

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)

Monday, February 25, 2019

5:00 P.M.

**ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
(ECDH)**

PRESENT:

Richard A. Ortoski, DO, Chair
Bishop Clifton McNair, III
Carla Picardo, MD, MPH
Mary Jean Taylor, PhD

IN ATTENDANCE:

Melissa Lyon
Charlotte Berringer
Nicole Bolash
Valerie Bukowski
Karen Tobin
Breanna Adams
Mark Matlock
Pamela Brunner
Kathy Fatica, Co. Council liaison

ABSENT:

Carolynn Masters, PhD, Vice-Chair

- Call to Order
 - Dr. Picardo called the meeting to order at 5:09PM. The gavel was turned over to Dr. Ortoski on his arrival. Introductions were given by all in attendance.
- Public Comments - none
- Presentations - none
- Approval of Minutes
 - ♦ Meeting minutes from October 22, 2018 were approved on a motion by Bishop McNair and seconded by Mary Jean Taylor, PhD. All in favor.
- Director's Report:
 - ♦ Staff Changes
 - Retirement of Karen Tobin, Director, Environmental Health Services
 - Karen has worked at the Health Department for 31+ years. Her last day of employment is 3/8/2019. Thank you Karen for your dedication and hard work to improve the quality of life and the environment for the residents of Erie County! Good Luck in your new endeavors!
 - Introduction of Breanna Adams, Director, Environmental Health Services
 - Breanna has worked for the Health Department as an Environmental Protection Specialist since March 2012. She was promoted to Environmental Supervisor in December 2018, and chosen to become the Director of Environmental Health Services starting on March 11, 2019.
 - Introduction of Mark Matlock, Public Health Grant & Fiscal Officer
 - Mark comes to the Health Department with a diverse fiscal background, which includes being a CPA and various accounting positions. His expertise and education will be an asset for the Health Department in pursuit of Public Health 3.0 implementation. Mark became the Department's Fiscal Officer on March 5, 2019.
 - Announcement of Chelsea Bates, Public Health Preparedness Coordinator
 - Chelsea started at the Health Department on February 4, 2019. She has an extensive background in public health preparedness (PHP) and most recently was the Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator for the state of Maryland. Her extensive background is an advantage for the Health Department.
- Old Business:
 - ♦ Member Vetting Procedures
 - After review and discussion regarding minor grammatical changes, the Member Vetting Procedures were signed by Melissa Lyon and Richard A. Ortoski, DO. The procedures were approved on a motion by Carla Picardo, MD, and seconded by Mary Jean Taylor, PhD. All in favor.
 - ♦ Public Health Champion Award
 - Melissa Lyon will present a draft Award Nomination to the Board members in April 2019.
 - The Award criteria will be added to the next Health Department's Health Highlights newsletter and social media.

- The criteria and the award signature process were approved in 2018 by the Board of Health members.
- ◆ Blue Zones Project - Corry
 - Corry Blue Zones Project (CBZP) was kicked-off in February 2019. The Health Department is the contracting entity, which means the donated funds are deposited into the County's financial system and subcontractor fees are paid using the donated funds; no County funds are expected to fund the Corry BZP. The Corry community is very receptive and eager for this healthy lifestyle program to begin in their area.
 - Focus groups have been established to address food policy, built environment and tobacco control.
 - Three (3) Blue Zones Project staff have been hired: Jennifer Eberlein, Shannon Wolford, Ashley Lawson.
 - The hiring of full-time BZP staff will reduce the man-hours of the Health Department Director's involvement.
 - Office space has been identified and is under renovations to accommodate the BZP community engagement guidelines.
 - A Summit will be held for the Corry community and any interested individuals outside of Corry:
 - Announce the large gaps for a healthy environment;
 - Opportunities that are being missed;
 - Inform the stakeholders to think about priorities in the large blue print;
 - Corry BZP is a 3-year project.
 - Corporate BZ involvement:
 - National BZ experts will assist with every step of the BZP process;
 - Complete the blue print; once the community, local government and the steering committees all agree;
 - Tony Beuttner, National BZ, completes the final implementation status;
 - Jennifer Eberlein is the lead Corry BZP contact and will work with BZ National on a weekly basis.

