

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)
Monday, July 24, 2017
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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Melissa Lyon
Charlotte Berringer
Nicole Bolash
Valerie Bukowski
Karen Tobin

K. Fatica, Co. Council Liaison
Pamela Brunner
Chelsey Ricketts

EXCUSED:

Carolynn Masters, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
Joy E. Taylor, Esq., MPH

GUESTS:

MPH Practicum Students:
Alex Iorio & Narveen Jandu

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairperson, Richard A. Ortoski, DO, called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM.
 - Guests: Introduction of two (2) MPH Practicum Students : Alex Iorio, Health Educator at the Erie County Department of Health, and Narveen Jandu, PhD, Gannon University. Melissa Lyon is their preceptor.
- II. **Public Comments:** None to report.
- III. **Presentations:** Presented by MPH Practicum Students
 - Success of Needle Exchange Programs in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia
 - Presented by Alex Iorio, Health Educator, Erie Co. Dept. of Health
 - Needle Exchange Programs were developed to keep used needles by IV drug users out of parks and streets. The used needles are exchanged for clean needles. Individual's identity is kept confidential; this provides a secure place for needle exchange without the fear of retribution from authorities.
 - This program offers comprehensive services to this population including: HIV and Hep C testing; referrals to treatment facilities; vaccinations if needed; condom distribution; Narcan prescription and training.
 - "Prevention Point Pittsburgh" was developed in 1995 and has 3 sites throughout the county with 5,000 participants enrolled.
 - Philadelphia's exchange program includes access to a food pantry, a computer lab, help with resumes and job applications.
 - CDC has best practices to establish a program. Erie would be able to demonstrate the need for such a program. CDC permits cities and counties to use funds from drug seizures to support a needle exchange program in their community; donations are also a source of revenue.
 - Current data does not clarify if needle exchange programs increase illegal drug use.
 - The exchange programs were developed to keep used/dirty needles out of public areas and to reduce the infection rates of HIV and Hep C.
 - Cities that incorporated needle exchange programs have reported the programs are successful.
 - State of Environmental Lead in Erie County
 - Presented by Narveen Jandu, PhD, Gannon University
 - Researched rates of childhood lead levels in Erie County.
 - Lead pipes were used in home construction until the 1970's.
 - Lead was also used in household paint, and when removed, the lead paint dust is inhaled.
 - Children are the most vulnerable to lead exposure, which has been proven to compromise learning abilities.
 - Pregnant women who have been exposed to lead could potentially harm the fetus.
 - Persons living in older homes, industrial workers, and individuals, who may have been exposed to lead over their lifetime, are also at risk for lead-induced health risks.
 - CDC set new acceptable blood lead levels for children in 2012.

- City of Erie, when assessed with 20 selected cities in Pennsylvania, ranked low for children with lead: 8th for proportion of children tested for lead exposure; and 6th for proportion of children with confirmed elevated blood lead levels.
- City of Erie water system has added a component to the water to block the leaching of lead into drinking water.
- The ECDH, under the former lead program, provided case management to families whose primary care physician confirmed blood lead levels in children. ECDH staff provided information on nutrition and appropriate household cleaning to reduce lead exposures.

IV. **Approval of Minutes:**

- Meeting minutes from April 24, 2017 were approved on a motion from Carla Picardo, MD, and seconded by Bishop Clifton McNair, III. All in favor.

V. **Director's Report:**

- Budget Report: 1) Spend Down Review, 2) PA Budget Approval, 3) 2018 Budget Begins
 - A 6-month review of funds spent in the departments of the ECDH helps with forecasting remaining expenditures.
 - 2017 review showed an improvement of budgetary figures overall.
 - This process enables the ECDH Director to calculate current and future expenditure needs for increased fiscal efficiencies.
 - As an example, Professional Fees expenditures include subcontractor fees to help with grant deliverables, and interpreter fees for assistance at restaurant inspections and clinic clients.
- County Pay Plan for Non-Bargaining Employees
 - County Council is scheduled to vote on a proposed new pay plan for County non-bargaining and 9-1-1 employees on July 25, 2017.
 - Pay plan proposes to provide equitable pay by incorporating a system to enable new hires to be hired at a level higher than the base rate and equitable pay for recently hired staff.
 - County staff in the bargaining unit will negotiate a pay plan with the next contract.
- PADOH Community Health Reorganization - Impacts on Public Health
 - Governor Wolf has not signed the budget; there is no revenue package to support the spending proposal.
 - Offices that will consolidate at the state level are: PA Dept. of Health, Human Services, and Insurance.
 - Offices of Drug & Alcohol and Office of Aging will remain independent.
 - State Health Centers and District Offices have begun to consolidate and some offices have closed.
 - ECDH will become a "deputized" office to provide immunizations to a broader population. This change came into effect due to the closure of State Health Centers.

VI. **Old Business:**

- Board of Health Retreat
 - Recap and Topics the Board of Health members want to support
 - Recap will be sent electronically to all Board members and prior to the next meeting in Oct 2017.
 - Evaluation and Frequency of holding a Retreat
 - Funds are available in the Admin Bureau budget should the Board members decide to hold an annual retreat.

VII. **New Business:**

- Conference Call Number
 - The ECDH conference call number can be utilized by Board members, as a last resort, for inclusion in a Board meeting. The number will be shared on an as needed basis.

