

**ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)**  
**Monday, April 24, 2017**  
**5:00 P.M.**  
**ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Charlotte Berringer  
Nicole Bolash  
Valerie Bukowski  
Sarah Morgan  
Ron Salisbury

K. Fatica, Co. Council Liaison  
R. Anthony Snow, M.D.  
Pamela Brunner

**EXCUSED:**

Carolynn Masters, Ph.D., Vice-Chair  
Bishop Clifton McNair, III

**GUEST:** Alex Iorio, MPH Practicum Student

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairperson, Richard A. Ortoski, DO, called the meeting to order at 4:57 PM.
  - Guest: Alex Iorio, Health Educator at the Erie County Department of Health, was introduced as a MPH Practicum Student. Her preceptor is Melissa Lyon.
  
- II. **Public Comments:** None to report.
  
- III. **Presentations:**
  - Clean Indoor Air Act and E-Cigarettes - Presented by Sarah Morgan, Supervisor, Tobacco Use Prevention Grant
    - Allegheny County passed a ban on e-cigarettes under the Clean Indoor Air Act (CIAA).
    - Philadelphia and Allegheny counties both passed legislation banning e-cigarettes in the same places as combustible tobacco.
    - There is a bill in the Senate, and an identical bill in the House, that would add banning e-cigarettes as part of the CIAA.
    - Erie County does not have any legislation regarding e-cigarettes at this time, but is seeking information on strengthening clean indoor air legislation at the statewide and local level.
      - Sarah is working with Kathy Fatica, County Council liaison for the Health Dept., to get support from County Council on improving Pennsylvania's Clean Indoor Air Law.
      - Sarah will address County Council.
    - Lack of FDA regulations regarding purchasing e-cigarettes has resulted in a 900% increase of e-cigarette usage by youth.
    - E-liquids are all different, with many of the chemicals being combustible.
      - Flavored liquids used in e-cigarettes, were not designed for inhaling (vaping)
      - Liquid nicotine can be purchased online or where tobacco products are sold
    - A motion was made by Richard A. Ortoski, DO, and seconded by Carla Picardo, MD, to support PA legislation to close the loopholes in the Clean Indoor Air Act in order to protect the health of all Pennsylvanians AND to support local legislation in Erie County, banning e-cigarettes and Electronic Nicotine Delivery System (ENDS) products anywhere that combustible tobacco is prohibited under the PA Clean Indoor Air Act.

- Blue Zones Update - Presented by Nicole Bolash, Manager, Health Promotion/Quality Improvement
  - Blue Zones initial presentation to the community was held on April 6, 2017, at the Jefferson Educational Society (JES). A polled survey provided positive response to improve the health of Erie.
    - Some Board of Health members were in attendance at the JES presentation.
  - On April 19, 2017, the Blue Zones Project was presented to the CHIP committee during a meeting held in the Admiral Room at Blasco Library. Also in attendance were community leaders who had been invited to the JES presentation and members of the public who expressed interest in Blue Zones after attending the meeting at the JES on April 6th.
  - Main points:
    - Blue Zones is an evidence-based program that has proven effective health-based outcomes.
    - Crucial that government leaders are favorable to the Blue Zones concept. Without leadership support, in government and private/public sectors, Blue Zones personnel will not recommend the Blue Zones program.
    - Costs are dependent on the size of the area to be defined as a Blue Zones. Some start-up costs are:
      - Initial costs for Blue Zones personnel to assess a city and meet with leadership over a 3-day period is \$40,000
      - A 3-6 month Readiness Assessment could cost \$300 - \$500,000, dependent on the size of the Blue Zones area and number of focus groups. A portion of these funds would be applied to the overall cost of the project
      - A conference call is being planned to discuss funding opportunities.
    - Savings in healthcare costs can range into the millions for functional Blue Zones cities.
      - Health status of Erie County is ranked as one of the lowest in the country.
    - The entire community must be ready for a change and pledge to change health behaviors
      - Blue Zones will integrate strategies into the community to include:
        - Promote plant-based diets, including restaurant menu enhancements, grocery and convenient store healthy choices at checkout lanes, establish community gardens
        - Promote walkability area
        - Encourage Moias (friendships)
  - Board members discussed various aspects of the Blue Zones program and their support of a community health initiative.

#### IV. **Approval of Minutes:**

- Meeting minutes from February 27, 2017, were approved on a motion from Joy Taylor, Esq., MPH, and seconded by Carla Picardo, MD . All in favor.

#### V. **Director's Report:**

- No report due to Melissa Lyon attending a Public Health Preparedness Conference in Atlanta, GA.

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

#### VII. **New Business:**

- Board of Health Retreat: Saturday, May 6, 2017 - 8 AM - 1 PM
  - Agenda is being finalized by Melissa Lyon and Mary Bula.
  - Mary Bula will facilitate the retreat which will be held at the United Way of Erie County.

