



SOUTH CENTRAL HEALTH DISTRICT

196 North Main St.
Southington, CT 06489
860.276.6275 | schd-ct.org

Regular Meeting

Date: Thursday, February 12, 2026

Time: 12:30 PM

Location: Virtual meeting via Zoom

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89095935595?pwd=oXKVNVpqN6PggTGwP2K7s17zhe1tM5.1>

Present: Elliott Colasanto, Chair
Robert Yamartino, Vice Chair
Ann Marie Conaty
Betsy Gaudian
Joseph Marino
Sharon O'Brien
Michael Paulhus
Alex Ricciardone
Susan Lonczak, DOH

Absent: None

Meeting called to order at 12:31 pm by Mr. Colasanto.

Special Meeting

I. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted by Ms. Lonczak.

Present at the time of roll call were:

Elliott Colasanto, Joseph Marino, Michael Paulhus, Sharon O'Brien, and Ann Marie Conaty. Additional members joined shortly thereafter, including Betsy Gaudian, Robert Yamartino, and Alex Ricciardone.

A quorum was present at 12:44 pm.

II. Minutes of meeting

MOTION

Sharon O'Brien made a motion to approve the December 11, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Joseph Marino seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous approval.

Motion carried.

Motion approved by unanimous vote.

III. Comments by the Chair /Vice Chair:

Chair Colasanto opened the floor for comments prior to the scheduled agenda items.

Board Member Joseph Marino raised a question regarding potential federal policy changes related to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and whether those changes could affect local health department funding or operations.

Director Lonczak provided an overview and noted that:

- Connecticut is currently maintaining existing public health policies.
- The district had benefited from significant federal grant funding in recent years but had already anticipated the phase-out of those funds.
- The district has positioned itself to remain financially stable and not overly reliant on federal grant funding.
- While policy discussions around vaccination guidance and other federal-level issues are ongoing, local operations are expected to remain unchanged.
- The primary impact of federal policy changes would likely involve communication and public education, rather than operational changes.

Board members acknowledged the information and expressed appreciation for the update.

IV. New business:

i. Draft Budget Discussion

Ms. Lonczak presented a working draft of the proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year and shared her screen with board members.

Key points of the discussion included:

Per Capita Funding

- The district will reach the final year of the planned municipal per capita funding increase.
- The district remains below the statewide average per capita rate, which is approximately \$10 per capita.

State Funding

- The State of Connecticut has preliminarily proposed increasing its per capita funding from \$2.65 to \$3.00.
- If confirmed, this would increase state funding to approximately \$200,000.

Grant Funding

- Many temporary CDC-related grants from prior years have concluded.
- The district will continue to receive the Emergency Preparedness grant, which is approximately \$40,000 annually.
- The Workforce Development grant is expected to conclude during the upcoming fiscal period.

Salary and Personnel Costs

- Union contracts include a 3% salary increase for the current fiscal year.
- Salary adjustments also reflect step increases.

Health Insurance

- Estimated increase is still to be determined by State Partnership 2.0. May be close to 11%

Legal Services

- The legal services budget was increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to ensure adequate coverage if needed for labor negotiations or legal consultation.

Overall Budget Status

- The proposed budget is intentionally lean and focused on essential operations.
- A potential \$20,000 transfer from contingency reserves may be necessary.
- The district currently maintains a fund balance of approximately \$600,000, confirmed during the recent audit.
- The district received a clean audit with no findings, and the auditor will present formally at the March meeting.

Staffing Discussion

Ms. Lonczak raised a potential staffing consideration regarding a part-time environmental health employee currently working 19.5 hours per week.

Discussion points included:

- The employee has received extensive training and certifications.
- She has expressed interest in additional hours and access to health insurance benefits.
- Increasing the position to a unionized full-time role would significantly increase costs due to salary, pension, and benefits.

Estimated impacts discussed:

- Moving the position into the union structure would increase costs by approximately \$10,000 in wages.
- Adding full benefits would increase costs by approximately \$25,000.
- A full-time position could result in a total increase of approximately \$65,000 annually.

Board members discussed:

- Workforce retention challenges
- Cost of staff turnover
- Operational workload within environmental health services
- Potential options including increased hours or restructuring the position

Director Lonczak indicated she would explore potential options and provide further analysis if the board wished to consider adjustments. No action was taken at this time.

V. Report by the Director of Health

(Discussion occurred throughout the meeting as part of the budget presentation.)

VI. Old business

- i. Body Care and Personal Services Code Amendment update

Discussion continued regarding proposed amendments to the Body Care and Personal Services Code to include medical spa services.

The board discussed scheduling a public hearing to consider the amendment.

Proposed Public Hearing Thursday, March 26, 2026

MOTION

Ms. Conaty made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing on March 12, 2026 regarding amendments to the Body Care and Personal Services Code to include Med Spa services. Mr. Marino seconded the motion.

Motion approved by unanimous vote.

VII. Next meeting: Thursday, March 26, 2026 @ 12:30 Plainville Municipal Center.

VIII. Adjournment

MOTION

Mr. Marino made a motion at 2:09 pm to adjourn meeting. Ms. Conaty seconded the motion.

Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Susan B. Lonczak