

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)
Monday, February 23, 2015
5:00 P.M.
ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PRESENT:

Richard A. Ortoski, D.O., Chair
Carolynn Masters, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
Carla Picardo, M.D.
Reverend Nettie Smith

IN ATTENDANCE:

Melissa Lyon
Charlotte Berringer
Nicole Bolash
Valerie Bukowski
Karen Tobin

Pamela Brunner
Chelsey Ricketts
R. Anthony, Snow, M.D.
Phil Fatica, County Council
David Bruce, Erie Times News

EXCUSED:

Richard Dreyfus, M.D

GUESTS:

Gannon Nursing Students (10)
(Recorded on Sign-In sheet)
Gannon Nursing Professor Lisa Quinn, Ph.D.

- I. Call To Order:** Chairperson, Richard A. Ortoski, D.O., called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.
- Approval of Minutes: Board members accepted the minutes as recorded for October 27, 2014, on a motion by, Carolynn Masters, Ph.D., seconded by Reverend Nettie Smith. All in favor.
 - Guests: Gannon University nursing students (10) and their class professor, Lisa Quinn, Ph.D., observed the Board of Health meeting as part of their curriculum requirement.

II. Public Comments: None

III. Director's Report:

- Divisional Director Reports - Melissa Lyon, MPH, Director of the Erie Co. Dept. of Health (ECDH), presented the idea of providing the Board of Health (BOH) Members with written Divisional Director Reports in advance of the Board meetings for Members to read. This concept would provide the Members with more in depth information on the programs/projects at ECDH.
BOH requested information pertaining to any specific Divisional Director Report, would result in that Division Director being present at the Board meeting; otherwise, the Division Directors would not attend the quarterly BOH meetings. Instead, Melissa would choose a presentation topic to be shared with the BOH at the quarterly meeting.
Upon further discussion, it was decided that the April 27, 2015 BOH meeting will include both the advance distribution of written Divisional Director Reports, and all Division Directors will be present at the April 27, 2015 BOH meeting. BOH Members will decide at the April meeting what their preference is regarding information dissemination.
- CDC Letter of Congratulations - Melissa Lyon read an excerpt from the letter of recognition and congratulations received from Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH, Director of the Centers for Disease Control, on ECDH's accomplishment of becoming an Accredited Public Health Department. The ECDH's Accreditation obtainment, of being only 1 of 56 Health Departments in the USA, and the first Health Department in Pennsylvania to become Accredited, is highly recognized within and outside of Pennsylvania.
County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper and Melissa have discussed the importance of the Accreditation status for ECDH and the County of Erie.
Melissa will approach County Council for their approval to support ECDH to seek grant funds to restructure the Health Department to better serve the public of Erie County.
- ECDH Budget and Grant Fiscal Officer - Chelsey Ricketts was introduced as the Fiscal Officer for ECDH, effective on February 9, 2015. Chelsey and Melissa will work together on budget concepts in 1, 3, and 5 year increments, concentrating on diversifying revenue streams. Currently, the 2015 Program Plan, ACT 315 funding report for the PA Dept. of Health (PADOH), is the focus of attention.
- Press Coverage -
 - Healthy Corner Store - Times News front page article generated positive feedback and stated the interaction of ECDH working with other agencies to promote this healthy food initiative in Erie County.

- Go Red for Women - To celebrate Heart Health Month a press conference was held at ECDH on Feb 6, 2015 in conjunction with the American Heart Association to promote heart health in women.
- Open House at ECDH: April is County Government Month. County Executive Kathy Dahlkemper is highlighting a government agency each year; this year ECDH is being highlighted and will host an Open House. The Open House will be held at ECDH on Saturday, April 25, 2015 from 9 AM - 12 Noon. All County agencies will be asked to be present with information and an activity for the public. April also represents Public Health Week, and Earth Day Week.

