

WAXB THIRD QUARTER 2014

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

Each program has a duration of 30 minutes

Each program has aired on the date indicated from

0600 – 0630

Connecticut Radio Network Dialogue 2014 Guests and Subject Matters

(July, August, September)

July 6th, 2014 - Denise Merrill - Connecticut Secretary of the State.

Subject Matter: On this week's show Secretary of the State Denise Merrill was the guest and she discussed the upcoming August primaries and other election topics. She told that on August 12th there would be statewide races on the Republican side for governor between party endorsed candidate Tom Foley being challenged by State Senator John McKinney. Meantime there would also be a 3-way primary for Lt. Governor on the GOP side. Merrill says other local state representative and state senator primaries were also on the ballot. She says getting out the vote is key for these primaries as voting turnouts have hovered only around 25% sadly. So the candidate who can get their voters out to the polls has a golden opportunity. Secretary of the State Merrill also told that there would have to be a special election for state representative in the 122nd district where State Representative Larry Miller died suddenly and so that election is to choose his replacement.

Secretary of the State Denise Merrill meantime says for the fall election in November a lot of incumbents are not running for reelection in the general assembly. She told that after the November election 14% of the general assembly will be new, which is a big number and a big turnover in one election cycle. Merrill attributes this to the times not being very good and many incumbent lawmakers having decided not to run again after having had to cut the budget all the time.

One of the people looking to get on the fall ballot is Jonathan Peltó from the Mansfield area as an Independent candidate for governor. Secretary of the State Denise Merrill explained that Peltó needs to get roughly 7,500 signatures to get on the ballot. She however told that the real challenge is to get the citizens election fund money, which is a higher bar for 3rd party candidates having to go through more hoops and hurdles than the majority party candidates to qualify for the funding. Merrill says in addition to getting money in small contributions to prove that they are a viable candidate, 3rd party candidates also need to get 110-thousand

July 6th, 2014 - (Merrill continued) - signatures on petitions to get public financing. Merrill told that when the law was passed they had to have a balance to make sure they weren't giving money and grants to people who weren't legitimate viable candidates. She said you didn't want to attract people who just wanted the money. But she concedes that it is hard.

These days the majority of the candidates in both parties use public financing for their campaigns. Even Republican candidate for governor Tom Foley who is a millionaire is using public financing this time. Secretary of the State Denise Merrill says it really does level the playing field and has enabled people to run who aren't millionaires and run a viable campaign. Of course the Supreme Court ruled that candidates could also get contributions from independent entities and organizations. Merrill told that she is not sure anyone could have foreseen the incredible escalation of the amount of money being spent on campaigns ... as it has quadrupled in just the last decade. She pointed out that here in Connecticut we had a U.S. Senate candidate Linda McMahon spend 50 million dollars on a race.

July 13th, 2014 - Karen Jarmoc - Executive Director of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Subject Matter: This week on Dialogue Karen Jarmoc, the Executive Director of the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, discussed the high number of domestic violence related homicides that have occurred in Connecticut already this year. With a woman killed in Bridgeport allegedly by her ex-boyfriend that brought the number of domestic violence related homicide deaths to 10 in Connecticut this year ... already more than all of last year when there was a total of 9. Ms. Jarmoc says they are perplexed at the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence to try and understand why Connecticut has exceeded the number of homicides that occurred last year when we are only midway through this year.

Karen Jarmoc explained on the show that what the coalition has been working really hard to do is continuously convey the messages to folks in Connecticut about risk factors. She says there are certain situations that occur

July 13th, 2014 - (Jarmoc continued) - especially when a relationship is ending that are red flag warning signs where violence could occur as a result. Jarmoc says when a breakup is occurring, a court case is coming up, there's a child custody issue, a loss of a job, the conveyance of harming themselves or somebody else, and especially if someone has access to firearms during these situations they are all times that can become very dangerous very quickly. She says these are times when someone who is in a contentious relationship should be aware that help is available from any of the 18 domestic violence agencies across the State of Connecticut to ensure their safety. Again Jarmoc emphasized that if someone is in a contentious relationship where a person has access to firearms it increases the chance of homicide by 5 times. She told that firearms continue to be the number one use of force in domestic violence homicides here in the State of Connecticut.

