

**Connecticut River Valley Council of Elected Officials
Minutes**

April 28, 2005

Attendees: Please see attached

I. Chairman David Denvir called the meeting to order at 12:15 PM in Cherrystones Restaurant, Route 156 in Old Lyme, CT. He called for round table introductions for the benefit of guest Pamela Kilby-Fox.

II. Guest

Chairman Denvir introduced Pamela Kilby-Fox who is the Director of the Office of Local Health Administration for the Connecticut Department of Public Health

Ms. Kilby-Fox explained that currently there are varying degrees of “ part time “ among local Directors of Health. After reviewing the status of Senate Bill 978, which is this year’s attempt to require that towns hire a full time Health Director, join an existing Health District or form a new Health District, she urged the collected CEOs to do what is best for the citizens.

Ms. Kilby-Fox noted that an annual report is required by statute from each town. Most towns do well on the sub-surface section of the report but leave blanks in the areas of epidemiology, food service, lead alleviation and other areas of service. She explained that additional staffing would allow better coverage for a wider scope of activities.

Currently the state will pay each town \$5,000 to simply investigate the possibility of forming a Health District. A letter of intent to investigate the idea is all that is required. No detailed accounting is for the funds are required.

The requirements for forming a district are found in Section 19A-241 of the General Statutes. Consent must come from the governing body of the town. If a town decides to join, it will receive another \$5,000 plus a one time payment of \$1.00 per capita plus an annual subsidy of \$1.66 to \$1.94 per capita. The balance is paid by fees and the money that towns previously spent on the sanitarian, supplies, secretary, Health Director Etc. Ms. Kilby-Fox noted that all sanitarians must be offered a position with the new Health District with no reduction in pay or loss of benefits. She mentioned the advantage of being able to quickly assemble extra staff in the case of a local emergency.

In reference to the small pox clinic, Ms. Kirby-Fox sympathized with the citizens of Lyme and Old Lyme for having to go to Ledge Light when they might prefer to go to Old Saybrook. She noted that in this case, Middlesex County is being served by Chatham. If a Health district were formed with the Estuary Region as the nucleus, Chatham might break off the southern end of the Small Pox clinic. Lyme and Old Lyme might then be able to go to Old Saybrook, unless they prefer to stay with Ledge Light.

Dick Smith asked where the office would be.

Ms. Fox replied that it should be centrally located. The staff will report to a board of directors with at least one member from each town and a maximum of one member per 10,000 people. About 40,000 people is an ideal number to be served by a district. If a

town should become disenchanted with membership in a district, the governing body may vote to withdraw after three years of membership.

Chairman Denvir asked Ms. Kilby-Fox if she has a “boiler plate” summary. She does and will have it distributed through the RPA. She noted that the next round of contracts for study, with the \$5,000 incentive, will be issued in August.

III. Minutes

Martin Heft moved that the minutes of the March 24 meeting be approved as circulated. The motion was seconded by David Denvir and unanimously approved.

IV. Legislative Updates

Congressman Simmons: Betty Wagner commented on bills before the house and distributed copies as attached.

V. Old Business

EMS Study Final Report

Tony Palermo was unable to attend today’s meeting. Tim Griswold had no report. Martin Heft reported that he had received a packet of information including the RFP from the North Western portion of the state.

VI. Reports

A. Chairman Denvir asked that ACIR be omitted from future agendas.

B. Workforce Alliance

Chairman Denvir had no report.

C. Emergency Preparedness

Linda Krause distributed a list of Post 911 Emergency Preparedness Planning Activities. She reported that she understood that a meeting held in Old Saybrook to develop the plan for a mass distribution center went well. The required plans for towns in both Midstate and CRERPA have been submitted by Hanna – Watrous. The CRVCEO voted on September 24 at the meeting in Durham to form a CERT. The paper work was submitted and accepted by the State of CT. A Mr. Romano Aleto attempted unsuccessfully to verify the establishment of the CERT with Mike Pace. He determined that the CERT for Midstate and CRERPA should not be funded.

Linda understands that some Emergency Management Directors have expressed concern over the work of Hanna-Watrous. Since the contract is through CRERPA, she would like to know the specific concerns. She understands that it was discussed in executive session without particular concern for FOI.

Chairman Denvir explained that he has heard that there is concern about the similarity of the reports, “a canned product” with names inserted.

Dick Smith suggested that an open discussion of the matter be placed on the agenda for the May meeting. He would especially appreciate having both Mike Pace and Mike Spera attend the meeting.

VII. New Business

Chairman Denvir announced the May 26 meeting will be held in Middletown at a place to be announced. Mayor Thornton has asked that Biff Shaw of the United Way be included on the Agenda.

Respectfully submitted,

Wini Olson, Clerk