

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

**Meeting Date: October 3, 2022**

**Meeting Time: 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM**

**Zoom Recording: [Public Health and Safety Working Group Minutes](#)**

**ATTENDANCE:** GC3 Working Group Members in bold

Name:
<b>Heather Aaron, Co-chair</b>
Alanis Allen
<b>Brenda Bergeron, Co-chair</b>
Jesus Blanco Vazquez
<b>Kendall Bobula</b>
<b>Laura Bozzi</b>
Richard Branigan
<b>Mindy Chambrelli</b>
<b>Cynthia Costa</b>
<b>Meghan Doyle</b>
<b>Mariana Fragomeni</b>
Christine Hahn-Dunn
Olivia Hine
<b>Anne Hulick</b>
<b>Alana Kroeber</b>
<b>Diane Lauricella</b>
<b>Sarah Lowe</b>
<b>Diane Mas</b>
<b>Lori Mathieu</b>
Katharine Morris
<b>Huan Ngo</b>
<b>Jennifer O'Brien</b>
<b>Martha Page</b>
<b>Michael Pascucilla</b>
<b>Anna Shugrue</b>
<b>Christopher Silver</b>
<b>Bridget Teevan</b>
<b>Kim Zigich</b>

**AGENDA & NOTES**

**Welcome:** Alanis Allen, DEEP Liaison

Ground Rules:

- Meeting is recorded and a link will be posted
- Announcement that the chat is public record, but may be used for questions and comments by working group members
- Working group members are asked to post their names and affiliation in the chat

- Reminder that the discussion portion is reserved for working group members
- Announcement that non-working group members should mute and turn video off until public comment

**Introduction of Co-chairs:** *Deputy Commissioner Heather Aaron, DPH and Deputy Commissioner Brenda Bergeron, DEMHS*

**Brief Presentation of Progress on Public Health and Safety 2021 Recommendations,**  
*Lori Mathieu, Public Health Branch Chief*

- Introduces Christine Hahn, Bridget Teevan, Chris Silver, and Cynthia Costa from Department of Public Health
- Office of Climate and Public Health:
  - Enhance health equity, increase resiliency, and ensure Connecticut communities are prepared for the health impacts of climate change
  - Came from the GC3 efforts in 2020
  - Focuses on populations that are vulnerable to the health effects of climate change
- Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE)
  - Grant program under the CDC
  - Adaptive management approach for health departments to being to address human health issues created by or exacerbated by climate change
  - BRACE will be staffed by 3 team members
    - Including Christine Hahn and Bridget Teevan
  - Initial focus is air quality and extreme heat
  - Update:
    - 2 Adaptation actions and evaluation plans related to extreme heat and high levels of ozone are in development
      - Focus is on schools and municipalities
      - Includes in-school curriculum
      - Dr. Bozzi team is also developing guidance for health districts and municipalities on heat and air quality plans
  - Agreement being processed between CT DPH and Yale Office on Climate Change and Health
    - When the agreement is executed, many projects will move forward
    - Lori Mathieu highlights the importance of making connections and utilizing research capacity of academic institutions
- EPA Air Monitoring Grant Application
  - Application has been submitted and DPH should be notified within the next month
  - 3-year project up to \$500,000
  - Uses SVI to monitor air quality in target areas

**Discussion of Subject Area Priority: Food Security and Mental Health**

- Seeking recommendations from GC3 on following priority areas:
  - Ensuring access to healthy foods
  - Strengthening food supply and distribution

- How food security can exacerbate issues with mental health
- In the previous GC3 working group, this was noted as an area that the group did not have enough time to focus on, but would have liked to

Questions and Discussion: *For full comments please see the Zoom recording and/or audio transcript*