➤ New Business:

- ◆ NALBOH webinar, "Leading Change for Public Health 3.0"
 - 2/28/19 @ 1:00 PM Central Time = 2:00 PM Eastern Time
 - Carolynn Masters, PhD, and Melissa Lyon have both registered for the webinar.
 - Mary Jean Taylor, PhD, plans to view the webinar with M. Lyon as registration was full.
 - The webinar will be recorded for other Board members to view at a later date.
 - Highly important for Board members to attend the webinar or watch the recording to understand the value of Public Health 3.0 and its impact upon local health departments.
 - Support public health infrastructure, and proactively accomplish public health issues/processes;
 - Shift internal structure to begin to address greater public health issues that the public is facing.
 - Need to update internal operating systems:
 - Current programs are being done under the Public Health 2.0 phase;
 - Need to work under the Public Health 3.0 national movement to sustain staff and programs:
 - This minimizes the risk of external threats and builds a sustainable infrastructure for Public Health.
- ◆ Sustainability
 - Kathy Fatica, County Council liaison for the Health Department will give a report to County Council about the importance of the Health Department moving towards the Public Health 3.0 model. Information will be provided by Melissa Lyon.
 - Kathy will develop a County Resolution:
 - The Resolution will ensure that the Health Department can continue to pursue a 3.0 infrastructure through changes in county leadership.
 - Additional information on the Resolution and reception by County Council will be shared at the April 2019 Board of Health meeting.
 - Adaptive Leadership Course by NACCHO for Health Department management
 - Course taken by Health Department management to understand the challenges of adaptive versus technical leadership:
 - Adaptive is abstract.
 - Help stakeholders to understand the mission of the Health Department as it transitions into the Public Health 3.0 model.
 - Diversity funding streams to maintain current level staffing and incorporate other initiatives for less restrictive funding.

- Suggestion by M.J. Taylor, PhD, to look at the Community Health Needs Assessment, and utilize that data to address internal operating systems, and set community priorities.
- Reaccreditation through PHAB (Public Health Accreditation Board)
 - Melissa Lyon will discuss with PHAB public health 3.0 changes and the effects on local health departments and stress the importance of foundation building as well as support for Quality Improvement, Workforce Development, Community Health Improvement Plans, and additional performance measures.

➤ Board Updates:

- ◆ Division Reports - Formal Written Reports Provided in Advance of Board Meeting
 - Q&A
 - Public Health Preparedness (PHP) update:
 - A traveler from Erie county works for a faith-based organization. Upon a recent return from an Ebola Treatment Center they were monitored for 21 days to ensure that they had not carried the measles back to the U.S.; they were cleared.
 - LGBTQ Conference, Cranberry, PA
 - The third annual conference will be held on May 31, 2019. The conference addresses health disparities and health equities. It is open to the first 225 registrants.
 - VISTA student
 - Allegheny College oversees the VISTA volunteers in the region. The Health Department has submitted an application to employ a VISTA for three years. VISTA students rotate every 12-month cycle.
 - The current VISTA is working on a food policy.
 - VISTA students are encouraged to work with other VISTA students within the region.
 - Tobacco Control
 - Kathy Fatica praised Niki Knopsnyder for her engaging presentation on Young Lungs at Play. Niki presented on the importance of local parks to go completely, or at least partially, smoke-free to protect children's lungs from second-hand smoke.
 - Nicole Bolash reported that the Tobacco Control grant received a 3-month extension, until 9-30-2019, in lieu of an RFP.
 - Nurse Family Practice Grant
 - Charlotte Berringer reported that the current contract is expected to be renewed effective 7/1/2019; waiting on the RFP.
 - GLRI (Great Lakes Restoration Initiative) Grant
 - The government shutdown has delayed renewed funding for this grant provided by the DEP. Full funding is expected; notification has been sent to County Administration. Pennsylvania was required to improve the Great Lakes; Erie County was chosen as the representative for these improvements. The DEP is impressed with the progress that has been made with the funding provided by the GLRI grant.
 - Beverage Growlers
 - Using the guidance from the Dept. of Ag, Health Dept. environmental staff are going to facilities that could offer beverage growlers to be refilled with beer or wine slushies to ensure proper food handling procedures will be followed. At this time, the majority of food/beverage facilities are not refilling or offering beverage growlers to their customers.

➤ Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:04 PM 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, APRIL 29, 2019, AT 5:00 P.M.

DIVISION REPORTS - FEB 25, 2019

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH DIVISION REPORTS

Prepared for the Erie County Board of Health

Administration Division Report

1. Old Business/Current Projects:

- a. Blue Zones Project in Corry is up and running as of 1/1/2019. Three staff have been hired and the discovery and foundation period will run through April 2019.