VIII. **Board Updates:**

- Division Reports - Q&A - Formal Written Reports Provided in Advance of Board Meeting
  - STD clinics continue to be provided at ECDH two half-days per week. If there were any funding/staffing changes in the future, that could provide the consideration to expand clinics at ECDH.
  - Adagio Health is seeing clients by appointment only at this time.

IX. **Adjournment:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m., on a motion by Richard A. Ortoski, DO, and seconded by Joy Taylor, Esq., MPH. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela K. Brunner, Recording Secretary

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

# DIVISIONS REPORTS - APR 24, 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. The Blue Zones presentation at Jefferson Educational Society was well attended by over 200 people. We received 100 survey responses in strong support of a Blue Zones project in Erie. The next meeting is scheduled for April 19th @ 2:30 pm in the Blasco Library Admiral room.
- b. The Program Plan was submitted to the PADOH 4/13/2017. This plan is used to calculate the ACT 315 payments we are receiving for state fiscal year 2017.
- c. National Public Health Week was April 3-9. The Theme was Healthiest Nation by 2030. Our employee appreciation breakfast was a success, as always.

**2. New Business:**

- a. None at this time

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

- a. There are concerns that Act 315 and Act 12 State funding could be decreased for the 2017-2018 State fiscal year. This could put ECDH in a budget deficit position.

#### Community Health Services Division Report

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

- a. Reported flu for the '17-'18 season is winding down. Week ending 4/15/17 had only 18 new cases reported, and only 56 the week prior. Seasonal total is at a record breaking 2058 reported cases with 201 persons hospitalized and 7 deaths. 46% of the reported cases were 18 years older and younger. 65% were 65+ years old.

**2. New Business:**

- a. An abstract for our dental services, "*Growing Smiles of Erie County*," has been accepted as a *POSTER* for NACCHO Annual 2017 conference in Pittsburgh, PA on July 11-13, 2017
- b. Dental services have also received a \$15,000 grant from the Erie Community Foundation
- c. Baby & Me-Tobacco Free: client enrollment has started with ECDH and our community partners. Nine (9) women were enrolled. Three (3) of these did drop out during the prenatal period.

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

- a. The PA DOH has announced the revised school immunization regulations that are effective with the '17-'18 school year. The new regulations add required vaccines at entry and 12th grade. It also shortens the time a student has to comply with the regulation to 5 days. Previously it was 8 months. ECDH will:
  - Distribute reminder flyers for parents to have their children immunized before school starts
  - Add additional Immunization clinics in August
  - Provide communications through standard press and social media

## **Environmental Health Services Division Report**

1. **Old Business/Current Projects:**
  - a. None at this time
2. **New Business:**
  - a. **Additional Great Lakes Restoration Initiative(GLRI) funding**-ECDH used a \$15,000 GLRI grant for mapping Small Flow Treatment Facilities (SFTF) in Erie County and identifying the streams and watersheds they impact. Department of Environmental Protection's Office of the Great Lakes is extending our grant through March 31, 2019. This additional funding of over \$133,000 will cover all the costs of a full-time Sewage Enforcement Officer position to closely study, sample, monitor, educate and improve compliance of SFTF systems to reduce their impact on local streams and improve water quality. A presentation on the position need and funding opportunity was given to County Council on 3/30/17.
  - b. ECDH used Public Health Preparedness, West Nile Virus, and Zika funds to purchase and fill educational bags to be given away at public outreach events. Bags include literature on Zika, West Nile virus, Lyme disease, Harmful Algal Blooms, and a can of insect repellent.
3. **Future Planning/Areas of Concern:**
  - a. Proposed EPA cuts-If EPA funds are reduced, this may impact Beach Grant funds, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants, and our drinking water compliance program.

## **Epidemiology Division Report**

1. **Old Business/Current Projects:**
  - a. None at this time
2. **New Business:**
  - a. PHP team members participated in a regional emerging infectious disease workshop sponsored by the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Using Ebola as the infectious disease model, facilitators led discussions that focused on the state plan for addressing Ebola disease and how it compared to local plans.
3. **Future Planning/Areas of Concern:**
  - a. None at this time

## **Health Promotion & Quality Improvement Division Report**

1. **Old Business/Current Projects:**
  - a. None at this time
2. **New Business:**
  - a. Two PA local municipalities did not apply for the Safe & Healthy Communities grant so our annual budget was increased from \$225,000 to \$276,060/year beginning July 1, 2017 and ending on June 30, 2020.
  - b. The SHC grant received additional funds through the Million Hearts budget and is working to implement the Million Clicks program. This program, replicated from the Allentown Health Department, will install 'Job Clocks/Clickers' at 10 of the existing LMO Trails. Registrants will be given key tabs and can 'click-in' each time they walk one of those trails. We are working on trying to secure funding for a prize/incentive component.
  - c. Our 2nd year VISTA application was approved. VISTA recruitment has begun and interviews will start next week.
  - d. The QI Team has updated the QI Plan. Is the Board interested in having a copy?
3. **Future Planning/Areas of Concern:**
  - a. None at this time