

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)
Monday, February 27, 2017
5:00 P.M.
ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PRESENT:

Carolynn Masters, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
Bishop Clifton McNair, III
Carla Picardo, M.D., MPH

IN ATTENDANCE:

Melissa Lyon
Charlotte Berringer
Karen Tobin

R. Anthony Snow, M.D.
Pamela Brunner
David Bruce

EXCUSED:

Richard A. Ortoski, D.O., Chair
Joy E. Taylor, Esq., MPH

GUEST: Lindsay Ball, Baby & ME Tobacco Free

- I. **Call to Order:** Vice-Chairperson, Carolynn Masters, PhD, called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM. Dr. Masters asked for introductions by all present.
- II. **Public Comments:** None to report.
- III. **Presentations:**
 - Baby and Me Tobacco Free (BMTF) - Presented by Lindsay Ball
 - Objective of the program is "to improve birth outcomes by reducing tobacco use among prenatal/postpartum women". BMTF is an evidence-based tobacco cessation program whose core values are based on CDC/HHS Clinical Guidelines.
 - Program fundamentals: mothers enrolled in program will receive free \$25 diaper vouchers, with a breathalyzer test at each phase of the program. Diapers vouchers are redeemable at Wal-Mart.
 - Qualifications: Any pregnant woman who smokes; or any pregnant woman, who quit smoking within 3 months prior to pregnancy; pregnancy verification is required.
 - Women attend 4 prenatal classes; smoking cessation education and support occur at each session.
 - When the woman succeeds in quitting smoking, either by prenatal visit 3 or 4, or once she delivers the baby, she is eligible to receive her 1st diaper voucher.
 - Tobacco free support services continue monthly once the woman delivers. Each month that she remains tobacco free, as verified by CO monitor testing, she receives another diaper voucher.
 - Partner enrollment not currently available in Erie County. Where implemented, the partner, with cessation requirement, also qualifies for vouchers thereby doubling diaper vouchers to 2 per month.
 - BMTF is in 18 states with over 10,500 participants.
 - Successful health outcomes for families including reduced healthcare costs.
 - No income eligibility or age-range requirements.
 - Some states currently researching long-term sustainability of mothers to permanently remain smoke-free.
 - More information: www.babyandmetobaccofree.org
 - Erie Co. Dept. of Health (ECDH) is providing majority of funding through the MCH Grant for BMTF in Erie County.
 - An additional \$35,000 was provided by direct donations or fundraisers by: Erie Women's Fund, The United Way, and Hamot Health Foundation to support the purchase of diaper vouchers.
 - In December 2016, a training was held with area agencies to become "Enrollment Sites" or referral agencies.
 - BMTF officially began in Erie County in February 2017 with 5 Enrollment Sites: 1) Erie Co. Dept. of Health, 2) Greater Erie Community Action Committee/Head Start 3) Women's Care Center of Erie County, 4) Erie Homes for Children and Adults/Project First Step, and 5) Erie Family Center.

- ECDH enrolling home visit and clinic clients.
- Public enrollment will begin soon.
- Erie County specific data can be provided by BMTF. Board Members will be kept abreast of information.

➤ Small Flow Treatment Facilities (SFTF) - Presented by Karen Tobin

- SFTFs are individual or community sewage systems of less than 2,000 gallons per day and are required when land is not approved for standard on-lot systems.
- SFTFs are complicated and expensive; new systems range up to \$20,000 to install.
 - Financial assistance is available through Environment Erie for new and current homeowners to obtain 50% reimbursement costs for installation or maintenance of SFTFs.
 - There are 442 SFTF permits in Erie County.
- ECDH Oversight Program
 - Educate home and business owners about SFTF operation and maintenance.
 - Conduct annual inspections as available.
 - Re-inspect to ensure system compliance.
 - Annual compliance reporting to DEP and municipalities.
- Violations in operation and maintenance of SFTFs are generally due to too little/too much chlorine, effluent limits exceeded, damage to system components, and improper discharge on the ground or into streams and ditches.
 - Issues: new home owners do not know they have an SFTF and understand the operation; refusal to pay \$100 inspection fee.
 - 220 systems had reporting violations in 2016.
 - DEP is not supporting enforcement; education is stressed.
 - ECDH only has 2 Sewage Enforcement Officers (SEO) with an excessively heavy workload.
 - Not enough staff to inspect the SFTFs.
 - In 2015 other Environmental staff assisted with SFTF inspections, resulting in their work not being completed.
 - A Per Diem was hired in 2016 to assist with inspections.
 - 2017 Co. Budget proposal submitted to hire a full-time SEO, but was removed from the budget by Administration.
 - Municipalities support the need for an additional SEO; provided letters of support, but not funding assistance.
 - Discussion by Board: What is the impact on the health of the community versus securing another SEO? What are the other environmental impacts? - hazardous algae bloom growth from polluted stream run-off is an example. Board interested in receiving regular updates on SFTFs in Erie County.
- Office of Great Lakes wants PA to provide SFTF sample results and their impact on nutrient loading. A mapping grant was awarded to ECDH.
- DEP requested assistance from ECDH with sampling effluent to determine the impact on the endangered Rabbitsfoot mussel in French Creek. ECDH has the highest number of SFTFs in PA.

