

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)
Monday, February 26, 2018
5:00 P.M.
ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PRESENT:

Richard A. Ortoski, DO, Chair
Carolynn Masters, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
Joy E. Taylor, Esq., MPH
Bishop Clifton McNair, III (via phone)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Melissa Lyon
Charlotte Berringer
Nicole Bolash
Valerie Bukowski
Karen Tobin

Kathy Fatica, Co. Council Liaison
R. Anthony Snow, MD
Pamela Brunner

EXCUSED:

Carla Picardo, MD, MPH

GUEST:

Megan Ferri, DO, MPH student intern

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairperson, Richard A. Ortoski, DO, called the meeting to order at 5:04 PM. Bishop McNair joined the meeting via conference call.
 - Dr. Ortoski asked for introductions by all present. MPH student intern, Megan Ferri, DO, is working in the Health Department's Community Health Services Division.
- II. **Public Comments:** None to report.
- III. **Presentations:** None.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - Meeting minutes from October 23, 2017 were approved on a motion from Carolynn Masters, PhD, and seconded by Joy Taylor, Esq. All in favor.
- V. **Director's Report:**
 - Budget Report:
 - The Health Department's proposed 2018 budget was accepted by County Administration with one change: the elimination of a Community Health Strategist position. This position will be proposed to County Administration and County Council in either June 2018 or in the 2019 County budget process. County Council adopted the 2018 budget as submitted.
 - Act 12 Funding Reduction:
 - Act 12 has been reduced from \$6.9 M to \$2.4 M, essentially by 65.8% for FY 2018, resulting in a \$241,000 shortfall in 2018. Act 12 are funds directly related to environmental protection efforts, provided to local health departments from the PA Dept. of Health. Prior notification from the PA Dept. of Health (PADOH) was not received; a recent payment to the Health Department reflected the reduced funding. The Governor's budget increased funds for opioid education, prevention, and treatment which likely affected Act 12 funding.
 - Divisions at the Health Department (ECDH) have realigned their budgets to provides funds for the Environmental Division staff and programs.
 - Administration Division will provide \$21,000 by reducing travel, training, professional fees and supplies.
 - Tobacco Grant will cover staff costs by incorporating compliance checks during inspections through June 2018.
 - Public Health Preparedness Grant will purchase two computers.
 - Community Health Services will help to cover travel and training expenses.
 - County Council liaison, Kathy Fatica, has been very supportive during this process of realignment of funds and is in support of the funding ask of \$67,000 that will be made of County Council in March 2018 to offset the remaining funds needed for the Environmental Division.

- Environmental fees will be increased and a County Council Ordinance is being prepared. The fees are projected to be increased by early summer, after the Ordinance is passed and area businesses and residents are notified.
- With funding being reduced at various levels across the state, other revenues of funding will need to be researched. A grant writer would be an asset to the ECDH. The position of a Community Health Strategist, as mentioned previously, would also research grants.

VI. Old Business:

- Blue Zones Update:
 - The Blue Zones (BZ) site visit reports and proposals were shared with Board of Health members. Discussions continue with area leaders regarding funding support of the 5-year Blue Zones Project for Erie County.
 - Initial BZ proposals did not include any county locations as previously requested by the County Executive. A second proposal was provided which includes Lawrence Park, Wesleyville, and all public schools.
 - Funding has not been solidified. Health systems, large businesses, and community affiliations are in support of a BZ concept, but have not committed to a confirmed financial contribution or are willing to take the "lead" for the Project.
 - LOI's are in development from Highmark and the Erie Community Foundation (ECF).
 - The Partnership for a Healthy Community (CHIP) is a 501c3 and could be the agency to hold the funds for the BZ Project; however, additional discussions and processes are needed.
 - ECF may also be a conduit to hold donated collected funds for the Project.
 - Suggestions for funding venues could be GEDAC or local police departments.
 - Erie City Planner will contact the City Planner in Cedar Rapids to discuss community health outcomes under their BZ Project.
 - A conference call will be held between BZ representatives, Tony and Ben, the County Executive and Melissa Lyon on Friday, March 2, 2018 to request an extension of the financial commitment deadline which is March 9, 2018. A 45-60 day extension could provide the opportunity for additional financial commitments. If the extension is denied by BZ, an additional request will be made for a 6-month review.
- Board of Health Retreat follow-up
 - Evaluation Topics/Items (3) to achieve in 2018
 - Public Health Champion Award
 - BOH / Director's Award
 - Topic(s) Open for Discussion
 - No action has been taken on these 3 items by Melissa Lyon or Pamela Brunner. Board members are encouraged to offer suggestions or complete research as their schedules allow.

