

WAXB FOURTH 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

(October, November, December)

October 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> ballot. In the latest Q-Poll Schwartz told that Visconti got a fairly high 9% for a 3<sup>rd</sup> party candidate. The Q-Poll director says this may be because

October 12<sup>th</sup>, 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 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 26<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - Douglas Schwartz - Director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

Subject Matter: On this week's Dialogue Quinnipiac University Poll Director Douglas Schwartz was back to give an update on the close governor's race in Connecticut. He says they took another poll and it is still neck and neck in the race between incumbent Democratic Governor Dannel Malloy and Republican candidate Tom Foley. He told that Malloy has taken a one point lead over Foley in this latest poll. There is a 3 point margin of error statistically in their poll so it is still a horserace right to the finish for these candidates facing off again ... just like 4 years ago when Malloy won in a nail biter.

Q-Poll Director Schwartz told that while their latest poll shows a very tight race with Malloy and Foley .. you always want to be the candidate that's ahead, which in this latest poll Malloy is by 1 point. He also says you want to be the candidate with the momentum approaching Election Day. Schwartz says even if it's statistically insignificant ... it is psychologically important for that side that is moving ahead. This latest poll showed Malloy at 43%, Foley at 42%, and petitioning candidate Joe Visconti at 9%. So Schwartz says it's still a cliffhanger but the overall trend is now favoring Malloy. The Q-Poll director says the reason for this is Foley started out with a 6 point lead back in September and now Malloy has pulled slightly ahead. Schwartz also told that the favorability ratings in their poll shows that the more people get to know Foley the less they like him. He says people started off with a positive view of Foley, then went down to a mixed view, and now in their latest poll for the first time – more voters have a negative view of Foley than a positive one.

Douglas Schwartz feels the campaign attacks by Malloy and the debates between the two have turned people's opinion about Foley. The Q-Poll director says the way Malloy has gone after Foley was the one path Schwartz felt Malloy had to change the dynamic in the race. Schwartz says up until September the dynamic was the economy not being very good and people were unhappy about it, or the taxes that were raised which was hurting Malloy. He says Malloy in essence said to voters that while you might not be wild about him, do you really want to turn over the governorship to Tom Foley? Schwartz says what Malloy has done with some effectiveness is layout what he sees as the flaws in Tom Foley.

October 26<sup>th</sup>, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - Dr. David Strayer - A Cognitive Psychologist working with the Triple-A.

Subject Matter: On this week's show Dr. David Strayer was the guest. He is a cognitive psychologist with the University of Utah who worked in conjunction with the Triple-A to do a study on distracted driving. They focused on the hands-free systems within cars today. Dr. Strayer told that their study showed that even though people are not using their hands with these systems ... as they are voice commanded ... they've found that some of these systems still wind up being a fairly big distraction to drivers. He explained that there was a push to try and keep the driver's eyes on the road and their hands on the steering wheel which brought in the voice-based technology so people could talk to their car. Dr. Strayer told that the act of talking is fairly mentally engaging and when you're trying to communicate with a computer as (opposed to a person) that ups the ante with the workload driving people to more distraction. He says the reason for this is the same parts of the brain that are responsible for talking are also important for driving, navigating, and knowing where you are on the road. Dr. Strayer says lots of times with these systems there's also errors in translation by the computer in the car from what the driver requested. He says that adds to the frustration and distraction. Strayer says they've had people that wanted to adjust the radio and it adjusted the temperature instead.

Dr. David Strayer told that in their study they rated the existing hands-free systems in vehicles based on the distraction level. He says the distractions ranged from a numeric low level distraction level of a 1 to a high distraction level of a 5. Dr. Strayer told that listening to an audio book was at a low level of just over a 1. He explained that talking on a hand-held or hands-free cell phone is a 2.2 on the distraction scale. Dr. Strayer pointed out that there's no difference between hand-held or hands-free cell phones as the brain is engaged in phone conversation in both cases and there's no real safety benefit for one over the other on the distraction level. He says when you try and talk to your car or phone to send a text message or email message using voice based commands that pushes the distraction scale to a little over a 3. Strayer, working with the Triple-A said those trying to communicate with Apple's Siri voice computer were distracted to a 4 level because of miscommunication lots of times from what the computer Siri thought was being asked for frustrating drivers. Dr. Strayer did mention however that the Toyota

November 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.

November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 - John Elsesser - Town Manager of Coventry, and Secretary of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities.

Subject Matter: On this week's Dialogue show the guest was John Elsesser, who is the town manager of Coventry, but also the secretary of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. On the show Mr. Elsesser discussed a report by CCM called "Disproportionate Burdens – Major Challenges Facing Connecticut's Poorer Communities." Some of the towns on the list might surprise people as it includes not just the bigger cities like Hartford, Bridgeport, New Haven, and Meriden ... but also suburban towns as well like Derby, Killingly, West Haven, and Enfield that people wouldn't think were distressed. Mr. Elsesser told that these towns need more attention from the state. He says the main reason is that local communities are so dependent on the property tax and at some point there's not the ability to raise property taxes to cover the social needs. Elsesser says education is funded primarily through property taxes. He explained if that is taking up 75% of the town budget there's not a lot left to address social needs in these distressed municipalities. Elsesser says you have higher incidents of crime and non-traditional family structures that need support.

John Elsesser of CCM told that local municipalities' having to rely strictly on property taxes is really difficult. He says the property tax is based on the value of the land and the property ... but not the ability to pay, especially as Connecticut ages. Elsesser says Connecticut has people who have owned houses for a long time, and while they may be considered asset rich, they don't have income. He says the problem is you just can't keep raising taxes because you can raise the mill rate, but you may not collect more. Elsesser says properties can go into default which leads to abandoned properties and all the blight issues that go along with abandoned properties. So he says they need to find ways to get alternative and more equitable means of funding government.

CCM Secretary John Elsesser told the conclusion of their report is that the State of Connecticut should realize that it has a moral and economic imperative to provide more assistance to these distressed towns. He also added that it's a legal responsibility too because the state constitution requires the State of Connecticut, not the towns, to fund education. (There is a court case coming up in January regarding this).

November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 - (Elsesser continued) -

John Elsesser says with 169 cities and towns in the state there also needs to be a greater emphasis on regionalism. He says towns are working on that with the state's help. The CCM secretary gave the example of towns sharing a broadband pipeline and software services. Right now though he says they don't really have a funding mechanism to support regions ... so they need to create new ways to work together. Elsesser says some of these might be very unpopular in Connecticut known as the land of steady habits. For instance he told that we have more school districts than we have towns and asked is that efficient? Mr. Elsesser told that in his area, Coventry and other area towns got together and created a regional health district to drive the cost down and improve the service level. So he says more regionalism is needed like that where towns collectively work together to get higher quality at lower cost. Elsesser says they need to create incentives to make local and state government more efficient.

CCM's John Elsesser says even in tough fiscal times where there might not be a lot of extra dollars to help out distressed towns, you at the very least have to establish priorities. He says you have to pick targeted areas of investment and create solutions to address the problems ... or they'll get worse. For instance, Elsesser told that they need to work with the state community college system and technical schools to train people for the jobs in high tech manufacturing and at Electric Boat where people are retiring and there aren't qualified people to take their place.