IV. **Approval of Minutes:** Meeting minutes from October 24, 2016 were approved on a motion from Bishop Clifton McNair, III, and seconded by Carla Picardo, M.D. All in favor.

V. **Director's Report:**

➤ Budget Report:

- Wrigley Grant - \$5,000 for dental health has been received and will be used for dental supplies.
- Erie Community Foundation Grant - \$35,000 for dental health is pending. An additional conversation about the program objectives was held with a representative of the Erie Community Foundation.

- Pennsylvania Consolidation of 4 Agencies:
 - Governor Wolf's budget proposal includes combining the offices of Aging, Drug & Alcohol, Health & Human Services, and the Health Dept.; this change is modeled after the Federal design. It is unknown what impact, if any, these combined offices at the state will have at the local levels. With funding changes, opportunities may arise.
- Public Health Preparedness Conference, April 24-28, 2017:
 - Melissa will not be attending the conference; Karen Tobin will attend and therefore be absent for the Board meeting on Monday, April 24th.
 - Update: Both Melissa and Karen **will** attend the conference, from April 24-28, 2017.

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

VII. **New Business:**

- Board of Health Election of Officers for FY 2017: Motion was made by Carolynn Masters, PhD, to retain Richard A. Ortoski, D.O., as Board Chairperson, seconded by Carla Picardo, M.D. All in favor. Carla Picardo, M.D., made a motion to retain Carolynn Masters, PhD, as Board Vice-Chairperson, seconded by Bishop Clifton McNair, III. All in favor.
- Board of Health Members Business Cards: Board members expressed interest in having business cards that designated them as Board of Health Members. Cards will be individualized for each member and provided to them.
- Board of Health Members - ID Badges (Proximity Cards) for Health Dept.: A request was made of Co. Operations to provide each Board member with an ID Badge for access to the Health Dept. when Board meetings occur. Currently, logistics are under discussion with Co. HR and Co. Operations.
- Board of Health Retreat:
 - Agenda Review and Finalization - Board members discussed topics of interest for the Retreat. A final agenda will be sent to members prior to the Retreat.
 - Date of Retreat - Saturday, May 6, 2017, 8 AM - 1 PM.
 - Confirm Facilitator: Board members reviewed two facilitator proposals, and chose the proposal submitted by Mary Bula, United Way of Erie County. Melissa Lyon will contact Mary Bula to confirm, and plan to meet with her to discuss the agenda topics and holding the Retreat at the United Way.
- Compile and share useful CDC info with Board members on Hot Topics / Copy on Important Correspondence: Board members very receptive to receiving important information that does/could affect ECDH, including national policy changes, funding opportunities/variances, legal updates, health alerts, etc.
- NALBOH Annual Conference, Cleveland, OH, August 2-4, 2017 - Theme: "Celebrating Innovations in Board Governance: the Past, Present and Future": Since the NALBOH Conference is being held in Cleveland, OH, there is a possibility that funding may be available to send more than one Board member to the conference for either the entire conference or portions of it. Board members stated that NALBOH information is not being emailed to them, so follow-up will be conducted to confirm their registration with NALBOH.

VIII. **Board Updates:**

- Division Reports - Q&A - Formal Written Reports Provided in Advance of Board Meeting
 - Flu case information gathered and reported on Tuesdays. Highest incidence of reported flu cases in many years; 48% of cases are younger adults; 11% hospitalization rate; 3 flu-related deaths in Erie County. Surveillance and education continues.
 - ECDH is partnering with PADOH and Allegheny Co. Health Dept. to distribute Rabies surveys. Surveys were given to those present at the Board meeting.

