

From: [Mark McDermott](#)
To: [Gale, Hannah](#)
Cc: [Kupchick, Brenda](#); [Bertolone, Jackie](#); [Browne, Betsy](#); [Barnhart, Mark](#)
Subject: Fwd: Question re. Neighborhood Assistance Act program
Date: Friday, June 24, 2022 11:57:07 AM
Attachments: [winmail.dat](#)

To the RTM,

Please see Representative Gale's questions for Mr. Barnhart and his response.

Best, Mark

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Barnhart, Mark** <MBarnhart@fairfieldct.org>
Date: Fri, Jun 24, 2022 at 11:04 AM
Subject: RE: Question re. Neighborhood Assistance Act program
To: Gale, Hannah <hgale9@optonline.net>
Cc: McDermott, Mark A. <markmcdrtm7@gmail.com>, Kupchick, Brenda <BKupchick@fairfieldct.org>, Bertolone, Jackie <JBertolone@fairfieldct.org>

Representative Gale,

Regarding the Neighborhood Assistance Act program, notice was disseminated to all organizations who requested to receive information about this program. Additionally, this office issued a press release, posted notice to our portion of the Town's website <<https://fairfieldct.org/cednews/?FeedID=4924>> and a blurb was included in the First Selectwoman's newsletter. All are invited and encouraged to apply, but it is completely optional. We are happy to add the CT Dance School or any other group to this list and you are welcome to pass along this information to any organization you think may be interested.

As a reminder, the Neighborhood Assistance Act Program is a State program, which enables corporations to make charitable donations to municipal agencies or non-profits in exchange for a State tax credit. It is not a grant, nor does it guarantee any funding to the non-profit or municipal agency. We do not make any judgments as to the merit of a particular organization or activity.

Operation Hope, Wakeman's and FTC have all applied previously; apparently they see some value in participating in this program. I'm not sure way that should be held against them.

I trust that this answers your questions.

Mark

-----Original Message-----

From: Hannah Gale <hgale9@optonline.net>

Sent: Friday, June 24, 2022 10:28 AM

To: Barnhart, Mark <MBarnhart@fairfieldct.org>

Subject: Question re. Neighborhood Assistance Act program

Hi Mr. Barnhart,

I abstained from approving the motion re. the Neighborhood Assistance Act and the Community Development Block Grant because I was surprised to see the same names every year, despite the fact that solicitation of grant proposals is one of your targeted goals.

I am wondering, in particular, about the small non-profit Dance School (CT Dance School) on Halley Ct off of Commerce Dr. Surely, this school meets the criteria in a similar manner to some of the other recipients, but the person in charge (previously) of grant applications for this school did not even know these programs existed when I recently queried her.

How is the information being disseminated, and why is a dance center any less important than a sports program?

Are there other struggling non-profits that might benefit?

Is it fair to constantly support FTC with these grants (for example) to the exclusion of other worthy causes?

Thanks for your consideration,

Hannah Gale, RTM District 6

--

Mark A. McDermott

RTM Moderator

RTM District 7

RTM Ed & Rec Committee

RTM Senior & Disabled Tax Relief Committee

PTA Member - FLHS

Email: markmcdrtm7@gmail.com

Cell Phone: 1-917-744-1479

From: [Mark McDermott](#)
To: [Gale, Hannah](#)
Cc: [Cleary, Sands](#); [Iacono, Pamela](#); [Kupchick, Brenda](#); [Steele, Jeff](#); [Browne, Betsy](#)
Subject: Fwd: Concerns re.grant receipt re. Epidemiology and Laboratory
Date: Friday, June 24, 2022 11:52:05 AM

To the RTM, please see representative Gale's comments to Mr. Cleary related to the previous email I forwarded from Representative Iacono.

Best, Mark

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Hannah Gale** <hgale9@optonline.net>
Date: Fri, Jun 24, 2022 at 11:29 AM
Subject: Concerns re.grant receipt re. Epidemiology and Laboratory
To: Cleary, Sands <scleary@fairfieldct.org>
Cc: First Selectwoman <firstselectwoman@fairfieldct.org>, Mark McDermott <markmcdrtm7@gmail.com>, Pamela Iacono <Pamelaiacono4fairfield@gmail.com>, Jeff Steele <jrsteele@optonline.net>

Dear Mr. Cleary,

The following are my concerns about accepting the grant \$ from the CDC program for Epidemiology and Laboratory Enhancing Detections Cooperative Agreement.

- 1) First, accepting this \$ implies cooperation with the recommendations from this program in the future and we do not know what these may be at this time.
- 2) Concern that there is an increasing emphasis on language using the term "surveillance" and "advanced electronic information" in the wording of the the "recommendations".