IV. **Old Business:** None to report.

V. **New Business:** None to report.

VI. **Board Updates:**

- Community Health Services (CHS): Charlotte Berringer, Director, Community Health Services, presented information on the following:
 - Flu Update: The ECDH website has all the current 2014-2015 flu stats for public viewing, including the most prevalent flu types this season. Type A influenza cases have been reported the most from area hospitals and doctors' offices. Ten cases of death, for residents 65 and older, have been related to Type A influenza during the current flu season. Surveillance methods have been streamlined to provide for more accurate, timely information being reported to ECDH.
 - STD CBO Initiative - WCC: Women's Care Center (WCC) is now offering urine based STD testing for gonorrhea and chlamydia at one of their offices through this initiative. In addition to testing, they will treat the client and initiate partner contact investigations. Participating agencies get paid based on the number of tests performed. Reimbursement can be if significant if high volume testing is completed. Other organizations that were invited to the CBO STD outreach meeting last fall included neighborhood corner stores, and locations where young residents socialize, including local neighborhood centers (JFK, MLK, BTW). The target population age is 15-25 years-old. Other agencies will be re-contacted on an agency by agency basis to encourage participation in providing testing and contact investigation for the residents of Erie County.
- Environmental Health Services (ENV): Karen Tobin, Director, Environmental Division, reported on the following:
 - Food Code Updates: In 2014, Pennsylvania adopted the federal food code standards. A mass mailing was sent to over 1,400 food facilities informing them of the revised standards. In addition, facilities were provided with information on food temperature safety because the majority of food code violations are related to unsafe food temperatures. Facilities were also encouraged to be proactive and contact ECDH whenever a major event has taken place that would affect their facility (water main break, power outage, etc.). Since this information has been distributed, facilities have been contacting ECDH for information and guidance.
 - Beach App: A free Smart Phone App that will give the public real-time beach status information related to Presque Isle beaches will be available before summer 2015. Beach Grant protocols require the use of social media to keep the public informed about public beaches.
 - Growing Greener Grant: A \$366,000 grant has been obtained by Environment Erie to assist Erie County residents with repair costs associated with malfunctioning on-lot sewer systems. ECDH will partner on the grant.
 - Nuisance Bar Task Force: ECDH Environmental Division staff have teamed up with City of Erie law and code enforcement and liquor enforcement to address nuisance bars in Erie. As part of this joint effort, ECDH staff and enforcement officials jointly enter local establishments, looking for violations to close the facility. A recent inspection uncovered illegal weapons and drugs; liquor, code and food safety violations.
- Health Promotion & Quality Improvement Division (HPQI): Nicole Bolash, Manager, HPQI, reported on the following:
 - Health Education Supervisor Position: The Supervisor position has been vacant since mid-December 2014. A position posting has been on the County of Erie website three (3) separate times; two (2) postings only provided limited applicants; the current, third posting, was placed on the County website in

conjunction with a job advertisement in the Erie Times News, in anticipation of a larger pool of applicants to interview. The job posting is on the County website until 3/2/2015. This position will oversee QI at ECDH and is the Supervisor for the PADOH Tobacco grant at ECDH.

- PADOH Funding: The Cancer Division of the Tobacco Grant at the PADOH is providing an SAF for the following tasks: promote Cancer's strategic plan, host a community based awareness meeting, increase cancer objectives on the NHPA TCP Regional Coalition, and develop a SWOT analysis based on local cancer data/information. Funding allotments will be contingent upon the items completed at each functional level. More information is forthcoming.
 - Million Hearts Expo: ECDH has partnered with the American Heart Association to hold an Expo at the Bayfront Convention Center on July 18, 2015 from 9 AM - 12 Noon. Activities are in the planning stage. Nicole was requested to send info on the Expo to: David Freed, Director of Student Affairs, LECOM; and Dr. Masters, Gannon University.
 - Worksite Policy Change-Breastfeeding Support: Subsequently Available Funds (SAFs) in the amount of \$30,000, have been provided by the PADOH in the Safe and Healthy Communities (SHC) Grant to establish/strengthen breastfeeding support policies at worksites. Grant funds will be used to educate agencies on policy laws; offer mini-grants to prepare a room for breastfeeding support; and to contract with a Lactation Counselor to work with the worksites.
- Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness (EPI/PHP): Valerie Bukowski, Supervisor, EPI/PHP, presented information on:
- Ebola Update: EPI tracking of Ebola has decreased for Pennsylvania. There have been 878 travelers monitored in Pennsylvania, with 101 currently being monitored. Only one has some risk; no high risk with any of the travelers.
Ebola disease cases are decreasing in Liberia and Guinea; Ebola is still widespread in Sierra Leone. A decrease in the outbreak of Ebola translates to a decrease in monitoring in the United States.
 - Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Update: The 2015 CHNA is in progress. Focus groups are completed and include City of Corry/Union City, Albion/Girard/Lake City, North East WIC clients, City of Erie, Erie County, Harbor Homes residents, and mental health clients. The CHNA committee, consisting of area agencies and local hospitals, will be working on prioritization within the next few months with the CHNA document completed in July 2015.
 - BRFSS questions:
 - Dr. Masters asked about the BRFSS and local data.
 - A new BRFSS was not done for this assessment. Three year aggregate data from the PADOH for Erie County will be used for select behavioral indicators.
 - Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Update: The CHIP is the action plan for the priorities identified in the CHNA. With the change in leadership, the CHIP has not been effective. The steering committee is currently reviewing the organizational structure in order to encourage more comprehensive and collaborative community involvement. The goal is to include a broad cross section of community partners who will be able to work together toward common goals.

VII. Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m., on a motion byCarolynn Masters, Ph.D., and seconded by Reverend Nettie Smith.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela K. Brunner, Recording Secretary

The next Health Board meeting is scheduled for MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.