IX. **Adjournment:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m., on a motion by Carolynn Masters, PhD., and seconded by Carla Picardo, M.D. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela K. Brunner, Recording Secretary

The next Health Board meeting is scheduled for MONDAY, APRIL 24, 2017 AT 5:00 P.M.

DIVISION REPORTS - FEB 27, 2017

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DIVISION REPORTS

Prepared for the Erie County Board of Health

Administration Division Report

1. **Old Business/Current Projects:**
 - a. None at this time
2. **New Business:**
 - a. ECDH is continuing with their awareness video campaign for 2017. One idea is to highlight staff and have them say "I Love Public Health Because....." and they will fill in the blank. The photos will run monthly on social media and be compiled for April PH awareness week and at the end of the year to showcase our passion for Public Health. This initiative ties directly to the ECDH strategic plan for increasing community awareness and agency relevance.
 - b. A Gannon Professor of Microbiology is pursuing her MPH and has selected ECDH as her practicum site and project. She is working on developing base-line community/county data related to childhood lead screenings based upon clinical guidelines at 1 & 2. She would also like to develop the project beyond her practicum to potentially be published in a peer review journal. She also wants to work on HPV vaccine rate in ECDH and identify barriers why parents, physicians and children are not promoting or accepting the vaccines.
 - c. ECDH has also been approached by two SUNY Fredonia Professors to inquire about potential projects that could be researched and analyzed for the potential of publishing in a peer reviewed journal. They are considering the topic of Environmental lead/heavy metals and the impacts on cognitive development/violence. There has been one meeting, with no defined project yet determined. This is a very exciting opportunity for Erie County!
3. **Future Planning/Areas of Concern:**
 - a. Working closely with administration to request additional County support for the Health Department budget in 2018. We are requesting for flexibility of staff funding streams and consideration for additional staff. This is be a yearlong advocacy project.

Community Health Services Division Report

1. **Old Business/Current Projects:**
 - a. The Nurse-family Partnership Public Health Nurse position remains vacant. The 4th posting came down 2/10/17. Two applicants will be interviewed from this posting.
 - b. Flu season remains active with 974 reported cases through 2/11/17. Flu has been reportable for 14 seasons. If we throw out the 1 extreme high season ('09-'10, H1N1 with 1587 cases) and low season ('11-'12 with 55 cases), Erie averages 762 cases for the entire season. No flu deaths officially reported through 2/11/17.
2. **New Business:**
 - a. Public Health workforce training: 10 LECOM Pharmacy students are rotating through Immunization clinics this semester. It is expected that pharmacists roles in immunization will continue to expand and gain greater public acceptance. Also, a Mercyhurst University RN to BS in Nursing student is being mentored by the Division Director this semester.

- b. Electronic Medical Record (EMR) transition: the STD clinic has converted to a total EMR this month and TB clinic has reduced its paper record for new cases by half and continues to make progress to use of total EMR.
- 3. **Future Planning/Areas of Concern:**
 - a. None at this time.

Environmental Health Services Division Report

- 1. **Old Business/Current Projects:**
 - a. A total of 196 cases of Lyme disease have been reported for Erie County in 2016. That is up from 71 cases in 2015. Additional Greenways Funds will be used in 2017 to continue an Tick & Lyme Disease awareness campaign. Kits are being provided to school nurses; mass mailings will go out to all veterinarians and primary care physicians. Brochures, tick ID cards, and trail signs will continue to be distributed.
 - b. Two more workshops are scheduled through Environment Erie for improving septic systems. Funds are available to offset the cost of improving septic systems. ECDH presents at the workshops and assists with determining the distribution of funds.
 - c. The PA Department of Environmental Protection requested our assistance with sampling the effluent of Small Flow Treatment Facilities to determine their impact on the endangered Rabbitsfoot mussel.
- 2. **New Business:**
 - a. Recycling Centers-Areas throughout the County currently experience a lot of illegal garbage dumping at 4 County recycling drop off locations. The Environmental division will work with the County Sustainability Coordinator (housed at County Planning) to address the issue. Our new designation as Keep Erie County Beautiful will allow us to obtain surveillance cameras to monitor one site. The Sustainability Coordinator will monitor the camera feed to watch for illegal dumping. The Sheriff's Department agreed to run the license plates and identify drivers of the vehicle. ECDH will use our County Nuisance Regulations to file citations against the responsible parties. After the first couple of cases are resolved, ECDH will present the findings to the media to get the word out.
 - b. In 2016 ECDH assisted the PA Department of Health's Northwest District with the distribution of surveys to determine the public's knowledge of Lyme disease and ticks. Survey results are pending. In 2017 we have been asked to partner with them again to distribute surveys about rabies. This is a multidivisional project. Surveys will be distributed through September.
- 3. **Future Planning/Areas of Concern:**
 - a. None at this time