VIII. **Board Updates:**

- Division Reports - Formal Written Reports Provided in Advance of the Board Meeting, Q&A
 - Boil Water Advisories
 - Due to the multiple water line breaks within Erie County, staff in the Health Department's Environmental Division developed a brochure to help the public understand the importance of boil water advisories and what steps to take. The brochure has been very well received and appreciated by the public. This brochure will also be given to the Health Department's Intake Nurse so she can answer public inquires related to boil water advisories.
 - Press releases have been prepared to help the public know what to do and what to discard in the event of flooding in their homes.

IX. **Adjournment**

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m., on a motion by, Bishop Clifton McNair, III, and seconded by Carla Picardo, MD. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela K. Brunner, Recording Secretary

The next Health Board meeting is scheduled for MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2017 AT 5:00 P.M.

DIVISIONS REPORTS - JULY 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 Partnership for a Healthy Community (Partnership), has received \$20,000 from the GE Healthcare Collaborative to sponsor the Blue Zones site visit to determine the community's readiness and commitment to a comprehensive health and wellness strategy. The Partnership for a Healthy Community is the implementation and oversight for the Community Health Improvement Plan. The Partnership is contemplating applying for a Erie Community Foundation Helping Today grant for the additional \$20,000.
2. **New Business:**
 - a. Three staff members attend the National Association for County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Annual conference in Pittsburgh. It was a very beneficial conference for sharing of best practices, networking and idea sharing. We each returned back to work with new strategies to explore.
3. **Future Planning/Areas of Concern:**
 - a. 2018 budget work will begin. There are always concerns about adequate revenue to support ECDH functions.

Community Health Services Division Report

1. **Old Business/Current Projects:**
 - a. Flu season '16-'17 ended week ending 5/27 with record 2,110 reported cases. This is 33% higher than last highest season which was '09-'10 when the 1st H1N1 outbreak occurred. Season lasted from Halloween to Memorial Day weekend. Type A H3N2 was the predominant strain that circulated. Hospitalizations were at 10% which is typical. Seven deaths were documented including 1 pediatric fatality.
2. **New Business:**
 - a. Flu vaccine for the '17-'18 season will add a new type A H1N1: A/Michigan/45/2015(H1N1)pdm09-like virus. This will replace the A H1N1 California that was in last season's vaccine. Other strains from '16-'17 remain unchanged.
 - b. Baby & Me Tobacco Free data from February to June 30th, 2017: 23 enrolled, 5 dropped. Net 18 women still enrolled
 - c. Tony Snow MD has agreed to come on as both the TB and STD clinician for CHS, in addition to being Medical Director for ECDH. Contract construction is in process.
3. **Future Planning/Areas of Concern:**
 - a. None at this time.

Environmental Health Services Division Report

1. **Old Business/Current Projects:**
 - a. Staffing: One Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO) recently retired. One SEO was hired to fill this position and another SEO was hired under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant. We now have 3 SEOs on staff!
 - b. Following numerous incidents involving water line breaks and boil water advisories, we developed material to distribute during the issuance of a boil water advisory that can be used as a tool to inform the public, schools, and businesses as to what actions need to be taken.
2. **New Business:**
 - a. A Mercyhurst intern is currently organizing old files and mapping locations of superfund sites, old municipal landfills, and illegal dumping areas.
 - b. Public Health Preparedness funds are being used to educate the public on proper refrigeration temperatures. We will be coordinating with a local retail food store to distribute refrigerator thermometers and distribute the national BAC Down campaign materials.
3. **Future Planning/Areas of Concern:**
 - a. Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)-we are seeing a lot of HABs this year. Warning signs are being posted in areas where toxin thresholds are being exceeded. We partnered with the Regional Science Consortium and obtained a grant to construct an educational mobile HAB lab. We are now working with local dive businesses and the sheriff's scuba team to inform divers about the HABs.

- b. A representative of CDC is coming to Erie in October to present a day of training to Department staff on Public Health Emergency Law.
- c. We partnered with Erie Fire Department and Millcreek Emergency coordinators to coordinate a day of cross training in August to better understand responsibilities of local agencies. Topics include clandestine labs, health codes, vector disease control, street drug awareness, fire codes, property maintenance, and animal cruelty investigations.

Epidemiology Division Report

- 1. **Old Business/Current Projects:**
 - a. None at this time.
- 2. **New Business:**
 - a. Epidemiologist, a trained accreditation site visitor for the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), completed a site visit in June and traveled to Allegheny County Department of Health with ECDH Director to conduct a mock site visit to help them prep for their accreditation visit.
 - b. Public Health Preparedness 2017-2018 contract is delayed at the state level.
- 3. **Future Planning/Areas of Concern:**
 - a. None at this time.

Health Promotion & Quality Improvement Division Report

- 1. **Old Business/Current Projects:**
 - a. PADOH expects to have the new Safe and Healthy Communities contract complete and fully executed by October-November.
- 2. **New Business:**
 - a. Our VISTA's last day is July 28th and we were unable to find a candidate for 2017-2018. Although Allegheny College continues some recruitment, we are doubtful that the position will be filled for the upcoming year.
 - b. The National Guard collected 968.9 pounds of medication/prescription drugs, from the Medication Return Units, on July 11th.
 - c. Contract negotiations completed with PennDOT for the Regional Highway Safety Grant for 10/1/17-9/30/18.
- 3. **Future Planning/Areas of Concern:**
 - a. Working on the annual report for PHAB
 - b. Implementing VMSG, a new Performance Management System, that was designed specifically for public health and PHAB accreditation.