- Martha Page: Food systems work
  - Notes that Connecticut should participate in statewide and systemic food planning
  - There is some progress being made on this both in Connecticut and at the regional level
  - Lori Mathieu responds that this is something else that didn't quite fit in the first GC3 process, which speaks to its importance and inclusion now
    - She asks who is working on this? Martha says she is a connection to the Connecticut Food System Alliance
    - Lori notes that she would like to better integrate the planning of the state food plan
  - DC Bergeron also asks if DOAg is at the table for these conversations
    - Martha confirms that the connection is made, but they are in the initial planning stages
    - DC Bergeron mentions she helped create a FEMA plan for food funding, but would like to get Martha's feedback on it
    - Also notes that Foodshare has released a three-year plan
      - Martha confirms that they work closely with Connecticut Foodshare
      - Highlights that even the best emergency distribution system cannot solve food system problems
      - The Foodshare plan will not take every aspect of food growing and distribution like a state food plan
- Diane Mas: How much does this incorporate local entities, like schools?
  - Martha notes that statewide planning does take local things into account, and they work alongside local community groups to ensure everything is tied together
  - DC Bergeron notes that in an emergency, the rotation of stock for food is a challenge
    - Do have an emergency contract manual they can use to order supplies in real time
- Lori Mathieu: Highlights Martha's expertise and suggests highlighting a subgroup to bring these resources together
- DC Aaron: We want to be able to better respond in crisis, but we need to also consider the climate and how it is affecting growing food and how that differentially impacts people in urban areas and rural areas.
- Michael Pascucilla: Asks how "Live Local – Eat Local" ties into this conversation, as it is directly related to climate and health

- Martha asks if this is related to CT Grown? If so, it is related to the regional effort of working together to address the food needs throughout New England to maximize resiliency
- Laura Bozzi notes that she has a document from the first GC3 effort that consolidated best practices to address food insecurity and climate change
  - Laura will share that information with Lori Mathieu and others
- Katharine Morris: Urban farmers lack resources that larger farms have access to
  - Notes people are trying to address food and nutrition insecurity, but there are challenges
  - Notes that people trying to address this in urban areas should provide their insights to the group
  - Martha Page notes that DOAg is increasingly supportive of urban farmers, but there is a lot more to do on that
    - Access to resources is very real for small hold farmers
  - Katharine notes that many grant opportunities don't offer micro-grants, which means that the smaller farmers get nothing
    - Also notes that the timing of working group meetings prevents farmers from joining since they are occupied during the day
- Christine Hahn provides update on State Health Improvement Plan, which is currently on hold due to staffing transitions
- DC Aaron asks for an inventory of what is the happening in the state regarding urban farming
  - DC Aaron highlights the recommendation for micro-grants and the need to include these in further conversations

**Public Comments:** *For full comments please see the Zoom recording and/or audio transcript*  
 No public comments collected

**Adjourn and Next Steps:**

- Due to time constraints, the working group did not get to mental health, but Lori Mathieu notes this will be a priority for the next meeting
- Also asks for working group members to invite people pertinent to this conversation

**Resources:**

[Conn. Foodshare announces plan to bring more accessible food to communities](#)  
[New England Farmer Microgrants Program](#)  
[2022 Farm Transition Grant](#)

**Chat Record:**

00:20:28 Martha Page: Martha Page, Consultant

00:21:00 Richard Branigan: Good morning. I am Richard Branigan from the American Red Cross.

00:21:06 Meghan Doyle: Meghan Doyle: Quinnipiac University Sustainability Fellow/ 3L at Quinnipiac Law/ City of Milford Board of Education

00:21:13 Mariana Fragomeni: Mariana Fragomeni, Assistant Professor in Landscape Architecture, University of Connecticut

00:21:44 Heather Aaron: Heather Aaron Deputy Commissioner Department Health

00:21:57 Sarah Lowe: Sarah Lowe, Yale School of Public Health (Social & Behavioral Sciences); I specialize in trauma and mental health

00:22:25 Anne Hulick: Good morning. Anne Hulick, CT Director Clean Water Action, nurse and environmental health advocate

00:22:43 Michael Pascucilla: Michael Pascucilla, East Shore District Health Department - GM Everyone!

00:22:47 Cynthia Costa: Good morning. Cindy Costa, CT Dept. of Public Health Food Protection Program.

00:23:03 Laura Bozzi: Laura Bozzi, Director of Programs at the Yale Center on Climate Change and Health

00:23:37 Christopher Silver: Chris Silver Connecticut Department of Public Health, Office of Health Equity

00:23:43 Diane Mas (Fuss & O'Neill, Inc): Good Morning - Diane Mas, Chief Resilience Officer, Fuss & O'Neill

00:24:21 Jennifer O'Brien CFECT: Jennifer O'Brien, Community Foundation of ECT

00:25:27 Mindy Chambrelli: GM all! Mindy Chambrelli, Darien Health Dept.