Karen Jarmoc also advised listeners that in many of these domestic violence related homicide cases it did not start with physical violence. She explained that it started with the power and control, harassment, sometimes stalking, threats or putdowns, or belittling. But even if it doesn't start with physical violence it can turn on a dime into a very violent outcome. So Ms. Jarmoc says they want to convey to people that those types of behavior could be the start of something very dangerous and that it's not too early at that stage to reach out and talk to someone. Jarmoc says there are 18 domestic violence safe house opportunities here in Connecticut. She told that they have been consistently at 98% capacity over the past year or two, so a lot of people are calling for help. Jarmoc says they serve an average of 60-thousand victims a year. She says it's not just providing a shelter for someone who is being abused, it deals with all aspects of safety planning. Jarmoc says it could help with a restraining order, being an advocate in court, or counseling the victim.

Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence Executive Director Karen Jarmoc says one of the things being looked at is closing a loophole in the law to keep guns away from those who have had temporary restraining orders placed on them. Right now it only applies when a permanent restraining order is placed on an individual. But Jarmoc says it is during this critical 2-week timeframe after a temporary restraining order has been placed where the former spouse or partner uses their gun to exact harm on the person taking out the temporary restraining order. Connecticut U.S. Senators Richard Blumenthal and Chris Murphy have

July 13th, 2014 - (more Jarmoc continued) - introduced an amendment to a bill in Congress to do that. Jarmoc says it is needed to take the firearms away from the perpetrator during this extremely dangerous volatile time for the victim.

Going forward Karen Jarmoc says they would like to get more help available for children who have witnessed domestic violence. She says they will also be launching a Spanish-speaking hotline for victims of domestic violence that will be up and running by September. Jarmoc says the current English speaking hotline can be reached 24/7 at 888-774-2900. She added that a physical person is there ready to take the call of someone who needs help no matter the hour of the day.

July 20th, 2014 - Kevin Borrup - Associate Director of the Injury Prevention Center at Connecticut Children's Medical Center.

Subject Matter: On this week's show Kevin Borrup, Associate Director of the Injury Prevention Center at Connecticut Children's Medical Center discussed the recent wave of incidents in which children have been left alone in hot cars. A 15-month old baby boy tragically died in Ridgefield when his father forgot to drop him off at daycare and went to work leaving the boy in the hot car all day with tragic consequences. Mr. Borrup told on the show that each year we see unfortunately 40 to 50 deaths of kids in hot cars nationwide. He explained that it doesn't take a very hot temperature outside for this to happen. Borrup pointed out that the first 3 deaths were in California and it was only 70 degrees out at the time. He explained that what happens is inside the vehicle the temperature rises about 20 degrees every 10 to 15 minutes. Borrup says a child, especially a very young child, is 5 times more vulnerable to these increases in heat than an adult. He says at a certain point a child's body can no longer equalize temperature to keep themselves cool and their body shuts down. Borrup told that inside a car in direct sunlight in 80 degree weather (according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) it can hit up to 131 degrees. He says in 100 degree weather the temperature inside the vehicle can be over 170 degrees inside. Borrup advised that rolling down the window 1 or 2 inches doesn't do anything to really prevent that rapid temperature rise.

Kevin Borrup with the Injury Prevention Center at Connecticut Children's

July 20th, 2014 - (Borrup continued) - Medical Center told listeners on the show that the message to parents is you NEVER leave your children alone in the vehicle. He says parents will say to them ... well I'm just running into the convenience store to just grab something quick ... but Borrup says take your kids with you. In Connecticut a person could face a felony charge if they leave a child under the age of 12 in a car alone. Borrup says with these hot car deaths about half of them are where parents forget ... they're going to work and forget the child in the car unintentionally. Another 30% of the hot car deaths he told are where a curious child gets in an unlocked car and then can't get out. So Borrup says that cars need to be locked to prevent that type of tragedy.

