

Daniel A. Micari, Commissioner, Chairperson
Barbara Bajurny, Commissioner
Andrew Collins, Commissioner, Secretary
Gloria Ewings, Commissioner
Ruth Ann Graime, Commissioner
Joseph Krolikowski, Commissioner
Jacqueline Olsen, City Council Liaison
Diane Salmoiraghi, Commissioner



**Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Bristol, CT 06010**

**Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2024**

7:00 PM – City Hall, 1st Floor Meeting Room 1-1 and Virtual Format

Our Mission

To promote inclusion and improve the quality of life for people in Bristol with a disability, by providing a network of partnerships with local resources that foster self-sufficiency, dignity, and respect.

Reasonable Accommodation Statement

The Bristol Commission for Persons with Disabilities is committed to equal access to, and participation in, all meetings and Commission-sponsored programs and events. Individuals who require an accommodation in order to fully participate, including physical access, communication assistance, or other special need, should contact Daniel A. Micari at damicari@yahoo.com, at least seven business days prior to the scheduled meeting, program, or event.

Present: Micari, Collins, Ewings, Graime, Krolikowski, Salmoiraghi

Absent: Bajurny, Olsen

Call to order: 7:07 PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes: February 14, 2024 (Ewings/Krolikowski, passed)

Presentation: Marco Palmeri, Director of Health, Bristol-Burlington Health District

Topic: Mission overview and organization priorities

Mr. Palmeri described the mission of the Bristol-Burlington Health District (BBHD). He stated that the organization is responsible for monitoring the health of individuals and investigating related issues in the two towns. This has included areas such as influenza, COVID-19, blood pressure clinics, among other services. These services are provided at no cost to the public.

He further stated that BBHD can make accommodations for individuals with disabilities and connect with other organizations to assist with accessibility issues.

Presentation: Dr. Christon Grant, Rheumatologist, Bristol Hospital
Topic: Rheumatology in the Community

Dr. Grant, a rheumatologist, gave a detailed presentation to the Commission regarding the role of rheumatology and discussed various arthritic diseases.

Dr. Grant defined rheumatology as a branch of medicine that specializes in autoimmune and inflammatory diseases. He also discussed arthritis which is defined as joint pain. Joint pain can be caused by several issues and not all instances of arthritis are the result of inflammation. Arthritis may also be caused by damage in the joint area.

Dr. Grant outlined several inflammatory and non-inflammatory variants of arthritis. Inflammatory variants include rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, and gout while non-inflammatory variants include osteoarthritis, joint injuries, and degenerative arthritis of the spine.

Non-inflammatory variants of arthritis can be caused by damage such as excessive labor and aging which cause damage to the joint area. Some common areas include the neck, knees, and hip. Treatment for such damage can include physical therapy, steroid injections, joint replacement surgery, and other medicinal treatments.

Dr. Grant stated that inflammatory causes of arthritis are treated by a rheumatologist who specializes in such diseases while other practitioners should treat arthritis from other causes. He outlined several inflammatory diseases including gout, lupus, polymyalgia rheumatica, giant cell arteritis, Sjogren's Syndrome, and rheumatoid arthritis.

He also discussed osteoporosis which refers to bone density loss. It increases the risk of fractures and is most common in older women.

During and after the presentation, Dr. Grant answered many questions from commissioners and the audience to clarify points made during the presentation or to ask questions based on their own experiences.

New/Current Business

*Commissioner Salmoiraghi introduced herself as the newest member of the Commission.

*Chairman Micari confirmed that the April 10 meeting will feature a presentation by Christina Benvenuto and Nancy Placzynski of Bristol Hospital and Leslie Warren of UConn Health who will answer questions on accessibility issues

for the deaf and blind communities. He also stated that the May 8 meeting will feature a presentation by Scott Heth, Executive Director of the Environmental Learning Centers of Connecticut.

*Chairman Micari announced that he is still discussing with Chief Hart the installation of the smoke/CO detectors for deaf residents pending a solicitation of bids for installation services.

Old Business

*Due to the absence of Commissioner Bajurny, there was no lesson on American Sign Language.

Correspondence

*Chairman Micari stated that he sent a thank you email to Deb Reed for her presentation to the Commission at the February 14, 2024, meeting.

Public Participation

*Commissioner Krolikowski asked if information from the Commission's webpage on the city's website can be made into a flyer to hand out at public events such as the farmers' market.

Motion to adjourn: Krolikowski/Ewings, passed **Meeting adjourned:** 8:08 PM

Next meeting: April 10, 2024, at 7:00 PM
City Hall, 1st floor meeting room 1-1

Presenter: Christina Benvenuto and Nancy Placzynski, Bristol Hospital
Leslie Warren, UConn Health
Topic: Awareness of and Accommodations for Patients Who are Deaf, Blind or with Low Vision

Submitted by,
Andrew Collins, Secretary