

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)
Monday, July 25, 2016
5:00 P.M.
ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PRESENT:

Richard A. Ortoski, D.O., Chair
Bishop Clifton McNair, III
Carla Picardo, M.D., MPH
Joy E. Taylor, Esq., MPH

IN ATTENDANCE:

Melissa Lyon
Charlotte Berringer
Karen Tobin
Valerie Bukowski
R. Anthony Snow, M.D.
Kathy Fatica, Co. Council
Pamela Brunner
Chelsey Ricketts

EXCUSED: Carolynn Masters, Ph.D., Vice-Chair

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairperson, Richard A. Ortoski, D.O., called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM.
- II. **Public Comments:** None to report.
- III. **Presentations:**
 - Zika Virus: Karen Tobin, Director of Environmental Health Services, Charlotte Berringer, Director of Community Health Services, and Valerie Bukowski, Epidemiology Research Associate
 - Charlotte Berringer discussed the Zika virus flyers that are being distributed locally by the Health Department, and located at www.ecdh.org, along with information available on the CDC website regarding Zika, www.cdc.gov
 - Zika virus is spread through mosquito bites from the Aedes species of mosquitos which thrive in hot climates, such as the Caribbean, Central and South America, and Pacific Islands.
 - New information from Brazil suggests the more common culex mosquito species might also be a Zika virus carrier.
 - Updated guidelines are being distributed from the CDC routinely.
 - The Zika virus is also spread through sexual contact.
 - People traveling to/from Zika infected areas could be at risk for Zika infection.
 - Persons traveling on cruise lines are receiving information on the ships and before they stop at ports regarding Zika and how to protect themselves from mosquito bites.
 - Women who are pregnant could potentially put their unborn fetus at risk for the brain defect microcephaly, or other fetal brain defects.
 - Zika virus symptoms are most commonly fever, rash, joint pain and red eyes and the infection is similar to West Nile Virus, with 80% of reported infections being asymptomatic.
 - Persons suspecting infection should speak to their healthcare provider.
 - Karen Tobin spoke about mosquito trapping and testing procedures.
 - The DEP will be awarding a grant to the Health Dept. to provide Zika virus education to the public and to set traps for the Aedes species mosquitos.
 - Information on Zika can be found on the Health Dept.'s website at www.ecdh.org and on the CDC website, www.cdc.gov
 - Zika and mosquito information will be distributed throughout Erie County, including at physicians' offices, and town hall meetings.
 - BG Sentinel traps are used to capture Aedes species mosquitos, the most common carrier of the Zika virus. Traps will be set from the first week of August thru the end of October.
 - Traps will be set at the Erie Airport, Roger Young Park, Erie Sewer Facility, in Fairview, and near high Hispanic populations.
 - All mosquitos collected will be sent to the lab to obtain a baseline of the population of Aedes mosquitos.
 - Limited rainfall may affect the quantity of mosquitos collected.
 - The PA Dept. of Health (PA DOH) provided 50 kits aimed at protecting pregnant women. Discussion is taking place with OB/GYN Associates of Erie to distribute the kits through their office.
 - Kits contain: OFF® with Deet spray, clothing protector with permethrin, Dunks® which contain natural bacteria that interfere with the development of mosquitos, and condoms.