Public Health Preparedness/Epidemiology Division Report

- 1. **Old Business/Current Projects:**
 - a. None at this time
- 2. **New Business:**
 - a. Public Health Preparedness (PHP) will begin working on recertification of its Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) status. PPHR is a criteria-based training and recognition program sponsored by NACCHO that assesses local health department (LHD) capacity and capability to plan for, respond to, and recover from public health emergencies. PPHR aims to protect the public's health and strengthen the public health infrastructure by equipping local health departments with sustainable tools to plan, train, and exercise using a continuous quality improvement model.
 - b. ECDH PHP staff will participate in Ebola/highly infectious disease tabletop exercises within the next few months.
 - c. Epidemiology staff completed a white paper titled "Smoking During Pregnancy Among Erie County Mothers, 2012-2014" that highlights current smoking patterns among pregnant women by municipality. See full report at <https://www.eriecountypa.gov/county-services/health->

department/statistics/maternal-and-child-health.aspx

- d. The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Wellness Directory is now a geocoded interactive map. Jeff Quirk and Gannon staff worked together to develop an inter-active map of the wellness locations in Erie County. The map will be put on ECDH website after 1/27/2017 along with a press release to the media and posting on all social media.
 - e. Two highly pathogenic avian flu viruses (H5N8 and H5N6) continue to cause outbreaks among domestic and wild bird populations in countries in Europe, Asia, the Middle East, and Africa. So far, at least 24 European countries have reported H5N8 outbreaks since June 2016. The World Health Organization (WHO) has urged countries to step up their efforts to detect possible human avian flu cases. Health officials consider the H5N8 threat to humans to be relatively low, but the WHO said because similar subtypes have caused human diseases in the past, a jump to humans cannot be excluded.
3. **Future Planning/Areas of Concern:**
- a. None at this time

Health Promotion & Quality Improvement Division Report

1. **Old Business/Current Projects:**

- a. We were not one of the awardees of the *Local Foods, Local Places* technical assistance application submitted jointly with Emerge 2040. No reason was given other than limited funding versus an abundance of applications.
- b. The *Subsequent Available Funds* for the Million Hearts campaign were approved and received by PADOH for the Project Fit Program with the Bayhawks.

2. **New Business:**

- a. The Safe & Healthy Communities and Injury Prevention programs were merged into one Chronic Disease Request for Application that came out in November 2016. We submitted our proposal in January and received the award on 2/14/17. The grant will run from 7/1/2017-6/30/2020 and is budgeted at \$225,000 per year. Some of the current focus areas such as; prescription drug poisoning prevention (including the Medication Return Units) and blood pressure & diabetes self management programs have been replaced with focus areas surrounding Traumatic Brain Injury (non school sports related) and child abuse/neglect/domestic violence. Current staff have been maintained in the new grant.
- b. The AmeriCorp VISTA worker is working on establishing a Food Policy Advisory Council for Erie County, ideally to bridge some of the silos and bring farmers, non-profits, for profits, private, public and governmental sectors together to focus on (healthy) food access.
- c. The Northwest PA Tobacco Control Program is working in partnership with PA DOH, Tobacco Free Allegheny County and Tobacco Free Southwest PA to hold an LGBT Health Conference in Cranberry, PA on June 14-15th. More information including the full agenda and registration may be found at the following link: <http://tobaccofreeallegheny.org/lgbtqconference.asp>

3. **Future Planning/Areas of Concern:**

- a. The new Safe & Healthy Communities grant is funded under the Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grant (PHHSBG). This funding currently resides within the Prevention and Public Health Fund within the Affordable Care Act, the status of which remains to be determined at this time.