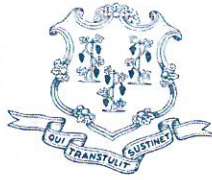


STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

Dannel P. Malloy
Governor

Nancy Wyman
Lt. Governor

January 17, 2017

JAN 20 2017

Mr. Chip Beckett, CRCOG Chairperson
Capitol Region Council of Governments
241 Main Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Mr. Beckett,

Thank you for your letter regarding the Department of Public Health's (the "Department") local health integration proposal. The Department appreciates your concerns, values your input and looks forward to continuing the conversation about this important initiative.

The Department's mission is "to protect and improve the health and safety of the people of Connecticut by: Assuring the conditions in which people can be healthy; Preventing disease, injury, and disability; and Promoting the equal enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, which is a human right and priority of the state."

In keeping with that mission, the Department's proposal addresses the need to provide all Connecticut residents with local access to full-time public health services. In addition, it will empower health districts to increase purchasing power with grant eligibility, generate revenue by standardizing fees for services, ensure that adequate resources are available to provide all Connecticut citizens with basic health program services, and improve health equity.

I appreciate your fiscal concerns. This proposal does not seek to burden municipal budgets. There are several funding levels and mechanisms currently under consideration, including budget-neutral options. Regardless, this proposal seeks to create self-sustaining districts.

The current proposal does not seek to reduce local control and authority. Each municipality in a health district will have a seat and therefore a voice on the Governing Board. In addition, the proposal does not envision a large commercial complex housing all district staff. Rather, public health districts will retain local public health physical infrastructure and staff as necessary to properly deliver local public health services. In sum, the proposal seeks to improve upon the public health foundation that is currently in place.



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I appreciate that you have questions and comments regarding various aspects of the proposal. We are currently working on changes to the proposal that should address some of the concerns that have been brought to our attention by you and others. At this point, it would be premature to discuss in further detail your specific concerns and specific details of the proposal while it is in the process of being revised and vetted through the proper legislative channels. I intend to keep you and other interested officials informed on the changes to the proposal as it moves forward.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and other public officials to improve public health for all Connecticut citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Pino".

Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner

cc: Lyle Wray, CRCOG Executive Director