

# Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD)

*Member Towns: Old Saybrook, Clinton, Deep River, Haddam, Chester, Killingworth, Durham*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Michael Dunne, M.D., Chair. Old Saybrook  
Rita Foster, Vice Chair. Clinton  
Alan Schwarz, M.D., Old Saybrook  
Michelle Benivegna, Clinton  
Carol Jones, Deep River  
Bob McGarry, Haddam  
Cynthia Lignar, Chester  
Eric Couture, Killingworth  
William Kohlhepp, Durham



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## MINUTES

### Regular Board Meeting

**Tuesday February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

### **2:00PM CRAHD OFFICE OR ZOOM**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81371178658?pwd=i20yJ1bbVKyLzDbcMj9KmgLnaZBKjW.1>

#### **1. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 2:05 PM

#### **2. Roll Call**

**Office:** Michael Dunne, Alan Schwarz, William Kohlhepp

**Remote:** Rita Foster, Michelle Benivegna, Carol Jones, Eric Couture,  
Robert McGarry

**Absent:** Cindy Lignar

**Others Present:** Scott Martinson, DOH, Sherry Carlson, PHN

#### **3. Approval of Minutes – Dated November 12, 2024**

Minutes Approved – Schwarz, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kohlhepp.

**Approved 8-0**

#### **4. CRAHD - DOH Updates**

Martinson presented a power point presentation. Martinson discussed the successful internship CRAHD had with a HK High School senior. CRAHD has written a letter of support for the OSYFS CT State Opioid Grant. There was discussion regarding the federal grant freeze and correspondence from the CT DPH Commissioner of Health. There was discussion regarding Avian Influenza and a new fact sheet was sent to all member Towns.

**5. CRAHD - PHN Updates**

Carlson discussed her various nursing activities and presented information with regards to the increased Flu activity over the last few weeks.

**6. BOARD - Review and approval of CRAHD Bylaws**

The draft bylaws were reviewed and amended by substitution and there was a motion to adopt a review of these bylaws every other year starting in 2026. Bylaws and future review of bylaws approved – Kohlhepp, 2<sup>nd</sup> Couture.

**Approved 8-0**

**6. BOARD – Nominate and vote on Vice-Chair vacancy.**

Kohlhepp nominated Rita Foster as the new vice chairperson of the CRAHD Board. The vice-chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in his or her absence, shall provide the chairperson with assistance as required and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the chairperson or the board.

**Approved 8-0**

**7. BOARD – Other discussion**

Rita Foster, Eric Couture and Michael Dunne will assist with a 5-year plan and William Kohlhepp, Rita Foster and Michael Dunne will assist with researching grant opportunities. There was discussion regarding a potential need for future communication strategies with regards to information coming from the federal level.

**8. Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 2:40 PM.

