

WAXB FOURTH QUARTER 2016

ISSUES AND PROGRAMS LIST

Each Program Has a duration of 30 minutes

Each program aired on the date indicated from

0600-0630 hours

Connecticut Radio Network Dialogue 2016 Guests and Subject Matters  
(October, November, December)

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 - Gian-Carl Casa – President and CEO of the Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance.

Subject Matter: On this show Gian-Carl Casa, President and CEO of the Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance, discussed the state's decision to save money by closing down state-run group homes and transferring care of the residents to nonprofit agencies. This was being done by the state in its budget cutting process because of the deficit. The Department of Developmental Services announced more than 400 layoffs and the transfer of people in group homes to the private sector nonprofits, which are a part of the Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance. Gian-Carl Casa on the show was asked if this was a good thing or a bad thing. He told that he thinks it's a good thing both for their organization, good for the taxpayers of the state as it will save money, and it's good for the clients who will get high quality services. Casa explained that this is not necessarily something that is new because right now there are about 740 state community residences and there are about 34-hundred residents of community nonprofit run residences. So he says it's just an extension of a policy that's been going on. Casa says it will save considerable dollars for the State of Connecticut over time, and they feel the quality is as good, if not better, than what the state residences are providing people. He says the operators of the homes will switch from the state to community providers. As far as cost savings, Casa explained that it costs about \$265-thousand dollars per individual to care for them per year in a state government run residence, versus in a nonprofit residence it will cost the state about \$113-thousand dollars per year per individual ... so that's a \$152-thousand-dollar difference per individual.

Connecticut Community Nonprofit Alliance President and CEO Gian-Carl Casa told that the individuals in these homes are clients of the Department of Developmental Services who have developmental disabilities. He says they are being cared for in the community as the U.S. Supreme Court felt that keeping people in the community is better for them and that they respond better to residential treatment in a community setting.

Gian-Carl Casa says in the past once people have been transferred into a

October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 - (Casa continued) - nonprofit community residence, the families and the people themselves tend to be happy with the transfer. But there were some families that feared the switch from the familiarity of what their loved ones were used to, might be detrimental to their family members. However, Casa says the proof has been that community providers deliver high quality services and at a lower cost than the state can. He says the state is facing a deficit for the fiscal year beginning next July 1<sup>st</sup> of just over a billion dollars. Casa says the question really is how much can the state do to care for its citizens who are most at risk, who are most vulnerable, and most in need of care. He says it doesn't seem like a viable option anymore for the state to take care of them, when his members are providing a viable option ... and can do it at less cost to the state.

October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Jonathan Harris - State Consumer Protection Commissioner.

Subject Matter: On this show State Consumer Protection Commissioner Jonathan Harris discussed the growth of the state's medical marijuana program since it was implemented 2 years ago. Harris told that when the medical marijuana program first started 2 years ago there were not even 700 patients ... but now they have 13,509 which is a tremendous growth. He also says there's been an increase in the number of physicians that are certifying patients for medical marijuana use. Harris told that there were just about 80 doctors when it started in September of 2014 and now there are 547 physicians certifying medical marijuana use in the state. So he says the program is growing, maturing, and progressing.

State Consumer Protection Commissioner Jonathan Harris says the demand for medical marijuana by patients in Connecticut is up. He says the program began with 6 dispensaries and is increasing to 9 now. He says the state still has 4 producers of medical marijuana. Harris also pointed out that Connecticut was the first state in the nation to put together a pharmaceutical model. He says that means they regulate medical cannabis the same way they regulate any other drugs, with actually tighter security as to who can enter facilities.

