

WLAD FOURTH QUARTER 2014

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

Each program has a duration of 30 minutes

Each program has aired on the date indicated from

0730 – 0800

Connecticut Radio Network Dialogue 2014 Guests and Subject Matters
(October, November, December)

October 5th, 2014 - Dr. Matthew Cartter - State Epidemiologist.

Subject Matter: On this edition of Dialogue State Epidemiologist Dr. Matthew Cartter discussed different health concerns. He told that the Centers for Disease Control have confirmed 13 cases of the Enterovirus D68 in the state. Dr. Cartter says Enterovirus really started picking up in Connecticut in early September. He also pointed out that people shouldn't think that the 13 confirmed cases are the only ones as they are only testing the most seriously ill patients. Dr. Cartter says all of those confirmed cases have been children who have been hospitalized with respiratory illness. So he says they are just measuring the tip of the iceberg. Cartter says the vast majority of people who get this infection just come down with a common cold and don't develop difficulty breathing, don't need special treatment, or hospitalization.

Dr. Matthew Cartter says there are many Enteroviruses out there but this particular one Enterovirus D68 seems to be more likely to be associated with serious illness resulting in hospitalization. He says this is especially true in children who have a history of asthma. Cartter says it starts out as a common cold but some children (especially those with asthma) can develop difficulty breathing which requires hospitalization. He pointed out that so far in Connecticut all those who have been confirmed with Enterovirus D68 have done well, as though they were hospitalized ... they have recovered and were released. That is not the case in other states where there have been deaths told Dr. Cartter, including one in neighboring state Rhode Island. But Dr. Cartter says we need to keep things in perspective in that it is a rare event. He told listeners that if their child has a history of asthma and develops a respiratory illness with difficulty breathing that it's very important to call their physician right away. Dr. Cartter says there's no vaccine for Enterovirus D68, as patients are given supportive treatment until the Enterovirus runs its course.

A major problem in the world right now is the outbreak of the deadly Ebola

October 5th, 2014 - (Dr. Cartter continued) - virus in West Africa. State Epidemiologist Dr. Matthew Cartter told listeners what we are seeing there is unprecedented as there has never been an Ebola outbreak this bad. He told that the first Ebola outbreak was documented in 1976 and there have been about 25 Ebola outbreaks since then, but none of them ever reached the level of this current one. Dr. Cartter says in this outbreak there is urban transmission in West Africa. He explained that prior outbreaks occurred in rural areas where it could be isolated and stopped. But Dr. Cartter says there is widespread urban transmission this time.

Dr. Matthew Cartter urged listeners to be very aware of what's happening because with a person returning from Liberia in West Africa with the disease to Dallas protocols to deal with this disease have to be in place at hospitals. The victim in Dallas ultimately died from the disease and there was also a breakdown in diagnosing the severity of the situation. The man came to the hospital on a Friday ... was sent home ... and later came back on Sunday when he was admitted but eventually succumbed to the Ebola disease. Dr. Cartter says this Dallas situation was a seismic event because it shows that a traveler can bring back the virus and all acute-care Connecticut hospitals and healthcare facilities now have to be ready because it could happen here. He says they've been working with local health departments because if this ever occurs here the patient would have to be quarantined and those who have come in contact with the patient be isolated. Dr. Cartter says the Ebola virus is spread through bodily fluids and not through the air. So he says this has to be handled with precision to prevent spread of Ebola.

On a more normal seasonal occurrence Dr. Matthew Cartter discussed the upcoming flu season. He told that the best defense against the flu is to get a flu shot. Dr. Cartter urged people not to wait saying that October and November are good times to get a flu shot before it hits. He says typically influenza season in Connecticut starts in late November and peaks in February and March ... but there have been years when the flu has hit as early as October and November, so don't wait. Dr. Cartter says you don't want to get the flu as with it you have fever, cough, muscle aches, headache, and you feel like you've been run over by a truck. He says a flu shot can either prevent illness or make illness much less severe.