Another dangerous place for children Kevin Borrup explained on the show is around water ... pools, lakes, rivers, and streams. He says first of all choose a place to swim that is protected such as a pool where an adult is watching or a guarded natural body of water. Borrup says don't allow kids to go in rivers or places where there are warning signs as there's a reason why those signs are there as it could result in a drowning. As for the pool he says the most important thing when kids are involved is that an adult needs to be watching that pool ... all the time. Borrup says watching means actually watching, not with someone's back to the pool having a drink but actually watching the water. He says you need to designate a "water watcher" and then switch off with another adult every so often taking turns actually supervising the water. Borrup says a drowning can happen in a split second and often times it happens silently, not like in the movies where there is a lot of splashing.

On the show Kevin Borrup also spoke of other dangerous situations for kids during the summer trauma season such as on a bicycle or skateboard. He says a child should always be wearing a helmet to prevent head injuries and that the parent should be wearing a helmet too to set the example. Kids riding all terrain vehicles unfortunately often lead to injuries or tragedies. Borrup says they feel that any kid under the age of 15 should not be riding an ATV. He told that tragically many accidents occur each year in one's own driveway where a person accidentally backs over a child. Borrup urged people to always look around a vehicle for a small child before backing out of a driveway. He also told that children falling out of open windows occur all too often as well in the summertime with people trying to get fresh air. Borrup says many times a child falls right

July 20th, 2014 - (more Borrup continued) - through the screen. He says screens are designed to keep bugs out, not keep children in. Borrup says parents need to get window guards so that the window can only be opened 4 inches or less so a child can't fall out.

July 27th, 2014 - Alok Bhatt - Spokesman for the Connecticut Immigrant Rights Alliance.

Subject Matter: On this Dialogue edition Alok Bhatt, Spokesman for the Connecticut Immigrant Rights Alliance, discussed the dramatic influx of children from Central American countries of Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala into the U.S. and what role Connecticut should play in helping ease the crisis. Mr. Bhatt says parents in these countries are sending their children off to travel over a thousand miles to find a better life. He explained that where these children live there's gang violence that's been increasing with Honduras being the murder capital of the world as he puts it. So Bhatt says poverty and violence are the circumstances that are driving these children to the U.S. border. These children have been coming across the border with the U.S. border patrol finding most of them. They are being housed along the border with stark conditions and hundreds of children being kept in concrete block buildings with no idea where they are going or what will happen next ... so it is a huge problem says Bhatt. He feels in large part the response of the federal government has been inadequate.

The federal government has been asking states to help out and take some of these children, at least on a temporary basis. Initially in the State of Connecticut there was a proposal to use the old Southbury Training School. Governor Dannel Malloy at first said he didn't feel that was a proper place ... but now the administration has relented a bit and said that they are willing to look at some facilities after having talked with the federal government. Alok Bhatt told that the initial rejection invoked much disappointment among the members of the Connecticut Immigrant Rights Alliance and local communities. He says they are appreciative that the governor did relent a bit, but still feel more needs to be done. Bhatt says aside from state agencies there are people on the ground such as private homes, churches, and local municipalities that can help in transitioning these

July 27th, 2014 - (Bhatt continued) - children into safe and hospitable facilities. Bhatt says the state's response should be comprehensive and holistic in using all of the resources to transition these children. He says he believes the State of Connecticut should go above and beyond in accommodating these children and insuring their well being and safety ... whether they have ties to the United States or not. Bhatt also doesn't think it will cost the state much given the federal assistance and help from charitable organizations.

Alok Bhatt of the Connecticut Immigrant Rights Alliance pointed out on the show that this is a refugee crisis ... separate from illegal immigration. He stated that this is on a level with the Jews escaping the holocaust with similar circumstances, people fleeing awful conditions and coming to find a safe haven. Bhatt says it is not people coming here just to seek opportunity or a better life ... this is children coming here out of life or death circumstances. He says the root causes are the conditions in Central America that need to be changed and he thinks the United States needs to play a pro-active role in doing that.

August 3rd, 2014 - Vicki Veltri - State Healthcare Advocate.

