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**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
ASPETUCK HEALTH DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 8, 2025**

Approved by the Board of Directors 11/10/2025

The following voting Board Members were present at the in-person Regular Board of Directors Meeting: Chairman, Paul Shaum, Ed Mally, Alison Walker, Scott Bennewitz, Catherine Revzon and Doreen Collins. Also present: Luci Bango, Director of Health and Vanessa Hurta, Director of Clinical Services.

Chairman, Paul Shaum called the Regular Board Meeting to order at 7:09 pm.

Review and approval of May 12, 2025, minutes:

After reviewing the May minutes and noting their accuracy, Chairman Paul Shaum made a motion to approve the May 12, 2025, minutes. The motion was seconded by Ed Mally. Scott Bennewitz abstained due to his absence at the May meeting prior to his appointment.

Motion approved 5 to 0, 1 Abstention.

Review and approval of June 9, 2025, minutes:

After reviewing the June minutes and noting their accuracy, Chairman Paul Shaum made a motion to approve the June 9, 2025, minutes. The motion was seconded by Ed Mally. Scott Bennewitz abstained due to his absence at the June meeting prior to his appointment.

Motion approved 5 to 0, 1 Abstention.

Review of Director of Health Report:

Luci Bango presented the director's report for the months of June, July and August. Ms. Bango noted a new format of the monthly reports which include charts and graphs. Scott Bennewitz asked if the consolidated financial report in the August report was different from the June and July reports to reflect changes made with the suggestion of the CPA consultant. Ms. Bango confirmed that the consolidated report was in a different format providing more detailed information. Ms. Bango stated that the new format has not yet been finalized. Doreen Collins asked how the project with the CPA was going and Ms. Bango indicated that it was still in process, but positive changes were being made. Ed Mally reiterated that the Board did not hire a CPA to review our budget and finances, but rather a CPA was contracted with to act as a consultant for the Health District's budgetary process. Ms. Collins stated that she could provide Ms. Bango with accounting information about the budget that was developed by a former employee who was not a CPA, if it would be helpful. Ms. Bango stated that she already had this information. Chairman Shaum asked if the month of August was closed out yet and Ms. Bango stated that the CPA is working with Janet to close out the month. She also stated that the CPA and Janet are in the process of developing a new chart of accounts in QuickBooks. Process and budget updates related to QuickBooks were also discussed, including training in QuickBooks. Ms. Bango asked if everyone

was satisfied with the new monthly report format because she would like to use that format going forward. The monthly format would be used to develop the annual reports as well. Ms. Walker stated that the new format of the reports would be helpful in looking at data trends.

Annual Report: Ms. Bango stated that the annual report was distributed to all towns and posted on the website. Ed Mally asked about the reportable diseases in the monthly report. Vanessa Hurta and Ms. Bango explained the reporting process of the diseases through CTEDSS. Ed Mally asked about diseases being underreported and Ms. Hurta confirmed that diseases are vastly underreported. This includes COVID and foodborne illnesses. Ms. Walker indicated that COVID numbers and trends are increasing. Ms. Collins asked about foodborne illness complaints and reporting. Ms. Hurta and Ms. Bango explained and discussed the process of foodborne related complaints and follow-up.

Ms. Bango discussed the success of the new webpage and social media platforms and the District's increased reach to the community. Ms. Collins stated that perhaps in addition to social media, the district should use other methods to disseminate information about the District. Ms. Bango stated that she spoke with First Selectman Bindleglass about attending monthly meetings to discuss the programs offered by the District. She also stated that the District's intern has developed several outreach pamphlets and information that have been shared with Easton and other towns.

Ms. Collins discussed the recent formation of a taskforce that was formed to address the town of Easton's membership with the District and concerns that the town is experiencing. Chairman Shaum asked what the timeframe is for the taskforce and Ms. Collins stated that she hopes it will be completed by the end of the year.

Ms. Revzon suggested that information about District services be distributed in school brochures through the PTA and Ms. Hurta stated that she has regular contact with the schools and whether the schools publish the information we provide is up to them. Ms. Bango stated that they will continue to explore methods of outreach to promote the District's programs and services.