October 12th, 2014 - Douglas Schwartz - Director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

Subject Matter: On this week's Dialogue show Douglas Schwartz, Director of the Quinnipiac University Poll discussed their new poll of likely Connecticut voters on the governor's race in Connecticut. He told the new poll showed Republican gubernatorial nominee Tom Foley has lost his 6 point lead that he had in the September poll over Democratic incumbent Governor Dannel Malloy. Schwartz says the race is now a dead heat. He explained that recent debates between the two candidates which had gotten pretty nasty, as well as the campaign ads by Malloy had drawn him even with Foley. Schwartz says the attacks by Malloy have been more effective than Foley's attacks on Malloy. He explained the reason for this is people have already formed an impression of Governor Malloy but there are still many voters who don't have a firm impression of Tom Foley. So Schwartz says when Malloy attacks Foley it can hurt his image as they have seen in this poll.

Q-Poll Director Douglas Schwartz says more voters now have a negative opinion of Tom Foley than they did a month ago, while meantime there hasn't been much change in Malloy's numbers. Schwartz says it's accurate to say that the more voters have seen Tom Foley the less they like him. Although he adds this poll is more reflective of Foley's numbers coming down a bit ... not that people are suddenly loving what Malloy's doing. Schwartz says people are not wild about either candidate with both having negative favorability numbers. He added that Malloy as an incumbent governor with negative favorability numbers is vulnerable and if the Republicans came up with a strong candidate who could take advantage of that and become an acceptable alternative they could win. But Schwartz says it doesn't appear that Foley has been able to capitalize on that vulnerability of a weak incumbent as he is not that positively viewed either with a mixed rating. He says about 20% of the people they asked still have not formed an opinion on Foley and what direction that goes in may well decide the race.

Now Douglas Schwartz did point out that there is a 3rd candidate in the governor's race – Joe Visconti. He tried for the Republican nomination, lost to Tom Foley, but then went out and got enough petition signatures to get on the November 4th ballot. In the latest Q-Poll Schwartz told that Visconti got a fairly high 9% for a 3rd party candidate. The Q-Poll director says this may be because

October 12th, 2014 - (Schwartz continued) - the voters are not enamored with either Malloy or Foley. Schwartz also told that Visconti got 9% despite the fact that over 80% of the voters said they don't know much about him.

Q-Poll Director Douglas Schwartz also touched on the fact that the campaigns by Malloy and Foley have both gotten negative. He says most people already have formed an opinion of the incumbent Governor Malloy. Schwartz says what will be key is whether Foley can define himself to voters as the choice for governor ... or will he be defined to voters as the bad business owner who put factory workers out of their jobs as he's portrayed in Malloy's campaign ads.

October 19th, 2014 - Tom Foley - Republican Gubernatorial Nominee.

Subject Matter: This week on Dialogue the guest was Republican gubernatorial nominee Tom Foley. The recent polls on the rematch governor's race between Foley and Democratic incumbent Governor Dannel Malloy have it being a dead heat between the two. Foley told on the show that people are clearly divided between him and Malloy. He says it's a clear choice on whether people think Connecticut is making progress or do they feel Connecticut is falling behind under Governor Malloy. He says if they feel the state is falling behind they want a new governor. Foley says he has offered a very clear change in direction both from a policy and a tone point of view. He feels Connecticut should be doing much, much better economically and in many other ways for its citizens. Foley says he knows Connecticut is a blue state with Democrats outnumbering Republicans on the voting rolls with Malloy appealing to the unions in the state and urban mayors and their urban projects. So Foley told that rather than govern for everyone, Malloy is showing that he is governing for his base. But Foley says with the Independent voters and Republican voters ... that is a majority which he is aiming to get in his corner when people go to the polls on Election Day.

Tom Foley on the show told that Connecticut has not done well under Governor Malloy and that's why a change is needed to elect him instead. He says Connecticut has one of the worst economic growth rates in the country at only 1% since Malloy was elected governor. Foley says Malloy raised taxes upon taking office 4 years ago across the board and hasn't gotten control of spending and so

October 19th, 2014 - (Foley continued) - will have to raise taxes again if he's reelected. He also doesn't feel what he calls Malloy's "corporate welfare" policy by giving companies like Jackson Labs and other First Five recipients huge tax breaks and money with the promise of creating jobs in the state is working. Foley in fact said it's dumb on the show and told that the state is spending billions of dollars on these companies and not getting the return on jobs.

