

Erie County Board of Health

Monday, August 1, 2022

Modern Tool Building - 2nd Floor Conference Room

310 French Street, Erie, PA 16507

5:00 pm

Present:

Richard A. Ortoski, DO, Chair

Carla Picardo, MD, MPH

Mary Jean Taylor, PhD-via telephone

Absent:

Timothy Zieziula, JD--contacted Erin ahead of time

Fred Mirarchi, DO---contacted Dr. Ortoski ahead of time

Bishop Clifton McNair, III---no contact

Also In Attendance:

Breanna Adams

Nicole Bolash

Mark Matlock

Erin Mrenak

Amy Machinski

Colleen Wallace

- I. Call to Order - Dr. Ortoski, Board Chairperson, called a meeting of the Board of Health to order at 5:14 p.m.
- II. Public Comments - None
- III. Presentations - None
- IV. Approval of Minutes - The Board of Health meeting minutes and division reports from April 25, 2022 were approved on a motion from Dr. Picardo and seconded by Dr. Ortoski. All in favor.
- V. Board Updates
 - a. Division Reports - Formal Written Reports Provided in Advance of Board Meeting
 - b. Q & A about the EMR process
 - c. Discussion about departmental staffing shortage; starting salaries lower than the private sector; unable to offer retention and/or sign on bonuses in the county system; and exploring creative ways to provide services in CHS in the future.

- d. Discussion about the mobile unit and possible ways to expand those services in the community.

VI. Director's Report-Erin Mrenak

- a. Staffing is the primary concern, which negatively impacts overall employee morale.
 - 1. Plans to bring in a consultant to assist with the organizational structure and evaluation of some position duties with regards to the starting pay.
 - 2. Will need to obtain approval from administration and HR to proceed.
- b. ECDH will utilize COVID Workforce Development funds from PADOH to contract with the school districts and the IU5 to provide mental health services in the schools.
- c. Currently COVID funds cannot be used for Monkeypox. We are hoping that changes in the near future.
- d. Plan to use some of the COVID funds for data modernization (EMR, Environmental Services software to replace current Access databases, and GIS programs).
- e. Continued discussion in county administration to relocate ECDH to a larger building that would house all employees and possibly other county entities under DHS.
- f. A 5 year Workforce Development Infrastructure/Public Health Sustainability grant will be awarded to PADOH from the CDC
 - 1. These are federal dollars for public health not attached to disease outbreak and/or investigation.
 - 2. State health departments are supposed to allocate 40% of these funds to county municipal health departments (CMHDs).
 - 3. Funding amount for CMHDs should be released soon.

VII. Financial Report-Mark Matlock

- a. Reviewed 3-year plan projected budgets and net county costs between years.
- b. Discussed the likelihood of contract negotiations/new AFSCME contracts affecting annual county costs.
- c. Expressed the need for an upgraded Financial Management System to include a grant-billing module.

VIII. Old Business - None

IX. New Business

- a. Monkeypox- Supervisor of Nursing and Team Lead of ECDH's Monkeypox planning efforts, Colleen Wallace, provided an update on the efforts,

community outreach, and PADOH's anticipated plan regarding information and vaccine distribution.

1. Colleen reported out on the medical providers she has contacted to find out who is testing.
 2. Detailed discussion along with Q & A about Monkeypox immediately followed the update report.
- b. Covid-19 Updates-Erin provided a brief update
1. Continue to offer testing; vaccines are readily available
 2. Test to treat at LECOM offered 5 days/week
 3. Discussed the BA5 variant
 4. Trends can be seen through sequencing and wastewater data.
- c. Board meeting location-Plan to continue in person meetings with a Zoom link option as well
1. Steve will send a doodle poll to schedule the next meeting since it is currently scheduled on Halloween.
- x. Adjournment -The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m. on a motion by Dr. Mary Jean Taylor and seconded by Dr. Picardo. All in favor.