Board of Directors Appointments:

Ms. Bango asked Mr. Bennowitz to give a brief background on his experience and how he became interested in becoming a Board member. Mr. Bennowitz provided his background and experience and his involvement in the town of Westport's library and stated that he has replaced Board Member, Paul Fonteyne.

Organizational Chart:

Ms. Bango discussed the proposed changes to the organizational chart to reflect updates to staff. Ms. Collins inquired about the number of Sanitarians and Ms. Bango stated that there are now four. Ms. Collins asked if one Sanitarian was assigned solely to Easton and Ms. Bango explained that Sanitarians cover all towns. Ms. Collins asked if there were still problems with training and retention of Sanitarians. Ms. Bango discussed the ongoing issues related to salaries, training and state certifications. The process of becoming an R.S. is lengthy and there is a limited pool of experienced Sanitarians throughout the state. This makes it difficult for local health departments to hire staff with experience and retain those who are.

Ed Mally asked about possible trainings that can occur while in school so individuals would be fully certified upon graduation. Ms. Bango explained that the Workforce Development Grant is looking at various approaches to increasing trainings and streamlining the certification process;

however, it is a long way off. She also stated that reciprocity of Sanitariums with states such as NY would be beneficial in relation to the District's location.

Mr. Bennewitz offered to look at the organizational chart and review it, as he has experience in developing these charts. Ms. Bango stated that she would be pleased to have him assist with this.

Medicaid:

Ms. Bango introduced the topic of Medicaid and presented documents showing the amount of financial loss that the District is experiencing. Last fiscal year, the District lost more than \$2000 for unbilled Medicaid claims, almost all of which were clients from outside the District. Ms. Bango and Ms. Hurta discussed the process of billing and insurance coverage with Medicare and Vaxcare. Ms. Bango stated that if we ended Medicaid coverage vaccines would be self-pay only. She stated that most revenue comes from travel vaccines and self-pay. Ms. Bango stated that a good portion of our travel clinic and vaccination revenue comes from towns outside the district. There was discussion that not accepting Medicaid would result in the loss of clients. Ms. Hurta discussed the potential of increased clients and Medicaid patients due to word of mouth. She stated she was concerned that the numbers could increase and the District could see increases in revenue loss related to Medicaid. She discussed other local travel clinics and the topic of referrals from these clinics. Ms. Hurta stated that the District began accepting Medicaid last year and billing was never completed due to staff's capability to bill. Ms. Collins asked if we could accept Medicaid from only District residents and Ms. Hurta stated that the District cannot limit acceptance. Discussion over budgetary limits on Medicaid was discussed, however, communication surrounding this would prove difficult. Ms. Collins asked how we became a travel vaccine clinic and if we were selected or chose to become one. Ms. Hurta stated that the District was not selected and the clinic was established prior to her joining the department.

The Board discussed the desire to keep Medicaid for now and continue a monthly report on financial data to determine possible future changes. There was agreed sentiment that there was insufficient data to support the cancellation of Medicaid at this time.

Ms. Bango stated that the Health District will be participating in a travel show on September 28th at Penfield Beach to promote the travel vaccination clinic. The District will be raffling off a travel basket to increase social media outreach.

Ms. Bango discussed the current changes in vaccination status regarding the COVID vaccine. She stated that CT DPH has not issued any guidance and they are currently meeting with other bordering states about potentially making their own recommendations in opposition of federal COVID vaccination guidelines. Currently, the Health District is not offering the vaccine until more information is provided. Ms. Walker discussed the 8-state consortium including CT meeting to discuss the COVID vaccine. She also discussed the process of vaccine approval with ACIP, AAP and other federal agencies.

Ms. Bango stated that there was no other business to discuss. Mr. Bennewitz made a motion to end the meeting. The motion was seconded by Chairman Paul Shaum.

Motion approved unanimously.

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

Motion approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



**Lucienne Bango, MPH, REHS/RS
Director of Health, Aspetuck Health District
Secretary/Treasurer/(Ex-Officio)**