

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)
OCTOBER 27, 2014
5:00 P.M.
ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PRESENT:

Richard A. Ortoski, D.O., Chair
Richard Dreyfus, M.D.
Carla Picardo, M.D.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Melissa Lyon Mathew Elwell
Charlotte Berringer Karen Tobin
Valerie Bukowski Pamela Brunner

EXCUSED:

Carolynn Masters, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
Reverend Nettie Smith

I. Call To Order: Chairperson, Richard A. Ortoski, D.O., called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. Board of Health Minutes from July 28, 2014, had a correction noted: Laura Beckes was awarded for her work in regards to a congenital syphilis case in July 2014. Noting the correction, the Board of Health Minutes from July 28, 2014 were approved on a motion by, Richard Dreyfus, M.D., and seconded by Richard A. Ortoski, D.O., Carla Picardo, M.D., abstained.

II. Public Comments: None.

III. Director's Report: Melissa Lyon, MPH, Director of the Erie County Department of Health (ECDH), discussed the following:

- **Health Department Budget:** Erie County Department of Health's 2015 County budget proposal, as proposed by County Administration and submitted to County Council, reflects a reduction of funds for FY 2015 compared to FY 2014, while continuing to retain current staffing levels. The reduction is due to the use of Gaming Funds to support the St. Paul's Clinic and non-public health related County Prison expenditures, which were previously funded through the ECDH budget. In addition, Melissa Lyon is incorporating funding strategies to reduce County costs while maintaining public health services.
The ECDH budget also includes the request for a Fiscal Administrator. This position will assist in the further development of fiscal procedures to integrate funding and provide projected budgets in 1, 3, and 5 year increments resulting in an administrative financial system for the ECDH.
County Council is scheduled to vote on budget proposals beginning on November 25, 2014.
- **County Council Conversations:** Melissa Lyon has met with County Council members individually to get their perspective on her approach to budget improvements for the ECDH. Melissa will attend the Council budget sessions scheduled in November 2014.
- **Accreditation Status:** PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board) awarded Accreditation to the ECDH on September 17, 2014. ECDH staff were notified of the award at the ECDH staff meeting on September 18, 2014; staff worked very hard to achieve this goal. Melissa presented the PHAB Accreditation plaque to staff representatives of the ECDH during the staff meeting. Posts of the presentation were put on the ECDH Face Book page.
Accreditation status is effective for 5 years.
ECDH has been invited to assist other LHD's and the PADOH with the accreditation process and to offer advice and guidance in seeking accreditation, consisting of quarterly conference calls.
Performance Management and Quality Improvement processes are under review at the ECDH to increase proficiencies.
- **Ebola Update:** With the media coverage regarding the individuals who were on the same Cleveland flight as the nurse diagnosed with Ebola, a Public Health Preparedness (PHP) drill was assembled at ECDH with representatives from the ECDH, Erie County administration, emergency services, public safety, and authorities from local hospitals and the PADOH via telephone conferencing. During the drill, a media release was developed to inform the public that there was not an impending risk to Erie County residents. The PADOH followed up with a subsequent media release stating the same information for western Pennsylvanians.
Protocols were recently released by government officials restricting incoming flight access to the USA from Africa to 5 USA airports. Individuals on incoming flights will be given care packages and assigned a risk assessment, with follow-up over a 21 day period.

IV. Old Business: None to report.

V. New Business:

- **Board of Health (BOH) Meetings for 2015:** Board of Health members will be sent an electronic poll to select proposed dates in 2015 for regular BOH meetings. Finalized meeting dates will be sent under separate cover.