Commissioner Harris says there have been a few expansions in the state's medical marijuana program, and one that just went into effect October 1<sup>st</sup> is it expanding to children. He says minors will now have access to medical marijuana for 6 very serious conditions that include epilepsy, cerebral palsy, cystic fibrosis, irreversible spinal cord injury, and end of life situations, where unfortunately the minor will be passing away. Harris says it's more difficult for minors to get access

October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Harris continued) - to medical marijuana, because instead of having just one physician to certify that they have one of the debilitating conditions, they will need their primary care physician and a physician with expertise in the particular debilitating disease to also sign off on it, as well as a parent. He told children having access to medical marijuana had been discussed for a couple of years and they understand people's concerns, but Harris says this is just giving minors another choice for medicine that has been shown with research to provide relief from pain and underlying disease conditions. He says before now, people have had to leave the state to find that relief for their children ... but now that alternative is here for them in the State of Connecticut.

Also effective on October 1<sup>st</sup> hospitals, universities, and medical marijuana dispensaries now can apply for medical marijuana research proposals and submit them. Commissioner Jonathan Harris says they've had a lot of interest in research here in Connecticut. He says they've come from some of the producers of medical marijuana, some of the state's institutions of higher education, and from some of the dispensaries. Harris says Yale University has been leading the way on this. He explained that one of the challenges of medical marijuana programs that physicians and other healthcare providers were concerned with, was the lack of scientific evidence that we've had for other pharmaceuticals. So Harris says Connecticut is the first state in the nation to have a formal structure for research and they will be taking applications to approve research in medical cannabis. He says they'll be licensing the employees of the research. Harris says this is really important because it will provide more evidence of the positive effects of medical marijuana and also provide the state with more jobs. He also pointed out that this is not people smoking huge marijuana joints like in a Cheech and Chong movie, this is medicine with 85 chemicals in the cannabis plant that help people with serious illnesses. Harris says this research will help to provide better healthcare and choices to people suffering from these diseases. He explained that less than 30% of the medical marijuana dispensed in Connecticut is smoked. Harris says marijuana medicine through the program comes in many forms such as oils for vaping, for cooking, topical oils, eyedrops, gel caps, pills, and other edibles. So he says the innovation has been tremendous for medical marijuana to treat people with debilitating diseases like cancer, HIV/Aids, and Parkinson's disease. Harris says the program started with 11 diseases eligible for medical marijuana, and has now increased to 22 diseases for adults and 6 for minors.

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Mick Bolduc - Epidemiologist with the State Department of Public Health.

Subject Matter: This week's Dialogue show gets everybody ready for the flu season coming up with epidemiologist Mick Bolduc from the State Department of Public Health. He says the best protection from getting the flu is to get a flu shot. Bolduc told it is recommended that everyone 6 months of age and older get a flu shot on a yearly basis. He says the flu can actually happen throughout the course of the year, but it normally starts ramping up in October and November, so now is the perfect time for people to get their flu shot. Bolduc says the flu really hits the very young and very old hard, so it is especially important for these populations to be vaccinated on a year basis. He says though that really everyone needs to get a flu shot, because you never know when you're going to be exposed to the flu. Bolduc says if you've never had the flu, you never want to get it, because it'll hit you like you've been run over by a truck. So, he says you don't want to get it if you don't have to and the best protection is a flu shot.

Mick Bolduc told that health officials try to predict what flu strains will be in the U.S. during the fall and winter months based on what strains have been in the Southern hemisphere during the summer, which is their flu season. He says it's kind of a guessing game and they then come up with the vaccine to combat those strains. Last year the vaccine was very effective, but not every year is a perfect match. Nevertheless, Bolduc says that flu vaccine is going to give you some protection no matter what. He told the flu is a severe illness that causes hundreds of thousands of hospitalizations each year. Bolduc also says over the last 4-years there have been over 500 children that have died from flu complications. So, Bolduc says the flu is not something to be fooled around with, as it can result in severe consequences leading to pneumonia and even death. He noted that for those ages 65 and older there is a high dose formulation that gives them the maximum protection.

One kind of flu vaccine epidemiologist Mick Bolduc told will not be available this year is the flu mist, which had been good for children who don't like needles. Bolduc explained that the Centers for Disease Control looked at the flu mist's effectiveness for the past 3-years and found that it just wasn't effective ... with only a 3% effectiveness rate last year. So, they decided that for this year the flu mist will not be used, and injectable vaccine is the only flu vaccine available in the United States. Bolduc says they will continue to look at making the flu mist

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Bolduc continued) - more effective, but until they can it will no longer be offered. But he said there is certainly no shortage of the injectable flu shot as manufacturers have made 160-million doses, which is plenty to go around.