Subject Matter: This week's guest on Dialogue was State Healthcare Advocate Vicki Veltri. She discussed the State Insurance Department's recent denial of a number of rate hike requests that were sought by several insurance companies including Anthem. Ms. Veltri told that she had requested a hearing on Anthem's rate hike proposal. She says she sought the hearing because they had made an agreement with the State Insurance Department a few years ago that if a carrier filed a rate increase in excess of 15% that a public hearing would be called for. Veltri says they asked for public hearings on all of the carrier's rate hike requests because they felt it was in the public interest to ensure that every filing was heard through a public process.

State Healthcare Advocate Vicki Veltri told that healthcare for everyone is a necessity and in fact healthcare coverage is a legal requirement now. Veltri feels that consumers really need to play a part in understanding how the process works for rate review and how the rates are set and having a voice. She says it's really like utility rate reviews on rate hike requests, which is an open public process

August 3rd, 2014 - (Veltri continued) - where questions are asked out in the open. (Note: Veltri says she expects Anthem to come back and re-file their request with a lower increase after being denied).

Recently the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that two for-profit corporations with sincerely held religious beliefs do not have to provide a full range of contraceptives at no cost to employees pursuant to the Affordable Care Act. Those two companies are Hobby Lobby, an arts and crafts chain, and Conestoga, a cabinet making company. State Healthcare Advocate Vicki Veltri joined U.S. Senator Richard Blumenthal asking Hobby Lobby (which has stores in Connecticut) to allow its Connecticut workers to have full insurance coverage for contraceptives despite the U.S. Supreme Court ruling. Veltri and Blumenthal feel that Connecticut law should be respected. Veltri told on the show that the Institute of Medicine has stated they feel the issue of unwanted pregnancies is a public health concern. Veltri says she agrees and in her view the Supreme Court decision eroding protection for getting the full range of contraceptives as prevention could really trigger a public health concern for women. She feels that when you balance an employer's religious views against women's public health ... public health should win.

As for helping the general public, anytime a person in Connecticut gets a rejection notice from an insurance company about a claim the Healthcare Advocate's number for contact information is on that notice. Vicki Veltri talked about the process which starts after they are denied. She says they call the Healthcare Advocate's office where personnel there evaluates the case and then assigns it to a case manager. Veltri told that their case managers are all clinically trained being nurse consultants or a licensed social worker on staff. So she says they can use their clinical expertise background to determine whether or not an insurance company or employer made the right decision in a case and evaluate medical records and information to support an appeal of the rejection. Veltri says unfortunately only 5% of people appeal these insurance company denials. She told listeners on the show that you should appeal because mistakes are made. The state's healthcare advocate says it is a complicated process but well worth the undertaking. Veltri told that they saved consumers 9.6 million dollars last year and since 2001 it is upwards of 60 million dollars ... which they are very proud of.

August 3rd, 2014 - (more Veltri continued) - Veltri told that in recent times they have also spent quite a bit of time educating people about the Affordable Care Act and helping people navigate through the Access Health CT website and enrollment process. State Healthcare Advocate Vicki Veltri told listeners that if they had any questions about the Affordable Care Act or enrolling, or have been denied an insurance claim to contact her office. She says by phone it is a toll free number 1-866-466-4446 or they can email the office at healthcare.advocate@ct.gov. Veltri pointed out that all of their help is free!

August 10th, 2014 - Fodei Batty - Assistant Professor of Political Science at Quinnipiac University.

Subject Matter: On this week's Dialogue show Fodei Batty, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Quinnipiac University, discussed the deadly outbreak of the Ebola virus in Western Africa. Professor Batty, whose native country is Sierra Leone where the Ebola virus has hit along with other West African nations like Liberia, Nigeria, and Guinea, says this is the worst outbreak ever. He told that earlier outbreaks in the Congo region of Africa were relatively isolated, but this outbreak has occurred in densely populated areas. Professor Batty says over a thousand people have contracted Ebola with the death toll extremely high. Two aid workers from the United States contracted the Ebola virus and were brought back to the United States in Atlanta for treatment.