00:29:18 Huan Ngo: Huân Ngô, New Haven Public Schools

00:32:06 Brenda Bergeron: Brenda Bergeron, Deputy Commissioner CT DESPP/DEMHS

00:34:31 Alana Kroeber: Alana Kroeber, United Way of CT/2-1-1

00:37:08 Diane Mas (Fuss & O'Neill, Inc): What is the best way to follow the work of the Climate and Health Equity Coalition?

00:44:43 Kim Zigich: Kim Zigich, Attorney, CT-DEMHS

00:49:40 Katharine Morris: sorry I came late. question: what type of infrastructure exactly are you concerned about under the "strengthen food supply..." bullet?

00:51:40 Brenda Bergeron:  
[https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wtnh.com%2Fnews%2Fconnecticut%2Fconn-foodshare-announces-plan-to-bring-more-accessible-food-to-communities%3Futm\\_source%3Dwtmh\\_app%26utm\\_medium%3Dsocial%26utm\\_content%3Dshare-link&data=05%7C01%7CBrenda.Bergeron%40ct.gov%7C3f1b97b482ff48f41b1b08daa02c7108%7C118b7cfaa3dd48b9b02631ff69bb738b%7C0%7C0%7C637998409979719575%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjE1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2B%2BMe1Jv4CqVQfswf0JSew3kPrMhML3Wup%2FqLP9f5Wp8%3D&reserved=0](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wtnh.com%2Fnews%2Fconnecticut%2Fconn-foodshare-announces-plan-to-bring-more-accessible-food-to-communities%3Futm_source%3Dwtmh_app%26utm_medium%3Dsocial%26utm_content%3Dshare-link&data=05%7C01%7CBrenda.Bergeron%40ct.gov%7C3f1b97b482ff48f41b1b08daa02c7108%7C118b7cfaa3dd48b9b02631ff69bb738b%7C0%7C0%7C637998409979719575%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6IjE1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=%2B%2BMe1Jv4CqVQfswf0JSew3kPrMhML3Wup%2FqLP9f5Wp8%3D&reserved=0)

00:55:09 Laura Bozzi: One of my students, as part of a course a few semesters ago, worked with Dr Laura Hayes and members of this working group to do research on best practices to address food insecurity and climate change. I'd be glad to share that document.

00:56:51 Michael Pascucilla: Hi - I wholeheartedly Agree with Martha. Is/how is the Farm to Table Innovative in CT "Live Local - Eat Local" tied into this conversation. This directly related to climate change and health.

00:59:24 Brenda Bergeron: Martha, could you please put your email in the chat? Thank you!

01:00:26 Martha Page: martha1551@att.net

01:00:45 Katharine Morris: want to boost the Heather Aaron's point on strengthening small urban farms

01:01:05 Katharine Morris: this also facilitates the live local, eat local goal

01:01:37 Katharine Morris: and ideally strengthens food and nutrition security

01:04:31 Katharine Morris: Nourish Bridgeport is a good one

01:04:57 Katharine Morris: Grow Hartford is great

01:05:16 Katharine Morris: Green Village Initiative too

01:05:38 Katharine Morris: these are folks who need to provide their insights in platforms like these.

01:08:26 Meghan Doyle: Sue Brown with the Purple Pantry is doing great work locally in Milford. <https://purplepantryboxes.com/>

01:10:51 Katharine Morris: Dr, Kristen Cooksey Stowers is a food/nutrition security and public health professor at UConn who would be an \*excellent\* resource for this work

01:11:07 Kendall Bobula: <https://farmland.org/new-england-farmer-microgrants-program/> <https://portal.ct.gov/DOAG/ADaRC/Publications/2022-Farm-Transition-Grant/Apply>

01:11:36 Katharine Morris: thanks kendall!

01:12:30 Diane Mas (Fuss & O'Neill, Inc): Thanks everyone. I need to join another call. Great and informative discussion.

01:14:14 Bridget Teevan: [Bridget.Teevan@ct.gov](mailto:Bridget.Teevan@ct.gov)

01:14:14 Anne Hulick: Thank you all so much. This was such a great and important conversation. Love the regional thinking as well.

01:14:15 Christine Hahn-Dunn, DPH: [Christine.hahn@ct.gov](mailto:Christine.hahn@ct.gov)

01:14:32 Christine Hahn-Dunn, DPH: [bridget.teevan@ct.gov](mailto:bridget.teevan@ct.gov)

01:15:20 Huan Ngo: How are we with looking ahead to crop and livestock strain that are more adaptable/resistance to drought, heat, flood?

01:15:25 Huan Ngo: Thank you