VII. New Business: None to report.**VIII. Board Updates:**

- Division Reports with Q&A
 - An ECDH nurse in the TB program applied for and was awarded a mini-grant to provide TB t-spot blood testing for 250 high-risk individuals. This is a blood test for TB exposure. ECDH will organize the testing location. Target populations to be tested include residents of local homeless shelters, mental health clients, and drug & alcohol clients. Grant sponsors will conduct the blood draws on March 24, 2018, which is World TB Day. This grant was only awarded to one organization in the nation, and ECDH was the recipient.
 - Suggestion - contact Penn State Behrend for nursing students to assist with registration.
 - "Project Fit" was a collaboration between staff in the Health Promotion/Quality Improvement program and the Erie Bayhawks. Block grant funds were used to implement "fit" clinics for

youth and their families with the Bayhawks to encourage healthy eating and physical fitness. Youth met the Bayhawks stars.

- Funding for "Project Fit" in 2018 will be sponsored by the Tobacco Use Prevention Grant of the ECDH, and include tobacco prevention education.
- The PA Dept. of Health submitted "Project Fit" in their annual report to the CDC. The program is highlighted on the state's LiveHealthyPA website, and will also be mentioned in the ECDH Health Hi-Lites and the County Executive's newsletter.
- Med Return Units are available for locations that are manned by, and can be viewed by, law enforcement, when accessible to the public.
 - Penn State Behrend and LECOM are interested in Med Return Units. Nicole Bolash will contact these colleges.

IX. **Adjournment:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m., on a motion by,Carolynn Masters, PhD, and seconded by Joy Taylor, Esq. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela K. Brunner, Recording Secretary

The next Health Board meeting is scheduled for MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2018, AT 5:00 P.M.

DIVISION REPORTS - FEB 26, 2018

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 BZ site visit conducted November 28th & 29th was a huge success. There was overwhelming, positive feedback from the community, attendees and leadership. I believe there is great potential to launch a BZ in Erie PA. Blue Zone Project site visit was conducted January 17th, reports will be available at the meeting. The scope of the project has been modified to meet the needs of the community. The local BZ planning committee continues to meet weekly at 3:30 at ECDH. Funding strategies have been developed and have been present to County Administration and Erie Community Foundation.

2. New Business:

- a. The MANAGER OF ACCOUNTING/FINANCE – Sue Ellen Pasquale and MANAGER OF FACILITIES & OPERATIONS - Luigi Pasquale will both be retiring in May 2018. These are two key positions within the county. The retirements will likely result in some changes in the future.
- b. The Director applied for a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Culture of Health Leadership opportunity. First round selections will be made in May. If selected for the 2018 cohort the Director would be enrolled and participating for three years. <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/funding-opportunities/2018/culture-of-health-leaders.html>

3. Future Planning/Areas of Concern:

- a. None to report

Community Health Services Division Report

1. Old Business/Current Projects:

- a. The PA DOH HIV grant to ECDH is in process for a 3 year renewal: 7/1/18-6/30/21. Funds were raised from \$92,300 to \$240,000/year. The increase was related to disease (HIV/AIDS) epidemiology per the PA DOH. A Disease Intervention Specialist position was requested in addition to the HIV Public Health Nurse position that already exists. The additional funds will also allow for increased outreach, testing and marketing regarding HIV testing and treatment.
- b. The immunization staff will be coordinating with the Erie United Methodist Alliance (EUMA) and Community Health Net's Health Care for the Homeless services to offer Hep A vaccine at an overflow shelter on 3/19/18. CDC has recently released recommendations to offer Hep A vax to the homeless population in response to recent outbreaks across the nation related to homeless persons.
- c. Flu may be another record breaking year as far as number of reported cases. Through 2/17/18 the seasonal reported total was 1870. Of those, 974 were reported in the last 3 weeks ending 2/3, 2/10 & 2/17. Hospitalization rate had started at 21.6% early in the season, but has leveled out to a more typical 10% overall for the season. Last season's total was 2110. Five deaths have been reported; all in the 65+ age category.