Mick Bolduc told on the show that they always get asked when should people get their flu shot so they'll be protected. He says their recommendation is the same that the CDC recommends, which is get it as soon as vaccine is available, because you don't know when you are going to be exposed to the flu. Bolduc says even if you get your flu shot in August, it will protect you throughout the course of the flu season. He says the flu season here generally runs from October to May with it normally peaking during the months of January, February, and March. Bolduc also told that there are vaccines out there now that are egg-free for those people who are allergic to eggs. He says once you get your flu shot it normally takes 10 to 14 days to give you protection. State epidemiologist Bolduc also shot down a myth, as just that a myth, that you could get the flu from getting a flu shot, that cannot happen he told. He says during the flu season it's a good idea to wash your hands frequently to avoid spreading germs ... and if you should unfortunately get the flu, don't go to work or school and expose others to this serious disease. So, get a flu shot Bolduc says so you hopefully won't be in that predicament.

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 - Doug Schwartz - Director of the Quinnipiac University Poll.

Subject Matter: On this Dialogue edition Quinnipiac University Poll Director Doug Schwartz discussed how things were shaping up as we got nearer to Election Day ... focusing on the big presidential race between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump. He told there is a statewide U.S. Senate race in Connecticut between incumbent Senator Richard Blumenthal and Republican challenger State Representative Dan Carter, but the last poll they took had Blumenthal 30 points ahead. So, it seems pretty certain that Senator Blumenthal is going to win his re-election bid to the U.S. Senate. Given that, Doug Schwartz told that they decided to focus on the presidential election, and doing polls nationally with the focus on the most important states that could go either way, called swing states. He says they first started focusing on swing states with their polling in 2008. Schwartz says here in Connecticut, like in the U.S. Senate race, the presidential race is expected to go blue ... with Democrat Hillary Clinton taking

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016 - (Schwartz continued) - the state.

Q-Poll Director Doug Schwartz says this presidential election has certainly heightened the interest in polling. He says the key swing states the Q-Poll was focusing on were Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Colorado, Iowa, Virginia, and Georgia. Schwartz pointed out that sometimes one key state can be the difference as it was in both the 2000 and 2004 presidential elections. George W. Bush won both of those, but Schwartz reminded listeners that if Al Gore had won Florida in 2000 instead of Bush, Gore would have been president ... and in 2004 if John Kerry had taken the state of Ohio, Kerry would have won the presidency instead of Bush. As of this time Schwartz told that in 4 of the key swing states Clinton was up in Florida and Pennsylvania, but Ohio and North Carolina were toss-ups. He also stated that in this race there have been more big developments than he can ever remember from week to week that can sway people's votes ... from Trump's crude comments on an Access Hollywood bus on how he took advantage of women sexually to Clinton's emails sent on an unsecured private server while she was Secretary of State.

One thing Q-Poll Director Doug Schwartz was asked about on the show was if it was possible that due to the wild statements Donald Trump has made in the campaign, if people the Q-Poll contacted might be too embarrassed to admit that they were going to vote for him. Schwartz told that he didn't think there's a good chance of that occurring because in the presidential primaries before this the polls were very accurate with Trump supporters not shy about telling pollsters that they were voting for their candidate Trump.

Q-Poll Director Doug Schwartz says one thing that was a bit different in this presidential election between Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump was that all 3 debates were must-see TV for people. Lots of times in the past people have tuned into the first debate and then interest waned in subsequent debates. Schwartz says usually debates tend to reinforce preexisting dispositions, and you normally don't see much change. But in this election year he says we've seen more movement than usual. Schwartz told also that things which have come up in the 3 debates have tended to be stories all through the week that could sway people's opinion on the candidates. He says these are two historically unpopular candidates with people possibly deciding on the lesser of 2 evils.

