



COUNTY OF ERIE

BOARD OF HEALTH



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect

Richard A. Ortoski, D.O., *Chair*
Timothy Pelkowski, M.D.
Carla Picardo, M.D.
Mary Jean Taylor, Ph.D.
Timothy Zieziula, J.D.

Erie County Board of Health

Monday, July 31, 2023

Zoom

606 West 2nd Street, Erie, PA 16507

5:00 pm

Present:

Richard A. Ortoski, DO, Chair

Mary Jean Taylor, PhD

Carla Picardo, MD, MPH - via Zoom

Timothy Zieziula, JD - via Zoom

Timothy Pelkowski, MD

Absent:

Also In Attendance:

Erin Mrenak

Kelly Sharie

Tony Snow, M.D. - via Zoom

Ellen Schauerman

- I. **Call to Order** - Dr. Ortoski, Board Chairperson, called a meeting of the Board of Health to order at 5:04 p.m.
- II. **Public Comments** - None
- III. **Presentations** - None
- IV. **Approval of Minutes** - The Board of Health meeting minutes and division reports from April 24, 2023 were approved on a motion from Mary Jean Taylor, Ph.D and seconded by Timothy Pelkowski, MD. All in favor.
- V. **Board Updates**
 - a. **Division Reports** - *Verbal Reports Provided by Erin Mrenak on behalf of the divisions*
 1. ADM - Char's position just came down. Starting interviews. Very important so want to make sure it is the right fit. Opened up to different type of backgrounds since we have 3 supervisors. Fiscal position also down with changes and reviewing and interviewing. NB worked on 3 year plan and has been submitted to county finance. Fully executed contract for public infrastructure fund. Funds through 11/2027. Should receive any day now. Will let county council know how important.
 2. CHS - Lost 2 more nurses but hired 1 nurse. Selected vendor for EMR, CureMD. Cloud based and working with IT to upload information to new EMR. Live no later than January 2024 but possibly earlier. TB and STD/HIV clinics both still running.



COUNTY OF ERIE

BOARD OF HEALTH



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect

Richard A. Ortoski, D.O., *Chair*
Timothy Pelkowski, M.D.
Carla Picardo, M.D.
Mary Jean Taylor, Ph.D.
Timothy Ziezula, J.D.

3. Environmental -

- i. Breanna Adams and Christina Freitas attending National Environmental Health Association conference from July 30-August 3. Breanna is presenting work on Small Flow Treatment Facilities and graduating from Environmental Health Leadership Academy. Christina is attending a Certified Professional of Food Safety course prior to the conference.
- ii. At this time, two Environmental team staff have been bumped from their current positions by Health Educators. They do not have much seniority so have been unable to bump into other positions yet. The roles will change on October 1 after the expiration of the tobacco control program grant.
- iii. ECDH met with County Administration, Regional Science Consortium and Tim Bruno of the PA Dept of Environmental Protection. After this meeting, we have come to a decision that ECDH will work with the United States Environmental Protection Agency to receive funding for Harmful Algal Bloom monitoring and notification. The PA DEP has previously applied for and distributed this funding to the Regional Science Consortium but is unable to continue this process.
- iv. Since April 24, only 22% of our 2080 facilities have renewed their license using the new software solution, OpenGov. The license fee discount period ended on June 30. All licensed facilities will need to set up an account and reapply when their license expires.

4. HPQI -

- i. For the first time in the history of the program, ECDH did not receive the regional tobacco control program grant. It was received by Adagio Health and contract negotiations with PADOH are ongoing. We will be expected to transition everything over to Adagio by the end of our current contract, 9/30/23. Simultaneously, the state has opted to discontinue the Safe and Healthy Communities grant within the same division. The net loss is 8+ positions. All Safe and Healthy Communities positions are able to be absorbed by other grants. Because of the unexpected loss of the tobacco control program, bumping has been initiated. We anticipate that we will be able to retain all staff who choose to stay within the department but in varying capacities.
- ii. Our first lead screening event was held 7/16 at ECAT's community health event. 2 children were screened and were not elevated. This was a great opportunity to promote information about lead and for our staff to pilot the process for screening. We are hoping to build out the lead screening and education program in the upcoming year.
- iii. We had a site visit for Maternal Child Health Title V funding which is being transitioned from Community Health Services to HPQI and will support doula services for women of color. As a result of this funding, in just two months, BirthRoot doulas were able to provide 119 visits to 26 women of color. Additionally, they attended two births. Of these visits, 14 were with a certified lactation consultant to provide breastfeeding support. Out of these 26 women, 8



COUNTY OF ERIE

BOARD OF HEALTH



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect

Richard A. Ortoski, D.O., *Chair*
Timothy Pelkowski, M.D.
Carla Picardo, M.D.
Mary Jean Taylor, Ph.D.
Timothy Ziezula, J.D.

screened positive for postpartum depression and were able to be referred to services.

b. MJ requested more detail in the reports.

VI. **Director's Report** - *Erin Mrenak*

- a. Beginning 2024 budget. No Fiscal agent. PS working diligently to have by 8/10/2023
- b. Still no Union contract. Was voted on but voted down. Educational sessions scheduled. Then a re-vote.

VII. **Old Business** - *Terms*

- a. MJ moving in July 2024. Happy to stay on until she leaves. Will think of recommendations.

VIII. **New Business**

- a. EPI absorbed into other divisions. Research Associate CHS and another into HPQI. Better support Environmental data - Going to post for Environmental soon hopefully through HAB Funding. GIS work with ESRI to make data more readable and interactive with the public on the website.
- b. Colleen Wallace communicable disease and JQ working with communication and the State.
- c. DR O thanks Immi team for taking in the 11 student interns this year. That the interns really enjoyed the work.

IX. **Adjournment** -The meeting was adjourned at 5:37 p.m. on a motion by Carla Picardo MD and seconded by Tim Pelkowski, MD. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Kelly Sharie, Recording Secretary