- Valerie Bukowski discussed Zika reported cases.
 - Puerto Rico has had a high incidence of Zika reported infections; CDC is working closely with health officials. As of today, 7/25/16, there are 299 pregnant women in Puerto Rico. May see infants born with abnormalities.
 - Florida residents, who travel to visit family in countries that are Zika infected, run the risk of becoming infected or transporting the virus to the USA.
 - As of 7/25/16, the PA DOH reported 51 cases of Zika infection in Pennsylvania. Number of pregnant women in PA with Zika infection has not been reported.
 - No reported cases of Zika infection in Erie County.
 - To date, Pennsylvania has no linked birth defects related to Zika.
 - Congenital birth defects associated with Zika virus infection can be tracked antenatally, neonatally (0 to 28 days) and throughout the child's first year. Because of this, WHO (World Health Organization) and PAHO (Pan American Health Organization) have named this Zika Congenital Syndrome.
 - Utah has reported a case of Zika in a caregiver without a known reason of transmission of the virus.
 - The CDC is the best resource for up-to-date information on Zika: www.cdc.gov
- Rabies Baiting: Karen Tobin, Director of Environmental Health Services
 - Aerial rabies baiting will begin in Erie County August 21, 2016.
 - Slim silver packets, filled with live rabies vaccine, are aerial dropped throughout Western Erie County along the Ohio border.
 - Raccoons that eat the strong-smelling packets are vaccinated against rabies.
 - Children or dogs that come in contact with, or ingest the contents of, the packets could become ill with mild nausea symptoms or vomiting.
 - Information on the aerial rabies baiting is distributed through media releases, flyers in public places, area police departments, veterinarian offices, etc.
 - Health Dept. Public Information Officer (PIO) team is discussing all locations where information should be disseminated.
 - Hand-baiting will take place in Allegheny County starting August 5, 2016.
 - Allegheny staff and volunteers place square hand-baits in wooded areas, ditches, etc.
 - Erie County may conduct rabies hand-baiting again in 2017.

IV. Approval of Minutes: Meeting minutes from October 26, 2015, February 22, 2016, and April 25, 2016 were all approved on a motion from Joy Taylor, Esq., MPH, and seconded by Bishop Clifton McNair, III. All in favor.

V. Director's Report:

- Spend Down Review
 - A six-month recap of expenses was reviewed by Melissa and the division directors to provide an indication of how the 2016 Health Department budget is aligning with projected expenditures for the remainder of the County's fiscal year, which ends December 31, 2016. Upon review, there is approximately \$145,000 left to spend in the Health Department's overall budget by early November to meet the expenditures for both ACT 315 and the County budget in 2016.
- PA Budget Approval
 - The Pennsylvania budget is being signed by Governor Wolf. There has been no indication from the PA Dept. of Health that there will be a budget impasse in 2016.
- 2017 Budget Begins
 - Erie County's FY 2017 budget process will begin within the next couple of weeks. The Health Dept.'s budget for 2017 will include a line-item for Board of Health travel/training, to provide the opportunity for Board members to attend trainings that will enhance the Board of Health.

VI. Old Business: None to report.

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

VIII. **Board Updates:**

- **Division Reports - Q&A** - Formal Written Reports Provided in Advance of Board Meeting
 - Board members prefer to receive the Division Reports one week prior to the official Board of Health meeting.
 - It was recommended that acronyms be spelled out in addition to listing the acronym.
 - Discussion to clarify program status was held on: dental health; flu season, and campground regulation changes.
 - Congratulations to the Health Department for receiving 2 NACo (National Association of Counties) awards: 1) Lactation Rooms; and 2) Harmful Algal Bloom Task Force.
 - Body Art Regulations passed by County Council – thank you to Board member Joy Taylor, Esq. for her research and information sharing with the Board of Health members.
 - LECOM interns enjoy their work with the Health Dept., including the positive interactions related to communication skills and refugee translators. This will be shared with CHS staff.

IX. **Other Business:**

- On behalf of the Erie County Board of Health, Joy Taylor, Esq., MPH, will attend the NALBOH National Public Health Law Conference in Washington D.C., September 15-17, 2016. If any Board members would like information on specific topics at the Conference, they are requested to let Attorney Taylor know in advance. The Conference information will be forwarded to all Board members.
- Board members discussed their professional backgrounds and community involvement.

X. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m., on a motion by Carla Picardo, M.D., MPH, and seconded by Bishop Clifton McNair, III. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela K. Brunner, Recording Secretary

The next Health Board meeting is scheduled for MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2016 AT 5:00 P.M.

DIVISION REPORTS - JULY 25, 2016

Monday, July 18, 2016
9:07 AM

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DIVISION REPORTS

Prepared for the Erie County Board of Health

Administration Division Report

1. Old Business/Current Projects:

- a. The dental program is underway. We have sub-contracted with the Public Health Dental Hygienist who will develop the program and provide services to clients. The bid for the dental operatory has been awarded and installation will begin once the items are purchased.