2. New Business:

- a. None to report.

3. Future Planning/Areas of Concern:

- a. None to report.

Environmental Health Services Division Report

1. Old Business/Current Projects:

- a. Environmental staff will present at a Septic System Improvement Workshop to be held at TREC on March 3. The remaining \$17,000 of a grant to Environment Erie is available to reimburse attendees for expenses incurred due to installation, repairs, or maintenance of septic systems.
- b. We received the fully executed Mosquito-borne Disease Control grant for 2018. The full amount requested, \$37,811.53, was awarded.
- c. Efforts to reduce the number of cold holding violations at retail food facilities have been very successful. In 2015 facilities

were cited 111 times for cold holding violations (refrigerators running warm, food sitting out at room temperature, buffet food not cold enough, etc.); in 2016 facilities were cited 76 times and in 2017 facilities were only cited 46 times.

- d. The Environmental Incident Directory has been revised and updated. This directory is used by environmental staff during times of emergency and includes contact information for federal, state, and local agencies and companies that may be called upon during an emergency.
2. **New Business:**
 - a. None to report.
3. **Future Planning/Areas of Concern:**
 - a. None to report.

Public Health Preparedness/Epidemiology Division Report

1. **Old Business/Current Projects:**
 - a. We received the fully executed Public Health Preparedness agreement for 2017-2018 which includes a budget of \$240,273.
 - b. Michael Quiggle has joined the PHP/Epi team as the new Public Health Preparedness Coordinator. Michael had been part of the Tobacco Control Program before transitioning into his new position
 - c. Michael has been accepted into the NACCHO Roadmap to Ready Mentor Program to assist PHP Coordinators who have been in the program for less than 2 years. This training will use a blended learning methodology including an in-person workshop, coaching and mentorship from experienced preparedness coordinators around the country, and tailored resources.
 - d. Michael attended the Strategic National Stockpile Preparedness Course (SNS PER-310) at a FEMA training facility in Anniston, Alabama for a week in early February. This course helps our community plan and prepare for a public health emergency and how best to use the Strategic National Stockpile in response to a terrorist attack, natural disaster, or technological incident.
 - e. Focus groups for the community health needs assessment are complete. Two focus groups included leaders from Erie County and from the City of Corry. Four groups included the following targeted populations - African American leaders, refugee service organizations, LGBTQIA community members, and the Amish.
2. **New Business:**
 - a. None to report
3. **Future Planning/Areas of Concern:**
 - a. None to report

Health Promotion & Quality Improvement Division Report

1. **Old Business/Current Projects:**
 - a. None to report.
2. **New Business:**
 - a. The 2nd Annual PA LGBT+ Health Conference will be held in Cranberry, PA on June 12-13, 2018 with a focus on the older adult LGBT+ population and on behavioral health.
 - b. The Bayhawks Project: FIT will continue this year and include a focus on tobacco prevention and Tobacco Resistance Unit (TRU) youth
 - c. The Tobacco program received an additional Master Settlement Agreement funding in the amounts of \$127,366.00 and \$29,569. These funds will be utilized for tobacco prevention and point of sale programming.
 - d. Day at the Capitol for the PA Tobacco Control Program will be Tuesday, May 1, 2018. TRU youth will receive scholarships to attend the event. This is also open to Tobacco Free NWPA Coalition Members
 - e. Gannon University has become our newest Medication Return Unit (MRU) site/partner.
3. **Future Planning/Areas of Concern:**
 - a. None to report.

PHAB Reaccreditation

1. VMSG Performance Management System update- VMSG has the benefit of being developed specifically for public health accreditation. Knowledge Capital Alliance (KCA), the system developers, created an implementation plan for us and we hired a third party consultant to on-board staff and assist with change management. The consultant created "scavenger hunts" and trainings for the staff so that they could see the day to day value of the system while learning how to use it. Over 94% of ECDH employees attended at least one of these trainings. We are currently using the system for our Department work plan, for accreditation domain review and projects related to the domains and measures. We hope to have the system being fully utilized by all staff by July 2018.
2. The Management group meets weekly to review the PHAB domain requirements and identify potential gaps.