Track harmful or potentially harmful cyanobacteria algal bloom data in CT and provide technical assistance to community water suppliers for prevention of these events
 - Assess the vulnerability of public recreational freshwater and marine beaches
 - Develop an energy audit program for water systems
 - Identifying and improve wells that are located within a flood zone to increase resilience and reduce flooding risk
 - Incorporate resiliency into the consideration of new laws, regulations, and policies, and promote greater education of public water supply about the importance of resilience
 - Issues where sewage holding tanks might not even be on record or other problems; it would be nice to have one standard database across the state for the sewage system information
 - Might need to survey land because local municipalities might not have a record of any septic/sewage systems
 - Do not underestimate the amount of work this will require
 - Emphasis on one database that can be shared
- Nutrition, Food Security, and Food Safety, Mike Puglisi
 - Starts around 1:29 (89 minutes)
 - Focus on mobile food boxes and food pantries because the food insecure will be most affected by climate change
 - Four recommendations have been put forth by this subtopic team with a potential fifth recommendation
 - Working on getting someone from the Department of Agriculture
- Mental Health and Well-being, Laura Hayes

- Starts around 1:32 (92 minutes)
- Caroline Dumont is the head of the group
- Michelle Riodan-Nold recently joined this group
- It is currently a small group
- One recommendation for establishing best practices for disaster case managers for address needs of mental health populations in disaster response
- EEJ feedback
 - Needs to add a recommendation for culturally and linguistically appropriate mental health service structures which are often underestimated in disaster plans
- Yale clinic will be helping to conduct a literature review of best practices
- CDC BRACE framework implementation, Laura Hayes
 - Provide staff support or coordinate role position to address the impacts of climate change
 - Need more staff to support the framework and recommendations
 - At a minimum a coordinator role
 - There are other states that are aligned with the BRACE framework
 - Implementing the framework might help the state receive funding for climate change action
 - General agreement for a position role and implementation of the framework
 - Perhaps a partnership with one or more universities in Connecticut
- Comments:
 - No comments by the public

Adjourned at 12:25 pm

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 Graesser	Tanya Dwyer
Blanca Berget	Cindy