2. New Business:

- a. The Division Directors have been completing a 9 week Adaptive Leadership course through NACCHO. This course is developing leadership action within the Division Directors and assisting with a internal culture change to begin to adapt 21st Century Public Health strategies and best practices.
- b. The Clerical staff have been working with a facilitator to evaluate current work practices and policies and identify ways to improve processes for the entire department. This work began in January and is planned to run through July .
- c. As part of a mutual agreement with Mercyhurst University Public Health Department, the Director is mentoring two interns for the spring semester to assist with Blue Zones activates and the updating of the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

3. Accreditation:

- a. Administration is developing rough drafts of measure narratives and policies required for the reaccreditation process.

4. Future Planning/Areas of Concern:

- a. None to report.

Community Health Services Division Report

1. Old Business/Current Projects:

- a. None to report.

2. New Business:

- a. Staffing challenges: Outreach Worker position for TB & immunization vacant since mid Aug 2018. To be filled ~3/11/19. Nurse Family Partnership PHN position has been vacant since 11/5/18. We are on the posting #6 for that position. A PHN in the maternal-child health nurse home visiting program with almost 26 year experience is retiring 3/1/819. There will be a lateral transfer to this position; will fill a TB PHN position. Current advertising is for both positions.
- b. Flu season has been light thus far with 417 cases reported through 2/16/19. Of those reports, 406 are Type A. The CDC is saying that the vaccine is a good match with the primary circulating strain this season. One death has been reported and an 8% hospitalization rate which is below the average 10% rate for flu.
- c. Oral Health: Teledentistry services with local Head Start sites have started. They received some nice news coverage the 2nd week of February, both TV and Erie-Times News. To the best of our knowledge, ECDH is the only teledentistry provider in Erie County.
- d. CHS along with Epi and Health Promotion Divisions and the LECOM School of Pharmacy collaborate on and facilitated two Naloxone kits free give-away events. Details about the events are outlines in the Epidemiology section of this report.

3. Accreditation:

- a. Division is developing rough drafts of measure narratives and policies required for the reaccreditation process.

4. Future Planning/Areas of Concern:

- a. The Nurse-Family Partnership contract ends 6/30/19. PA Dept of Human Services is to be issuing a RFP, but it has not been released at this time. Original release date was to be fall of 2018.

Environmental Health Services Division Report

1. **Old Business/Current Projects:**
 - a. None to report.
2. **New Business:**
 - a. Staffing changes: Currently interviewing to fill two vacant Environmental Protection Specialist I positions. Karen Tobin's retirement is effective March 8th. Interviews were conducted for a new Director of Environmental Health Services and Breanna Adams was selected.
 - b. We are partnering with the PA Department of Environmental Protection and collecting ticks throughout 2019 to establish population trends and life cycles.
 - c. Beer distributors are now starting to sell wine slushies and refill growlers. Staff have been visiting all beer distributors in the County to bring them into the licensing process or educate them for future planning.
3. **Accreditation:**
 - a. None to report.
4. **Future Planning/Areas of Concern:**
 - a. Current Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant funding ends March 31, 2019. We have been working with the Office of the Great Lakes to renew the funding for 3 more years, but the federal shutdown has slowed the application process.
 - b. The County is merging warehouse space. The mosquito control program and Public Health Preparedness are preparing to move all equipment and storage to a new location. This is intended to happen very quickly and may involve two moves this summer.