2. New Business:

- a. Budget season will begin soon.

3. Future Planning/Areas of Concern:

- a. N/A

Community Health Services Division Report

1. Old Business/Current Projects:

- a. Flu season: last reported case was 6/13/16 a week earlier than last year.
 - i. 751 cases reported this season.
 - ii. Total number of cases per year since reporting started in the '03-'04 season has ranged from 55 in '11-'12 to ~1590 in '09-'10 which was the first H1N1 season.
 - iii. 34% of all cases in age group 25-49 which is unusual, but consistent with H1N1 being the primary Type A flu that was circulating this year.
- b. Zika virus: through coordination with a large OB practice, 8 pregnant women who had traveled to areas where Zika virus is occurring have been approved for testing for Zika virus. 5 actually tested, 1 was deemed a "chemical pregnancy" so was not tested. 4 tests returned so far are negative.

2. New Business:

- a. Point of Dispensing (POD) Exercise-Shingles (Zostavax) vaccine, August 15, 29 & 31 at ECDH. We have 200 doses of shingles vaccine that will expire 9/10/16. Goal is to utilize these doses before they expire.
- b. Have received final contract from PA DOH for Maternal-Child Health funding that will include implementation of a new service: Baby & Me, Tobacco Free. This is a service for pregnant women who smoke with goal of the woman quitting smoking during the pregnancy and staying tobacco free for the year after she delivers. It uses diaper vouchers as incentives for not smoking during those time frames. Start up planning is in process
- c. Staffing: 2 new Public Health Nurses started on 7/5/16. Nursing staff is now at full complement.

3. Future Planning/Areas of Concern:

- a. N/A

Environmental Health Services Division Report

1. Old Business/Current Projects:

- a. Body Art update-County Council approved revisions to our Body Art Regulations at their May meeting. We mailed the new regulations to all currently licensed Body Art establishments, ear piercing establishments, and cosmetic tattoo shops in Erie County. Key components of new regulations:
 - i. Establishments piercing only the lobe of the ear with a single use piercing gun are exempt from our regulations
 - ii. Cosmetic tattoos given as part of patient treatment under a licensed medical practitioner are exempt from our regulations
 - iii. Tongue splitting is prohibited unless performed by a physician or dentist licensed in PA
 - iv. Those interested in subdermal implants, suspension, or scarification must submit a plan for approval by ECDH. Regulations specify what must be included in the plan.

2. New Business:

- a. Zika Grant-We applied for funding under the Zika Virus Control Grant Program under PA Department of Environmental Protection. Once the funding is approved we will be setting mosquito traps at four locations throughout Erie County every week through the end of October to establish a baseline of the population count for the 2 mosquito types that can transmit Zika virus: *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus*.
- b. Greenways Grant- we were awarded \$2,400 for Lyme disease and tick awareness in Erie County. The funds will be used to print brochures and identification cards. Funds will also be used to purchase posts and hardware to install trail markers throughout Erie County at trails to increase public awareness about the risks of Lyme disease and preventive methods. This is a project of the NW PA Tick Taskforce.
- c. Campground Regulation Revisions-we are in the process of revising our Organized Camp and Campground Regulations to include Temporary Camping. We have always inspected camping activities at fairs and festivals, but never licensed them or charged a fee. The revisions add a definition of temporary camping, set requirements and give us the authority to issue a license and charge a fee for our time.
- d. Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) funding-we applied for funding to allow for the identification and mapping of Small Flow Treatment Facilities in Erie County. This will identify systems that discharge waste into the Lake Erie Watershed and prepare us for analyzing stream impacts such as bacteria counts and nutrient loading that may affect/cause Harmful Algal Bloom and impact beaches.
- e. Environmental Fee Schedule-we are in the process of revising our Environmental Fee Schedule. Revisions include fees for temporary camping and new swimming pools; late submittal of applications; follow up inspections; and increased fees. Increases are necessary to cover Department expenses. Most fees have not been increased since 2011.
- f. NACo. Award-we received a 2016 Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties in the Health Category for our Lake Erie Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring & Response Strategy for Recreational Waters. The strategy was developed through our partnership with local agencies on the Harmful Algal Bloom Taskforce.

