

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH (BOH)

Monday, April 29, 2019

5:00 P.M.

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

PRESENT:

Carolynn Masters, Ph.D., Vice-Chair
Carla Picardo, MD, MPH
Mary Jean Taylor, PhD

IN ATTENDANCE:

Melissa Lyon	Kathy Fatica, Co. Council Liaison
Breanna Adams	Mark Matlock
Nicole Bolash	David Bruce, Times News
Valerie Bukowski	Tina Burling

ABSENT:

Richard A. Ortoski, DO, Chair
Bishop Clifton McNair, III

- I. **Call to Order:** Vice-Chair, Carolynn Masters, Ph.D., called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM.
- II. **Public Comments:** None to report.
- III. **Presentations:** None.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - Meeting minutes from February 25, 2019 were approved on a motion from Carla Picardo, MD, MPH, and seconded by Mary Jean Taylor, PhD. All in favor.
- V. **Director's Report:**
 - Jefferson Educational Society (JES) Presentation on 21st Century Public Health 3.0:
 - Breanna Adams, a graduate of the Jefferson Civic Leadership Academy, was instrumental in arranging for ECDH to present at the first JES Lecture Series, which took place the week of Public Health Week. Melissa Lyon kicked off the presentation with an overview of what public health is and 21st Century Public Health 3.0, followed by presentations by Valerie Bukowski (Epidemiology and Outbreaks), Chelsea Bates (Public Health Emergency Preparedness), Alivia Haibach (health for new Americans), Michael Quiggle (LGBTQ health), and Breanna Adams (Ticks, HABs). About 70 people were in attendance and they were very engaged in the Q&A portion of the presentation, asking informed questions.
 - Ms. Lyon feels this was good exposure for ECDH and is hopeful for continued opportunities to provide this presentation to other organizations.
- VI. **Financial Report:**
 - 2019 Budget and Trend Analysis
 - Mark Matlock presented a report of ECDH's Revenue by Source for 2017-2019. It detailed ECDH's funding and how it is allocated. He called attention to a few significant points: the majority of funding comes from grants, but that percentage has decreased, Act 12 funding has decreased, and donations have increased as a result of the Blue Zones project. He said this report illustrates the importance of diversified funding, and potentially adding a new grant writer position to seek more grant opportunities. The board also suggested pursuing a candidate with philanthropy experience in order to raise funds through donations in addition to grants. It was suggested that the Jefferson presentations are a good way to get ECDH's name out for fundraising.
 - The board requests in the future to see financial reports showing both revenue and expenses in order to determine how to make priorities sustainable.
- VII. **Old Business:**
 - Blue Zones Project – Corry Update:
 - The project is in the Discovery & Foundation period, which consists of priority setting. Three

staff members have been hired, and a draft blueprint of strategies for 2019-2020 has been developed. It could be approved within 7-10 days. Corry's population is about 6,500. About 70 people are serving on focus groups and are very engaged, particularly concerning removing blight. There may be a struggle to engage more people in the community. The new policies currently being developed will be robust.

VIII. **New Business:**

- NALBOH 2019 Annual Conference, 8/14 - 8/16/2019, Denver, Colorado
 - Ms. Lyon invited board members to attend "NALBOH'S Six Functions of Public Health Governance". Costs would be fully covered by the Health Department.
- Letter of Recognition from Board of Health to ECDH Employee
 - Laura Luther, a Public Health Educator in the Health Promotion & Quality Improvement Division, has received high accolades from Edinboro University as one of their Health Promotion alumni. She will be recognized for her accomplishments by a letter from the Board of Health.
- Resolution Urging to Bring Erie Coke in Strict Compliance (not on agenda)
 - On April 25, 2019 a letter was sent to James Miller, the Regional Director of the Department of Environmental Protection, along with a new resolution passed by County Council. Resolution 17, 2019 "Urging Commonwealth and County Action to Bring Erie Coke Corporation in Strict Compliance with All Applicable Environmental Regulations" was passed unanimously on April 16, 2019. The letter references cancer rates and air and water quality and the need to better guard the health of our citizens by bringing Erie Coke into compliance with all environmental regulations.

IX. **Board Updates:**

- Division Reports - Formal Written Reports Provided in Advance of Board Meeting
 - Q&A
 - Community Health Services: Why are there so many staff vacancies?
 - Recruiting has been difficult regarding finding staff interested in a public health focus.
 - The current starting salary is low, but there is a new pay plan in negotiations that may help with that issue.
 - ECDH is not FQHC qualified for loan repayment programs. Staff can apply for loan forgiveness, but it is not guaranteed.
 - The board stressed the need to spread the word that public health is rewarding.

X. **Adjournment:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m., on a motion by Carolynn Masters, PhD, and seconded by Mary Jean Taylor, PhD. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Tina Burling, Recording Secretary

The next Health Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 22, 2019, AT 5:00 P.M.