"ELC vector-borne recipients are encouraged to build wide-ranging vector-borne disease programs focused on locally relevant pathogens and vectors in their jurisdictions. Core activities include active human surveillance, investigation and response to vector-borne disease cases, educational outreach, laboratory testing, hiring or training of personnel and vector surveillance and control."

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dvbd/about/prepare-nation/elc.html>

- Advance electronic information exchange implementation
- Sustain and/or enhance information systems
- Enhance laboratory testing for surveillance and reporting

And:

-

- Implement public health best practices, guidelines, programs, and policy
- Surveillance data used to inform and prepare intervention strategies

<https://www.cdc.gov/ncezid/dpei/epidemiology-laboratory-capacity.html>

3) My concerns are further exacerbated by the disturbing use of coercive tactics that effectively impacted the right to informed consent under the interpretation of the guidelines for the 2021-2022 school year under another CDC grant at the state level.

From the CDC ELC Re-opening Schools tab for Connecticut as recipient of this supplementary grant:

Support provided to school districts:

"The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) and State Department of Education (SDE) contracted with testing vendors from the state master contract to provide weekly screening testing for all eligible schools. DPH and SDE decided to focus screening testing efforts on those who cannot be vaccinated (i.e., children too young to be vaccinated or whose parents have not chosen to vaccinate them). "

And: "DPH and SDE released guidance for schools. Vaccination is encouraged for all who are eligible and universal mask wearing is required, regardless of vaccination status, in school buildings. "

I understand that there are many people (the majority) that are (were) in agreement with the use of masks etc., but there is the possibility that even those whose children were not adversely affected by these policies this past year might not be in agreement with electronic based surveillance that includes Vaccination passports etc, and increased contact tracing capabilities.

My concern is that it may be important to retain local control of our Public Health responses and that accepting these \$ effectively gives this up.

As for vaccination status, the Federal and State governments had a general disregard for the human rights and medical rights imperative to Informed Consent and I believe that this is both a moral and a legal act of aggression that amounts to a crime.

The possibility that fraud was committed by the Pharmaceutical companies with regard to the data in their trials for the EUA vaccines remains to be investigated, but the fact is there is a revolving door between the Federal agencies and the industry suggests a level of agency capture that is deeply concerning.

I urge caution and demand accountability on behalf of Fairfield residents with regard to

this and the volunteer "Medical Response" grant also being considered.

Thank you,

Dr. Hannah Gale, RTM District 6

--

Mark A. McDermott

RTM Moderator

RTM District 7

RTM Ed & Rec Committee

RTM Senior & Disabled Tax Relief Committee

PTA Member - FLHS

Email: markmcdrtm7@gmail.com

Cell Phone: 1-917-744-1479

From: [Cleary, Sands](#)
To: [Gale, Hannah](#)
Cc: [Iacono, Pamela](#); [Kupchick, Brenda](#); [Steele, Jeff](#); [Browne, Betsy](#); [McDermott, Mark A.](#)
Subject: RE: Concerns re.grant receipt re. Epidemiology and Laboratory
Date: Friday, June 24, 2022 1:33:55 PM

Dear Dr. Gale,

My apologies for not being clearer in the language of the resolution. The Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Cooperative Agreement Grants are one of vehicles or existing/established funding systems used to by the CDC over the past 25 years to distribute funding to States, large cities and territories for a variety of programs. In your email you mention an ELC Vector Borne Disease grant and an ELC Reopening Schools grant, these are not the grants we are applying for and as such those grant deliverables do not apply. The title of the grant we are applying to the State for is the *Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity (ELC) Supplement Enhancing Detection Cooperative Agreement for the Enhanced Detection, Response, Surveillance, and Prevention of COVID-19*. I had used only the first portion of the title in the resolution as that is how the grant is commonly referred to by the CT DPH and is the only ELC grant currently available to local health departments.

In the application package, applicants select activities from 5 categories and we had submitted the work plan below with 9 activities across the 5 categories. If the application is successful these are the activities that will be performed under the grant and I don't see these activities as compelling us to implement any/all CDC recommendations in the future. The implementation of most CDC "recommendations" takes place at the State and/or local level so for those not put into law (or an executive order) by the State the authority would be left to the local level.

As you can see below the staff hired on this grant will not just be conducting contact tracing but more so case investigations (i.e. investigations of outbreaks of Covid-19 and other infectious diseases) but some contact tracing may be indicated/required for other infectious diseases (i.e. Monkeypox) or a new more virulent variant of Covid-19 if one were to emerge. In short this grant transfers most of the Covid-19 work still being conduct by existing staff to those funded by this grant and add some additional activities.