3. Future Planning/Areas of Concern:

- a. Rabies Baiting-power point presentation to be reviewed during Health Board meeting. 2016 Flyer provided in packet. Aerial baiting for raccoon variant will occur in 2016 as it has in the past several years and is scheduled to begin in late August.

Public Health Preparedness/Epidemiology Division Report

1. Old Business/Current Projects:

- a. Telephone calls for the Erie County Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey will begin in August and continue through March 31. The Evaluation Institute for Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh, Graduate School of Public Health will conduct the survey. Approximately 1,200 Erie County adults will be contacted via telephone (near to 70% cell phone and 30% landline) and asked to complete a 110 question survey that will last about 20 minutes. Telephone numbers are randomly selected. No identifying personal information is asked. PR will be done in advance to inform residents of the survey. The Evaluation Institute will also analyze the survey results and provide a final report.
- b. Rachel Good, a Public Health student from Slippery Rock University and summer intern at ECDH, conducted a small sample (20 respondents) behavioral health survey among Latino adults at the Multicultural Community Resource Center (MCRC). This will provide a snapshot of health behaviors among the Latino population for internal use at both ECDH and MCRC.

2. New Business:

- a. Public Health Preparedness will partner with Community Health Services to conduct the Shingles vaccine POD in August.
- b. The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of healthcare volunteers who provide support for response and recovery during preparedness related events. The Northwest Region MRC currently has a membership of approximately 1,400 volunteers. It had been housed at St. Vincent Hospital since its inception but transitioned to the Erie County Department of Health on July 1.
- c. ECDH has received a \$20,000 Zika grant to strengthen information coordination, information management, and community based organization relationships.
- d. Members of the Public Health Preparedness team as well as several infectious disease nurses will participate in a full day Ebola virus and highly infectious disease training sponsored by the Bureau of Public Health Preparedness, PA DOH. Three trainings will be conducted in the Northwest Region - 1 at the 911 Call Center in Erie and 2 at Corry Memorial Hospital.

3. Future Planning/Areas of Concern:

- a. N/A

Health Promotion & Quality Improvement Division Report

1. Old Business/Current Projects:

- a. HB1844 has resurfaced in Harrisburg. Although there's been no movement on it yet, we need to keep a watchful eye.
- b. The Americorps VISTA Volunteer will start here in early August and focus on establishing a Food Policy Advisory Council for Erie County. This volunteer appointment will be about one year in duration.

2. New Business:

- a. Our mini grant program for worksite lactation space and policy. "Pumped for Work" has received one of the 2016 Achievement Awards from NACo. To date, 15 businesses have been awarded the funds.
- b. The tobacco RFP was submitted and subsequently awarded to us again. It's a 33 month contract in the amount of \$2,271,740 to provide tobacco control program services to 13 counties in the NW Region.
- c. The statewide tobacco control program has been successful in advocating for an increase in the tobacco tax. Governor Wolf approved an increase of \$1.00 in the 2016-2017 spending package.
- d. The Highway Safety Program RFP was submitted and awarded to us again as well. We negotiated a contract for \$124,000 for one year to provide services to 6 counties in the NW Region. During the negotiation call, a representative from PennDot stated that "ECDH's proposal was hands down the best they've ever seen".
- e. HPQI was awarded an additional SAF in the amount of \$63,000 through the Safe and Healthy Communities Grant, specifically for work surrounding the Million hearts Campaign. Most of the funds will be used for a youth fitness initiative in partnership with the Erie BayHawks NBA-Development League. The season-long initiative will provide education for healthy living habits through in-game activations, basketball clinics, and digital content shared on BayHawks media channels.
- f. Our Safe and Healthy (Let's Move Outside) Program is currently featured on the state health department's LiveHealthyPA website: <http://www.livehealthypa.com/>

3. Future Planning/Areas of Concern:

- a. HB1844 remains an area of concern, as it could adversely affect the funding for the tobacco control program and five full time employees.