Epidemiology Division Report

1. **Old Business/Current Projects:**
 - a. The current Public Health Preparedness Coordinator, Michael Quiggle, has taken a position back in the HPQI division. He did excellent work as the PHP Coordinator and executed a department-wide Hepatitis A exercise that incorporated many public health planning concepts. The exercise identified strengths and weaknesses within the department. The weaknesses are tagged as gaps that become the priority for improvement. The PHP grants deliverable always include exercises and drills that must be conducted on an annual basis. Michael will be missed in this position.
 - b. ECDH received \$36,096 supplemental funds available from September 1, 2018 - August 31, 2019 through PADOH Public Health Emergency Preparedness for opioid related activities. ECDH will conduct outreach and education to Erie County residents with a focus on the elderly population. Staff from PHP and HPQI are partnering with Coalition Pathways and the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office to deliver targeted programs.
 - c. PHP partnered with Epidemiology and Environmental to design and conduct a four hour tabletop Hepatitis A foodborne exercise for the entire ECDH staff. There were three separate activities covering Environmental response, Epidemiology/Infectious Disease response, and Point of Dispensing (POD) planning. Staff from differing Divisions were able to work together on this project. Feedback was positive.
 - d. PHP conducted a Cultural Diversity Training for volunteers of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) and other first responders. The training was conducted by Multicultural Community Resource Center staff. There were 45 participants including EMT, police, and fire personnel. 42 MRC backpacks were distributed as go bags with first aid kits, water, and personal hygiene kits.
 - e. PHP in partnership with HPQI, LECOM School of Pharmacy, and the Erie County Library participated in the statewide Public Health Preparedness Naloxone Giveaway Day on December 13. ECDH received 120 Narcan kits and all were distributed within two hours. Names were taken for those residents who were not able to get a kit. There were 124 names on this list. An additional 20 people came to the event but did not leave their name.
 - f. In February, PADOH provided 126 Narcan kits to ECDH PHP to distribute to those individuals whose names were on the above list. All individuals were called and on Wednesday, February 13 from 9am-4pm they were able to pick up the kits at ECDH. Public health nurses met with each person for a training session before giving them a kit. Other staff, including Customer Service, worked together to make this a success for PHP. Despite wintry weather that day, over 40 kits were distributed.
 - g. PADOH has initiated a statewide Hepatitis A Response Activity. Both Ohio and West Virginia are experiencing outbreaks of Hepatitis A among the homeless population and IV drug users and there has been an increase in Hepatitis A cases in Philadelphia and Allegheny County. PADOH is taking a proactive approach to prevent a statewide outbreak. ECDH is participating in this initiative. Epi and Infectious Disease staff have met to begin planning.
 - h. As part of a mutual agreement with Mercyhurst University Public Health Department, Epidemiology staff will mentor an intern for the spring semester.
 - i. In January, ECDH received a call from PADOH concerning an Erie County resident who was returning to Erie from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The individual was a volunteer for a faith based organization and had worked on a

construction crew that was building a treatment center located in an area between two Ebola hotspots. The traveler completed a 21 day self-monitoring protocol with no reported symptoms.

2. New Business:

- a. We welcome Chelsea Bates, our new PHP coordinator. Her effective start date was 2/4/19. She comes to us from the Maryland State Department of Health where she was a City Readiness Initiative Coordinator as well as a Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator. She has an MPH from the University of Florida and completed an internship in hospital associated infections at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

3. Accreditation:

- a. None to report.

4. Future Planning/Areas of Concern:

- a. PHP is currently working on the 2019-2020 budget which is due February 28. We are receiving level funding.

Health Promotion & Quality Improvement Division Report

1. Old Business/Current Projects:

- a. The 2018 year end total of medications collected from the Medication Return Units was 3177.6 pounds.

2. New Business:

- a. We are currently interviewing for the Public Health Educator II position.
- b. An application has been submitted to Allegheny College for a VISTA volunteer to continue developing and growing the Food Policy Advisory Council. If approved, this will be our third and final year with a VISTA for this current project.
- c. Tobacco Control Program is working with Rescue Agency and two other Western PA Regional Primary Contractors to run the "Down and Dirty" campaign, focused on the "Country Youth" peer crowd in Western PA. Brand Ambassadors will be at the Erie sport and travel expo in March. See examples of campaign material below:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zstPdWRSh1I&feature=youtu.be>
<https://downanddirtylife.com/hometownshowdown/?region=pa>
- d. Tobacco Resistance Unit (TRU) youth will be travelling from NWPA to Harrisburg on May 7th for Day at the Capitol where they will advocate for the minimum age to purchase tobacco products in PA to be raised to 21 years old.
- e. Registration is open for the 3rd Annual LGBTQA Health Conference in Cranberry, PA. Registration is free and may be accessed at the link below:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/third-annual-pennsylvania-lgbtqa-health-conference-tickets-56054560700>
- f. The Tobacco Program is partnering with UPMC and St. Vincent to hold a full day LGBT+ Training on May 31st. Agenda is currently being finalized.

3. Accreditation:

- a. The ECDH Quality Improvement Team is currently working to update the Quality Improvement Plan for ECDH with an anticipated deadline of April 30.
- b. The Health Promotion & Quality Improvement Supervisor will be presenting at the Open Forum for Quality Improvement and Innovation in Philadelphia on "Staff Engagement in Developing a Performance Management System"

4. Future Planning/Areas of Concern:

- a. The current tobacco control program contract ends on June 30, 2019. We're waiting for the RFP to be released from the PA Dept. of Health.