October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Denise Merrill - Connecticut Secretary of the State.

Subject Matter: On this Dialogue show Secretary of the State Denise Merrill got listeners up to date on what they needed to know for Election Day ... just days away on November 8<sup>th</sup>. First of all, she told they needed to be registered to vote and that the deadline to register in advance in Connecticut was November 1<sup>st</sup>. Merrill urged people to do that because she expected long lines on Election Day with well over 2 million people registered to vote in Connecticut, a record amount for the big heated presidential election between Democrat Hillary Clinton and Republican Donald Trump. She explained that before the in advance deadline of November 1<sup>st</sup> people had different options in which they could register to vote. Merrill told they could do it online through the online voter registration system if they have a Connecticut driver's license or a state I.D., people could also mail-in an application form which they could get from the Secretary of the State's website or their local town, and maybe the easiest way they could just go down to their local town hall to the Registrar of Voters office and register to vote in person. Merrill also noted that these days people are also registering to vote at the DMV when they get their driver's license ... so that's also another way people have signed up to vote in this election year. She in addition told that Facebook promoted a voter registration drive for 2-days and 15-thousand additional people registered in 2-days through Facebook ... so social media has also helped out in getting people registered to vote. Because of the record number of voters registered, Merrill expected a big turnout on Election Day for people voting. Though she also reminded people that it's not just the presidential race, that there's also a U.S. Senate race in Connecticut, all of the U.S. House of Representatives are up for re-election, and all of the state senators and representatives too. Merrill says these are people that will be making big decisions that affect our towns. She urged voters to go to [www.myvote.ct.gov](http://www.myvote.ct.gov) to check that they are properly registered to vote and find out their correct polling place so they don't go to the wrong one on Election Day. She told that some people move and even if it's moving in the same town, their voting place may have changed.

Now Secretary of the State Denise Merrill told that if people did not register in time by the November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, they could register to vote on Election Day itself at their local town hall and then vote there. But she said there could be long lines, so she encouraged people to register before Election Day. When voting on Election Day, Merrill also reminded people that they would need to show some identification, though in Connecticut it does not have to be a picture I.D., as it

October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Merrill continued) - could be a utility bill just to show that they live at the address registered. If people need to vote by absentee ballot, Merrill told they would need to provide a reason, with the most obvious being they wouldn't be in their voting district on Election Day to vote in person.

Many states these days have early voting, but Secretary of the State Denise Merrill says Connecticut does not unfortunately. She says she would love for the state to have it, and in fact got a measure on the ballot in 2014 for people to vote on allowing Connecticut to have early voting ... but it was turned down by the voters. Merrill says maybe people didn't understand how good it would have been to have early voting and cut down on the long lines on Election Day at the polls in especially a presidential election year. So, she thinks it might be worth another try. Merrill also says she'd be in favor of our country having a national voting holiday to make it easier for people to vote. One thing that Merrill emphasized on the show however was the fear that our voting system could be hacked could not happen ... because the voting machines in our country are not hooked up to the internet. In Connecticut, she told we have optical scanners that count the votes with a paper trail verification.

November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Linda Dixon - Department of Children and Families Administration.

Subject Matter: This week's guest is Linda Dixon, an administrator with the Department of Children and Families, as November is national adoption awareness month. She told that a focus of the month was on child specific recruitment. Dixon says it's an intensive, individualized, tailored approach based on the child's specific needs, background, strengths, and interests. She explained that general recruitment is about raising public awareness on the needs of children in foster care and needs of youth waiting to be adopted. Dixon told that this is done through the use of billboards and public service announcements.

For child specific recruitment, Linda Dixon says there are elements that focus on an individual child. One is what they call "intensive case mining" which involves sitting down with a child and finding out about past and current relationships that the child has had to see if one could be a permanent resource for the child. Dixon says no stone is left unturned as this is very intensive in terms of time, which can take a couple of days because it is a comprehensive assessment. She told that they also have what's called a heart gallery that has photos and stories

November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Dixon continued) - of children seeking to be adopted. Dixon says they also use social media to find relatives and permanent connections for kids. She explained that it is definitely a less traumatic experience for a child to go with a relative or someone they already know. The DCF administrator told that in the past 5 years they have about doubled the amount of children who are with relatives and have significantly reduced the number of kids in institutional care.