On education Republican candidate for governor Tom Foley says the state needs to address underperforming schools, as the state has the largest achievement gap of any state in the country. He feels an A-F grading system is needed for schools so that parents know whether or not their children are in a decent school. Foley says then they could choose a different school in the district for their child. But ultimately he told they need to make these schools better.

In campaign ads and in the debates Governor Malloy has painted Tom Foley as a wealthy businessman with a yacht and an airplane, not understanding the way the average person lives. Foley told on the show that's because Malloy is a former prosecutor trying to discredit people and be divisive. He doesn't feel it's a responsible way to act ... but added that it's politics. Foley however doesn't feel the voters will buy it and instead look at him as a good leader and good family man because it's not un-American to have worked hard and attained wealth as a result ... pointing out that Senator Richard Blumenthal is immensely popular and one of the richest Senators in Congress.

Tom Foley also told that after the Sandy Hook tragedy where 26 children and educators were killed, it would have been a different bill that became law if he were governor then. He says instead of stricter gun controls he would have focused on the core problem which was a mental health problem that went unaddressed with the shooter. Foley feels the law that was passed doesn't make anyone safer in Connecticut.

October 26th, 2014 - (Schwartz continued) -

Now in their latest Q-Poll the petitioning candidate Joe Visconti registered 9% as to whom people said they'll be voting for. That is a considerable number and Q-Poll Director Douglas Schwartz was asked if he thought that number would hold up taking valuable votes away from the major party candidates Malloy and Foley. Schwartz told that those voters who say they are going to vote for Visconti are indicating that because they don't like either Malloy or Foley and plan to vote for Visconti ... even though they admit they don't know much about him. However Schwartz says history shows that 3rd party candidates lose their support as you get to Election Day because ultimately people don't want to feel like they wasted their vote. Although he says when it comes to Visconti's supporters their second choice is split between Malloy and Foley, so it doesn't seem that either one gets the advantage over the other if Visconti supporters change their minds.

November 2nd, 2014 - Pat Wrice - Executive Director of Operation Fuel.

Subject Matter: On this week's show Pat Wrice, Executive Director of Operation Fuel, talked about gearing up for the winter heating season and being able to help some less fortunate Connecticut residents pay their heating bills. Ms. Wrice told that Operation Fuel had a first of its kind joint meeting with the state's utilities and fuel banks. She says it was very helpful. Wrice explained that Operation Fuel doesn't operate in a vacuum and they insist that anyone who asks for their help to go to the state funded programs first through the community action agencies. She says if they don't qualify then they can turn to Operation Fuel for help or if they have exhausted their benefits.

Pat Wrice of Operation Fuel told that for the winter heating season they'll start taking applications for help starting on December 1st. She advised listeners that they could call 211 to apply for help. Wrice says most applicants will need assistance paying their oil bill. But she says they'll accept people seeking any type of assistance such as helping to pay an electricity bill, gas, or even a cord of wood. Wrice says their plan is to put 2 million dollars in the winter program and they expect quite a demand if this winter is anywhere near as cold as last season. She advised that to be eligible for the program people's incomes can be up to 60% of

November 2nd, 2014 - (Wrice continued) - the state median household income. Wrice says for a family of four that is roughly an income of 60-thousand dollars a year. The executive director of Operation Fuel says they can get help with any one of their utilities or energy costs with a onetime maximum grant of up to 500 dollars. Wrice told that they already spent over a million dollars during the summer program and those families and individuals that they helped this summer cannot come back to Operation Fuel for another year. So she says they will be seeing brand new clients during the winter months.

On the show Operation Fuel Executive Director Pat Wrice told that soon they'll be issuing a report on the energy affordability gap in Connecticut. She says that is the gap on what people have to pay for energy costs versus what they can afford to pay. Wrice says last year that gap was roughly 22-hundred dollars a household. She told that there are about 300-thousand families in that gap with many trying to pay their energy costs at the expense of other basic needs like food or medications. Wrice says Operation Fuel has been around for 37 years and she started there 17 years ago, and in that time energy costs have gone through the roof.