The Medical Reserve Corps grant provides more funding to recruit and train additional and existing volunteers to continue in responding to Covid-19 if needed and to prepare for other potential responses.

I hope this adequately responds to you concerns. If you would like to discuss anything further, I would be happy to have a conversation if you proved me your number.

Respectfully,

Sands Cleary

Work Plan:

1. Enhance Laboratory Detection, Surveillance (contact tracing), Response, Informatics and Other

Workforce Capacity

Activity 1: Utilize the ContaCT system to conduct case investigation and/or contact tracing as indicated/required by DPH for COVID-19 cases and other appropriate systems for other infectious diseases identified and reported to the Fairfield Health Department (FHD).

Activity 2: Promote and host mass vaccination and other clinics for seasonal influenza, COVID-19 and other infectious disease vaccinations as needed

Activity 3: Conduct Quality Improvement Project (QI) related to FHD's infectious disease/outbreak response.

2. Strengthen Laboratory Testing Volume and Capacity

Activity 4: Work with community testing providers to promote/maintain COVID-19 testing sites.

3. Coordinate and Engage with Partners

Activity 5: Consult with other town agencies and/or community based partners regarding covid-19 activity/needs

Activity 6: Participate in ESF8 regional meetings and share resources as needed within the region and statewide to support COVID-19 response efforts throughout Connecticut.

4. Prevent and Minimize Disease Transmission of COVID-19 and other Infectious Diseases

Activity 7: Maintain or form relationships with schools and other child services providers to provide guidance on COVID-19 disease management for diagnosed students, clients, and staff.

Activity 8: In collaboration with the Fairfield Public Schools (FPS), school nurse (Health Dept. Staff), and school administration respond to public school cases as soon as they arise

5. Conduct Health Promotion Activities associated with #1-4 above.

Activity 9: Update town website, health department websites and social media sites with latest information on topics such as Covid-19 statistics/data, health and safety practices, services and other information.

From: Mark McDermott <markmcdrtm7@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, June 24, 2022 11:52 AM

To: Gale, Hannah <hgale9@optonline.net>

Cc: Cleary, Sands <SCleary@fairfieldct.org>; Iacono, Pamela <pamelaiacono4fairfield@gmail.com>; Kupchick, Brenda <BKupchick@fairfieldct.org>; Steele, Jeff <jrsteele@optonline.net>; Browne, Betsy <BBrowne@fairfieldct.org>

Subject: Fwd: Concerns re.grant receipt re. Epidemiology and Laboratory

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Date: Fri, Jun 24, 2022 at 11:29 AM

Subject: Concerns re.grant receipt re. Epidemiology and Laboratory

To: Cleary, Sands <scleary@fairfieldct.org>

Cc: First Selectwoman <firstselectwoman@fairfieldct.org>, Mark McDermott <markmcdrtm7@gmail.com>, Pamela Iacono <Pamelaiacono4fairfield@gmail.com>, Jeff Steele <jrsteele@optonline.net>

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Thank you,

Dr. Hannah Gale, RTM District 6

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Mark A. McDermott
RTM Moderator
RTM District 7
RTM Ed & Rec Committee

RTM Senior & Disabled Tax Relief Committee
PTA Member - FLHS
Email: markmcdrtm7@gmail.com
Cell Phone: 1-917-744-1479

From: [Mark McDermott](#)
To: [Spolyar, Marcy](#)
Cc: [Browne, Betsy](#); [Calabrese, Anthony](#); [Kupchick, Brenda](#); [Bremer, Tom](#); [Bertolone, Jackie](#)
Subject: Fwd: Parks and Recreation Master Plan
Date: Friday, June 24, 2022 11:41:48 AM

To the RTM, please find Representative Spolyar's update on the Parks & Recreations Master plan draft that she spoke of at our committee meetings on Monday 6/20/22.

Betsy, please add to the back-up.

Best, Mark

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Marcy Spolyar** <marcy.spolyar@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Jun 24, 2022 at 10:03 AM
Subject: Parks and Recreation Master Plan
To: Mark McDermott <markmcdrtm7@gmail.com>

Mister Moderator,
The Parks and Recreation Master Plan draft has been posted on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Site.

<https://www.fairfieldparksandrecplan.com/resourcesdocuments>

Please forward to the body for review and outreach to their constituents. As a reminder the plan will be reviewed on the 30th at 6:30 at Ludlowe Highschool.

Thank you,

Marcy Spolyar

Chair of the Education and Recreation Committee of the RTM

Sent from my iPhone

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Mark A. McDermott
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