DCF Administrator Linda Dixon told that for people interested in becoming either temporary foster parents or adopting a child for life, they should call DCF at 1-888-kid-hero or go to [ctfosteradopt.com](http://ctfosteradopt.com). She told they'll have a background check done, they'll provide training and support, and prospective parents will have to meet some licensing requirements. Dixon says the training takes about 12 weeks and so from start to finish it would normally take about 4 months to get someone fully licensed. She says they make every decision on a case by case basis on evaluating whether someone is suitable to be an adoptive or foster parent. So Dixon says if people have enough love to spare and they call the DCF, they will sit down with them and explore all options. She says they don't discriminate based on sexual orientation or marital status ... so you can be single, married, a straight or gay couple. Dixon says you have to be age 21 or older and be financially stable and be in good health to keep up with kids. Dixon says time and time again they hear from their families that have adopted kids, telling them that it is the most rewarding experience to impact a kid's young life and that they would do it again. Dixon says these families are actually their best recruiters. She noted that there are financial subsidies for adoptive parents including health care and for college. Dixon told that last year they had 465 adoptions.

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Dr. Ken Long - Professor of History and Political Science at the University of St. Joseph in West Hartford.

Subject Matter: This week on Dialogue Dr. Ken Long, Professor of History and Political Science at the University of St. Joseph gave his views on the results of the presidential election in which Donald Trump surprised and stunned everyone winning the election over Hillary Clinton. Dr. Long told listeners that this is very much a change election with a lot of voters fed up with politics as usual ... which played very well into Donald Trump's hands. He says even when Trump went off script and would say some off-color things, a lot of voters viewed that as proof that

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Long continued) - Trump was indeed not a politician. Dr. Long told that many in America had an overwhelming frustration with politics as usual and a sense that it is not working for us, first and foremost economically. He says Trump did very well in Rust Belt states which were feeling years of high unemployment, as well as in rural areas of the country that are struggling a great deal.

Much of Donald Trump's campaign had a lot of talk that sounded to a lot of people like hatred ... hatred of immigrant groups, minorities, disrespect for women, and disrespect for elected officials. So there certainly was no politeness to things that he said. But Dr. Ken Long says Donald Trump's supporters had the feeling that things are not going well in this country and politicians are not doing anything about it. He says right-wing leaning voters feel that way about the Black Lives Matter movement and violence associated around it, and the terror strikes in Orlando, Paris, and Brussels. Long also acknowledged that these people also feel that Democrats always side with minorities or people looking to get something out of the government, rather than siding with them – normal working people.

Dr. Ken Long told on the show that we can't lose sight that the presidential race was an unpopularity contest. He says the polls misled that Hillary Clinton was in the lead the whole way. Long says Trump's candidacy was in many ways a guilty pleasure. He feels a lot of Trump's voters were less inclined to tell the truth about who they intended to vote for ... which is why everyone was surprised as it was thought Clinton was going to win. But Long says even though he won, Trump assumes the presidency as the least popular president-elect in modern times. He says in this race we saw most Americans seeing these candidates as unqualified, dishonest, and unreliable. Long says Trump comes in with even an enormous rift in his own party ... so it will be a challenge for him even with a Republican majority in both chambers of Congress. But despite Trump's negatives, Long says it seems that voters cared more for making a change, because what was happening wasn't working, so let's try something different.

Now that Donald Trump will be our next president, Dr. Ken Long says it will be interesting to see how he does, as he is an outsider, having never held political office ... so he will have to surround himself with people who know how to get things done in politics like Newt Gingrich, Rudy Giuliani, and Chris Christie. Long says internationally other countries will be wondering how he'll be as well, as Trump had a lot of tough talk on the campaign trail and made lots of

November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (more Long continued) - promises, many which Long doubts Trump can keep. For instance, Trump kept harping about building a wall on the Southern border to keep illegal immigrants out, and that Mexico is going to pay for it. Long says that's not going to happen and certainly this country is not going to spend tons of money to build it, as Congress won't approve it.