Operation Fuel Executive Director Pat Wrice told that their job is a year round situation these days. She explained that the state has a no-freeze policy whereby residents cannot be shut-off during the winter. But Wrice told listeners that those bills continue to accumulate and come May 1st when the no freeze winter shut-off policy ends those people are often backlogged with bills to pay. She told that over the past few months during the summer they provided about 1.1 million dollars to over 27-hundred households to people needing energy assistance. Wrice says what the state really needs ... which Operation Fuel is pushing lawmakers on ... is a discounted utility rate for the disadvantaged with a forgiveness component.

November 9th, 2014 - (Strayer continued) - Entune car system was rated the best brand on the market for error free reliable computer technology.

Dr. David Strayer says with this study they took a scientific approach as to what degree drivers are distracted by using the computer technology in cars ... rather than just using intuition. He says it's clear that if you take your eyes off the road for more than 2.5 seconds it is literally impaired driving and increases immensely the crash risk. Dr. Strayer says it generally takes 4-seconds to look at a text message. He told that posting to social media or looking at a streaming video take much longer creating a potentially dangerous situation while driving. Strayer says with more and more electronic technology in vehicles they are starting to look like the cockpit of a plane rather than a car. Dr. Strayer says all of these can distract the driver from doing the number one thing they should be doing which is keeping their eyes on the road. He did say though that technological advances in safety areas do help like lane departure warning beeps if a driver drifts out of their lane and rear window cameras in some newer vehicles. Dr. Strayer also told that with technology advancing ... 20 to 30 years from now we could have autonomous cars that drive themselves ... although that will take a lot of adjusting to he says.

November 16th, 2014 - Carolyn Treiss - Executive Director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women.

Subject Matter: This week the guest on Dialogue was Carolyn Treiss, the Executive Director of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women. On the show she discussed a report on women in the workforce that was done of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women by the Institute for Women's Policy Research. One of the key areas the report looked at was Connecticut working women's earnings. Ms. Treiss told that on the positive side the report found that women in Connecticut fair very well overall, ranking 4th in the country on an index of their employment and earnings. She also stated that the wage gap that exists has narrowed. However Treiss added that while that's great news there's still a lot more that needs to be done as it's happening at a snail's pace. Treiss says the wage gap is still at 78 cents on the dollar and although the wage gap has narrowed, it's done so at a fraction of a cent a year.

November 16th, 2014 - (Treiss continued) -

Carolyn Treiss says as more and more women have entered the workforce, states like Connecticut have done a good job at acknowledging the existence of a wage gap and responded to the data with policies that have helped women achieve better wage equity. However Treiss says there is still a lot of bias and discrimination that still exists in the workplace. She told that as a state agency the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women cannot mandate private employers' business practices. Treiss says one of the things they hope this report will do is illuminate the fact that while things have improved ... the wage gap still does exist. She told that the wage gap was even worse for African-American and Latino women at 53%. Treiss says what they also have found is that just because more women are working in managerial posts at companies, it doesn't mean that they are getting paid the same as men in those occupations. In fact she told that in the science, technology, and medical fields women are paid staggeringly lower than their male counterparts ... sometimes about half as much.

Carolyn Treiss of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women says there's no doubt that women have made strides in the workforce with more women in the workforce and more women-owned businesses on the rise in Connecticut. But she wanted to convey to listeners that there's still a long way to go. Treiss says a lot of people believe discrimination against women does not exist anymore and that women are basically equal. She stated people feel that with women doctors, lawyers, and a woman Lt. Governor that women must be equal. But Treiss says the main takeaway from this report is that it shows women are not equal and there is more work to be done.

Ms. Treiss says one area where more work needs to be done is in helping working women find affordable childcare. She did say there are some good programs in Connecticut for low income women trying to access childcare so they can work, but those programs don't meet the needs of women not working 9 to 5 jobs. Treiss pointed out that women represent 57% of minimum wage workers. On the plus side she praised the state for being the first in the nation to escalate the minimum wage to eventually \$10.10 an hour and for passing paid sick days. Next Ms. Treiss says they'd like to see PAID family and medical leave legislation passed and become law in Connecticut.