VI. Board Updates

- Environmental Division Updates (ENV): Karen Tobin, Director of Environmental Services, presented updates on:
 - Blue-Green Algae Blooms: ECDH working with PA DEP to develop local protocols on how to handle reports of algae blooms, to include who to contact, what should be done, how to protect the public, signage, etc. Blue-Green Algae Blooms have been sighted in Presque Isle Bay and along the lake front, with monitoring continuing. Water samples were collected during the summer. ECDH working on a pamphlet to educate public on phosphates and nitrates and their effects on the blue-green algae blooms to be disseminated in 2015.
 - Richard Dreyfus, MD, as part of the Erie Water Authority Board, met with representatives from Toledo, OH, to review the procedures taken when an algae bloom was drawn into the Toledo water system. Toledo's water system skims water off the surface at the intake crib, resulting with the bloom being drawn into their water system. Public notifications, along with LHD, government, and business involvement, reduced potential risks to residents and limited the water restriction to 2 days. Erie's water system intake crib is located 40-50' below the surface, making the risk for algae bloom contamination extremely minimal. Activated charcoal and chlorine were used in Toledo water system to destroy blue-green algae. Erie has a water plant that filters water using activated charcoal.
 - Beach Grant awarded from EPA for beach grant monitoring in 2015 in the amount of \$214,000. PA DEP must adopt 2012 EPA water quality criteria; a schedule for adoption is a requirement for the 2015 grant award.
 - Senate Game and Fisheries Commission hearing held on Ticks and Lyme Disease. PI and TREC and ECDH will develop educational tools for the public to ID ticks.
- Community Health Services (CHS): Charlotte Berringer, Director of Community Health Services, discussed the following:
 - Urine Based testing for Gonorrhea and Chlamydia; CDC presentation scheduled for November 5th; 90 invites were sent to local community based agencies; testing will provide greater potential to treat more disease and reduce risk exposure.
 - Syphilis is still prevalent in Erie County; Jan-Jun 2014 a total of 14 cases diagnosed, since July 2014 only 5 cases diagnosed, no new infectious cases in October thus far; contact investigations are being conducted related to primary cases that are out-of-state, but contacts to follow-up live in Erie County.
 - Ebola: Public Health Nurses (PHNs) will be identified to assist with air passenger monitoring, if/when the number of air passengers meeting criteria for monitoring rise to a threshold above where ECDH Epi staff could monitor. Influenza: No reported cases to date in Erie County. Crawford County has 16 cases confirmed as of 10/27/14.
- Public Health Preparedness (PHP): Mathew Elwell, PHP Coordinator, hired to the position on 9/2/14, has been with ECDH since 2009. Mathew has been developing relationships with staff at ECDH and community partners regarding PHP functions/processes.
 - PADOH representative recently met with ECDH PHP/EPI staff to review PHP grant objectives and budget requirements. Mathew has taken part in a functional drill and has observed a dispensing throughput.
 - Ebola is the current point of focus. The PHP team has been working with representatives from hospitals, emergency services, and transport services to insure readiness initiatives are in place.
- Epidemiology (EPI): Valerie Bukowski, EPI Supervisor, reported on the following ECDH community initiatives:
 - CHNA and CHIP: Needs Assessment required for ECDH every 5 years, as outlined in Accreditation; Assessment required for area hospitals every 3 years. ECDH will work with hospitals and community partners to complete the Erie County Needs Assessment in 2015. CHNA Advisory Committee, Focus Groups, developed the 2015 survey of questions to ask the public for the CHNA. CHIP partners have chosen to focus on obesity as the community-wide initiative.
- Health Promotion and Quality Improvement (HED): Melissa Lyon, ECDH Director, reported the following:
 - Highway Safety Network grant award notification received from PennDOT for FY 2014-2015; level funding is anticipated; official contract not yet received.
 - Health Promotion Division awarded an additional four (4) Supplemental Appropriation Funds (SAFs) totaling \$105,000 for FY 2014-2015 from PADOH: 1) Safe & Healthy Communities Grant - Million Hearts Expo (\$20,000 Erie); Breastfeeding policies in the workplace (\$40,000 Erie), and 2) Tobacco Grant - Matter of Balance (\$30,000 to Mercer County); Healthy Corner Stores (\$15,000 Erie). SAFs in Tobacco Grant provided funds to hire an additional Public Health Educator. The position will be filled in mid-November 2014.

- PADOH Tobacco and Cancer divisions partnered together to hold a Lung Force Expo in Cranberry, PA on October 17, 2014. ECDH Tobacco Grant staff helped man the Expo.
- Safe Kids Erie has transitioned to LECOM, due to ECDH funding cuts and Injury Prevention grant objectives focusing on prescription drug abuse and suicide prevention. ECDH will remain involved as a partner and a member of the Safe Kids Erie Coalition. Patricia Puline, Safe Kids coordinator at ECDH, is retiring, and has accepted a position with LECOM to be the program coordinator for Safe Kids.

VII. Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m., on a motion by Carla Picardo, M.D., and seconded by Richard Dreyfus, M.D.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela K. Brunner, Recording Secretary

Board of Health Meeting Dates for 2015 will be sent under separate cover.

Board of Health Meetings begin at 5:00 p.m.
At the Erie County Dept. of Health, 2nd Floor Conference Room