Professor Fodei Batty says the people in these West African countries are terrified. He told that it has changed the habits of people completely. Batty says people there are generally friendly hugging each other in the streets ... but no more. He says now there is a lot of distrust with people fearful of letting others into their house for fear of someone carrying the virus into their home. Professor Batty also told that for quite a while at the beginning of this Ebola outbreak people didn't trust the government there. He says residents saw people being sent to the hospital with Ebola ... but not coming home and dying there. Batty told that the people viewed this as a way for the government to kill people via the Ebola virus, so people didn't want to go to the hospital. He says this just added to the infection rate. Now Batty says there has been a big public health campaign over various

August 10th, 2014 - (Batty continued) - forms of media so there is a high awareness of the disease. The World Health Organization has also said that they are going to pump 260-million dollars into treating the Western Africa Ebola outbreak with doctors and medicines. Batty is hopeful that with the World Health Organization totally focused on the Ebola outbreak that the tide will soon turn.

Quinnipiac University Professor Fodei Batty is very concerned about the long term impact after the Ebola outbreak is gotten under control. First off he explained that the recent history has not been good for Sierra Leone – just coming off an 11-year civil war, and Liberia – just coming off a 14 year civil war. Batty told that these two countries were just starting to recover infrastructure-wise from these civil wars and now the Ebola outbreak happens. Of course he says the economic impact could be devastating with a reluctance for tourists to go to these countries. Batty also explained that agriculture could take a beating too as upwards of 60% to 70% of people in these countries rely on farming and many produce cash crops for exports that could be greatly affected. So he says the bad publicity from these Western African countries having this infectious disease could have a devastating economic impact long after the outbreak is gone.

August 17th, 2014 - Kevin Sullivan - Commissioner of the State Department of Revenue Services.

Subject Matter: On this week's show State Revenue Services Commissioner Kevin Sullivan talked about the annual sales tax free week that was just beginning in advance of the back to school period. Commissioner Sullivan explained that during this week purchases of clothing and shoes individually valued at less than 300-dollars are tax free. He pointed out that many retailers also run promotions this week lowering such things as coats that normally cost over 300-dollars to \$299 so these items qualify for being purchased tax-free. Sullivan says it's a great way for the retailers to get somebody into their store to make a purchase that they might not otherwise make. Now Sullivan told listeners that this tax break only applies at the retailers' stores in Connecticut, but not for online purchases. He says it has to be purchased at a location in Connecticut. Sullivan explained that sales tax free week is both beneficial to the consumers that don't have to pay the state sales tax,

August 17th, 2014 - (Sullivan continued) - and beneficial to the retailer because more often than not the consumer makes more purchases than the one intended item. So Sullivan says you have that multiplier effect. Now he says having sales tax free week does mean about 7 to 9 million dollars in lost sales tax revenue for the State of Connecticut. But he says he's not sure the state actually "loses" because if this strengthens the business income and the viability of the retailers and the state's economy is stronger it is well worth it.

Another area though is not particularly strengthening the state's economy told State Revenue Services Commissioner Kevin Sullivan. That area he says is online sales because the majority of online retailers do not charge the state sales tax. Sullivan says Connecticut is losing out to the tune of 100-million dollars as a result of online retailers not collecting the state sales tax on internet purchases. He says it's certainly not fair as brick and mortar stores do have to charge Connecticut's sales tax. Sullivan told that there was a bill before Congress to make it a level playing field to make it mandatory for online retailers to have to collect state sales taxes ... but while the U.S. Senate passed it, it went nowhere in the U.S. House of Representatives. So there's still not much progress on this issue he said.

On the show Commissioner Sullivan also talked about a "main street revenue trends" study that his department has been conducting for the past 6 months to see how Connecticut's economy is trending following the recession. He explained that with recessions Connecticut tends to get in late, but deep ... and comes out of it later. But Sullivan says all the signs now are that Connecticut's economy has turned around as sales taxes, withholding taxes, entertainment taxes, and real estate conveyance taxes are all very positive. He says this data shows and should convince people to understand that there is improvement in Connecticut's economy. So Sullivan stated on the show that if you are a businessman sitting on an opportunity to invest or hire people, the prospect is positive to do so now here in Connecticut.