

## **Erie County Board of Health**

Monday, April 25, 2022

Zoom Conference Call

5:00 pm

### **Present:**

Richard A. Ortoski, DO, Chair

Carla Picardo, MD, MPH

Mary Jean Taylor, PhD

Timothy Zieziula, JD

Fred Mirarchi, DO

### **Absent:**

Bishop Clifton McNair, III

### **Also In Attendance:**

Breanna Adams

Char Berringer

Mark Matlock

Erin Mrenak

Ellen Schauerman

Steve Oros

- I. Call to Order - Dr. Ortoski, Board Chairperson, called a meeting of the Board of Health to order at 5:03 p.m.
- II. Public Comments - None
- III. Presentations - None
- IV. Approval of Minutes - The Board of Health meeting minutes and division reports from March 7, 2022 were approved on a motion from T. Zieziula and seconded by Dr. Picardo. All in favor.
- V. Board Updates
  - a. Division Reports - Formal Written Reports Provided in Advance of Board Meeting
    1. Addressed that we currently have 6 board members. Wanted to expand but unable to. May have to go back to 5 but will stay with 6 until someone's term expires or if they stop showing up. Erin to follow up.
    2. PADOT Site Review passed with flying colors. Happened between March 7<sup>th</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>. Dealt mostly with Covid vaccine temperature storage requirements.

3. Discussed that Char is looking for a consultant to upgrade Medical Records software. Should have a consultant by next meeting. Currently using Insight for 20yrs. More software available now that cater to Public Health.
4. Carla asked about BIPOC/Safe Harbor community event located at the Erie Center for Arts & Technology June 14<sup>th</sup>. A film on resilience will be shown at the event. Erin to discuss with Nicole for more details and to help promote it and follow up with an email.
5. Highway Safety current grant will be renewed. Currently have one employee that travels to various counties promoting safety.
6. Will remove the HAP section from divisional report as that division has been dropped—included Epidemiology and Public Health Preparedness. Currently working on an efficient work structure to help cover those divisions.
7. Strategic & Policy is the newest division. Amy Machinski is the acting director. Will be heavily focused on accreditation.

VI. Director's Report - Erin Mrenak

- a. Tina Burling has moved to Environmental Health Services. Steve Oros in admin will be the new contact person.
- b. National Public Health Week was a great success this year.
- c. New 5-year infrastructure grant starts in the fall from the state. Does not have to only be used for COVID. State are seeking for federal to make it permanent after grant runs out.

VII. Financial Report - Mark Matlock

- a. Reviewed 3-year revenue and expense report for 2019-2021.
- b. Revenues decreased in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid.
- c. ELC Covid grant runs until June 2024.
- d. If there were to be anymore Blue Zones contributions, they would come from ARP funding.
- e. Overall wages increased in 2021 due to Covid. Staff count doubled.
- f. Vacation expenses in 2020 were extremely high to the inability to take vacations during a pandemic and forced to be paid out.
- g. Unemployment Compensation increased due to high employee turnover rates, which will most likely continue.
- h. Rent increased due to leasing space at the Modern Tool Building.

VIII. Old Business - None

IX. New Business

- a. Covid-19 Update

1. ECDH will go out to rural areas or events with mobile unit. Long Term Care facilities call us for events. We gave 50 booster shots at Lake Pleasant.
2. Still subcontracted with AHN & LECOM with drive-thru site.
3. Slight uptick in cases and wastewater levels have plateaued.
4. New Omicron variant b2.12.1 found in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut.
5. Educational outreach and PCR clinics. Test to treat model funding may be available.
6. Hospitalization rates are down.
  - Very difficult to project how many at home test results and what they are.
    - a. Penn State Extension
      1. Penn State extension has moved out of the basement and Environmental to utilize the 1,200 sq ft to expand.
    - b. Board Meeting Location
      1. If July's meeting will be in-person, meet at the Modern Tool Building. Will be able to tour the building for 15 minutes after the meeting.

X. Adjournment - The meeting was adjourned at 5:43 p.m. on a motion by Dr. Picardo and seconded by T. Zieziula. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve Oros, Recording Secretary