On the other side of the coin, Dr. Long says the Democratic Party will have to reevaluate itself losing the election by nominating a flawed candidate in Hillary Clinton, who had a lot of baggage by sending emails over a private server while she was Secretary of State. He says they basically anointed her in the primary process over Bernie Sanders. Yet Dr. Long says Sanders came within reach of her which should have set off all kinds of warning bells that she was not a strong candidate and was not trustworthy. Long says it was almost like Democratic insiders arranged the nomination ... and they paid for it when she lost the election.

November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - Themis Klarides - Republican House Leader.

Subject Matter: On this show State Representative Themis Klarides, who is the House Republican Leader, discussed the ramifications of the elections that just took place. In the state legislature Republicans, who have been in the minority for quite some time in Connecticut, made significant gains. In the State Senate, it is now a tie at 18 apiece and in the State House of Representatives the GOP has narrowed the margin to 79 Democrats and 72 Republicans. GOP House Leader Klarides says this now give them the ability to put forth their agenda and puts Democrats on notice that they'd better listen to Republican ideas because in 2-years voters go back to the polls and could decide that more Republicans need to be voted into office at the State Capitol if Democrats keep putting the state on the wrong fiscal path.

As for how Republicans made significant gains in the legislature this election House GOP Leader Themis Klarides says although Donald Trump won the presidency in the country, he still lost Connecticut by 12 points, which was at least less than John McCain and Mitt Romney lost by in the previous two presidential elections. But the real reason why Republicans did well Klarides feels is that their candidates did a very good job in knocking on doors and asking people if they felt Governor Malloy has done a good job ... and if the answer is no then they must believe that Democratic legislators have not done a good job either. She says if Democratic legislators voted with the governor, then they are just as much

November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - (Klarides continued) - to blame, and Klarides feels Republicans made that connection with voters and thus the results. Klarides says the Democrats are the ones to blame for the taxes, borrowing, regulations, and anti-business policies in Connecticut.

GOP House Leader Themis Klarides says with the new dynamic coming up in the state legislature Governor Malloy and Democratic leaders in the legislature have reached out to her and Senate GOP Leader Len Fasano, and acknowledged where the situation stands now number wise. However, Klarides says there's a difference between reaching out and acknowledging how it's changed ... because one vote could make a difference in committee votes and in the overall legislative vote. She says after the voters have spoken Republicans in the legislature will try to have their input on the budget and structural change, which they feel is needed. Unfortunately, Klarides says the GOP came to the table last session in the budget talks with 13 major structural changes and Democrats didn't agree to any of them. Aside from budget matters, GOP House Leader Klarides also hopes there will be a lot more discussion on even what bills come out of committee, because the vote margin is now so narrow.

As far as the budget goes, before the election Republicans were saying the Democrats were claiming things weren't so bad ... but that right after the election there would be bad news. Lo and behold a report did come out showing that in the coming budget the state could have a deficit of over a billion dollars. State House Republican Leader Themis Klarides says there's no gloating here on Republicans' part ... more like the response: when are Democrats going to open their eyes and take their heads out of the sand. She says Democrats cannot continue to see the dire fiscal situation the state is in, yet stand up and say everything is fine. Klarides asked how many times have we heard the governor say everything is fine and then raise taxes. She says this is nonsense and that the people of Connecticut are not going to tolerate it anymore. Klarides says the Democrats are always on a quest to find new revenue, whether it was Keno last year, and now they are talking about legalizing recreational marijuana to raise revenue. She says Democrats have such an irresponsible way of budgeting. Klarides says the state needs to start making structural changes to its budgeting process so that we don't keep facing deficits year after year and chasing red ink. She says the state needs to adhere to the spending and bonding caps and stop borrowing money.