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

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**Meeting Date:** 23 July 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	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	Y
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	
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	
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	
Huan Ngo	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	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	
Ryan Tetrault	Supervising Environmental Analyst	Connecticut Department of Public Health	Y
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	Y
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

- Working Group Announcements
  - Draft is due August 12, 2020
  - Subtopic teams submit by July 31st
    - Statements of health impacts
    - Description of vulnerable populations
    - 1-4 recommended implementation actions using the template provided by GC3
    - Requested update of 2011 recommendations
    - Guidelines: Calibri 12 point font, Chicago manual of style format, citations use author-date format, in-text citations use author's last name and year of publication
  - Mark Mitchell is coordinating the EEJ so share with him as soon as possible so that the EEJ can review
- ADA Webinar Synopsis, *Orlando Velazco*
  - Integrating into EOC (emergency operations center)
  - AFN (access and functional needs) coordinator serves as an advocate for the program but did not go far enough when looking at vulnerable population
    - So they added an AFN officer
    - They have a commitment to identifying barriers to vulnerable populations
    - Dedicated personnel to lead but also support other sectors of EOC
  - Vulnerable populations include:
    - People living with physical, development, mental health or intellectual disability
    - People living with chronic disease or injury
    - Limited English proficiency
    - Older adults
    - Children
    - Low income
    - Housing insecure and homeless
    - People without personal transportation
    - Pregnant women
  - The AFN officer is also a liaison for emergency services, law enforcement, fire department, public health, IT, public works, local administration offices, disability community, social services organizations
  - Ideal candidate qualities from Marin County
    - ADA coordinator
    - Strong organizational knowledge
    - Strong ties with disability community, disability CBOs, and independent living organizations
    - Knowledge of digital access laws and applications
  - Pre-incident responsibilities
    - Tabletop exercises to prepare for managing situations with AFN populations

- Medical dispensing
  - Transportation management
  - Identifying/creating resources helpful for EOC sectors
  - Creating checklists
- Review of Deliverables for GC3 Report Chapter Due Aug 12<sup>th</sup>, *Rebecca French*
  - The presentation slides will be shared
  - Phase 1 public participation and engagement
    - All WG and the Council's reports will undergo a public review and comment period
    - DEEP is working with the EEJ public participation subgroup to develop an engagement plan for the public review and comment periods
    - Out of an abundance of caution at this time it is anticipated that the GC3 meeting and public review process will continue to be held remotely
    - We are planning for an online public participation only
  - Phase 1 work group report timeline
    - Due August 12: WG draft reports and presentations to EEJ & S&T
    - Due September 1: EEJ charged with review for equity and environmental justice and addressing impacts to vulnerable communities
    - Due September 1: Science and Technology charged with ensuring reports informed by best available science
    - Due September 10: revised WG draft reports
    - September 11 - October 19: WG report public review and comment period; presentations on WG reports to the GC3
    - Due November 6: WG final reports to GC3
    - Due December 4: GC3 report drafted using GC3 subcommittee review
    - Due December 18: GC3 review and revision of draft report
  - Phase 1 Adaptation and Resilience Plan WG Reports
    - Progress on 2011 recommendations
      - Discuss areas of low progress that are assessed to be of continued relevance
    - Recommended implementation actions
      - Each strategy and implementation should explain how:
        - Informed by most current and locally-scaled scientific information and analysis available with respect to the impacts of climate change
        - Prioritizes protection of vulnerable communities
        - Highlight strategies that maximize opportunities for climate change mitigation
- Brainstorming Cross-cutting Recommendations
  - BRACE Framework
  - Public Health and Safety Scope
    - Draft component: health outcomes
      - Future health challenges addressed are the mental and physical health conditions and diseases resulting from exposure to extreme heat, poor air quality, vector-borne disease, floods and storms, food price spikes, and food- and water-borne pathogens. Also water infrastructure needs to ensure a safe and sustainable drinking water supply
    - Draft component: community resilience focus

- The suite of planning and implementation actions addressed by this chapter are also focused specifically to increase community health resilience, which we define as the sustained ability of communities to withstand, adapt to, and recover from threats to the health of their constituents posed by climate change
- Sandra Gill from DPH – Public Health Systems Improvement Office
  - Working on the development of the State Health Improvement Plan
  - Work on policy system and environmental change
    - Health and healthcare access
    - Economic stability – poverty is a social determinant of health
    - Housing and food access
    - Crime and violence, and emergency response; community resilience
- Climate Change and Health Cross Cutting
  - Important to go through with social cohesion/social capital
  - With respect to public health, working with government agencies and non-profits and community advocating groups for increased connections
  - Randy Anway: Stable systems with system identity – principles that underlie coherent community systems
  - K-12 education for environmental and climate literacy; children are vulnerable populations; check and coordinate with Department of Education and what has/is being done
  - Resilient infrastructure to schools and school buildings
  - Steven Schrag: would be interested in helping with K-12 education
  - The K-12 recommendation came out of a community engagement process that occurred in Rhode Island
  - The cross cutting recommendations are listed in the excel document that was share with members of the Working Group
  - A focus on community resilience and social cohesion
- Comments
  - Randy Anway: is community resilience defined in a systemic way? Will community resilience be applied universally throughout Connecticut?
  - Sandra Gill: there is no current definition of community resilience

**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	
Sandra Gill	Randy Anway
Steven Schrag	Kristin DeRosia-Banick
Amber Garrad	Marcia Pessolano
Brian Basso	Becca George