



# Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

## Meeting Minutes

### September 17, 2015

#### Members – Present

Ms. Brenda Isaac  
Mr. James Strawn  
Mr. Robert Reishman  
Dr. Arthur Rubin  
Mr. Stephen Weber

#### Member(s) Excused

Ms. Martha Yeager Walker

#### Presenting Guests

Dr. Michael Brumage  
Ms. Janet Briscoe  
Ms. Lolita Kirk  
Ms. Candace Nunley  
Ms. Tina Ramirez  
Mr. David Winowich

#### **1. Call to Order - President, Ms. Isaac**

Ms. Isaac called the Board meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

#### **2. Report of the President – Ms. Brenda Isaac**

##### **a. Approval of the minutes from the July 23, 2015 Board of Health Meeting**

A motion was made by Mr. Reishman and seconded by Mr. Weber to approve the meeting minutes of July 23, 2015 as submitted. The motion passed.

##### **b. Acknowledgement of Board reappointments - Ms. Martha Yeager Walker & Mr. James Strawn**

Ms. Isaac stated the City of Charleston has reappointed Ms. Walker and Mr. Strawn. Ms. Isaac administered the oath of office to Mr. Strawn.

##### **c. Discussion of correspondence between Commissioner Kent Carper and the Division of Personnel**

Ms. Isaac stated the Board had received copies of correspondence from Commissioner Carper and Ms. Sara Walker of the Division of Personnel concerning sanitarian salaries. Ms. Isaac noted the Board members would find a copy of the letters in their packets. Ms. Isaac stated she wanted to thank the Commission for their support in this matter. She requested that Mr. John Luoni, please relay the Board's appreciation to Commissioner Carper. Mr. Luoni asked if there was anything else the Commission could assist with. Ms. Isaac replied not at the current time.

Ms. Isaac also discussed a letter to Ms. Walker from the Board thanking the Division of Personnel, State Personnel Board and Secretary of Administration Jason Pizatella for removing the language that the proposed Administrative Rule. She added the Division of Personnel has been very helpful with our recent recruitment efforts.

### **3. Report of the Executive Director/Health Officer – Dr. Michael Brumage**

Dr. Brumage thanked the Board for their selection of him to serve as their health officer.

#### **a. Update on the Public Health Impact Taskforce**

Dr. Brumage informed the Board that at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting Task Force Meeting in Wheeling, the members of the Task Force voted, not unanimously, to instruct the Bureau for Public Health (BPH) to present a plan to reorganize public health. Implicit in the motion was that the proposed reorganization will affect local health departments.

Local health officials, but not all local health representatives on the task force, generally opposed the motion to have BPH present a reorganization plan. The motion was made by Dr. David Didden, physician director and health officer of the Jefferson County Health Department. Dr. Gregory Hand, dean of the School of Public Health at West Virginia University, was among those opposing the motion. While any such plan presented by BPH may be only for discussion purposes, it becomes the state's de facto policy proposal.

Dr. Rubin asked if there was any idea on why the Bureau for Public Health and not the Taskforce was charged with creating a plan. Mr. John Law replied there seemed to be feeling at the meeting that the Taskforce wasn't making any headway. The Board discussed the activities of the Taskforce and the focus being placed on local health departments. The Board instructed Dr. Brumage and staff to draft correspondence, for their approval, expressing their concerns to Secretary Bowling.

#### **b. Public Health Accreditation status**

Dr. Brumage informed the Board that on August 7<sup>th</sup>, the Health Department was informed by the Public Health Accreditation Board that the Committee determined that KCHD is required to submit an action plan to the Accreditation Committee no later than November 5<sup>th</sup> on 12 specific standards and measures out of the 97 standards and measures that were evaluated by the site survey team and the Accreditation Committee. Since receiving the notification, a working group was formed consisting of directors and acting directors of our 5 divisions as well as our public information officer to address the 12 standards and measures. We are meeting weekly to complete the action plan on or before November 5<sup>th</sup>. As a reference, 40% of health departments applying for accreditation are put on an action plan. Once an action plan is submitted and approved by the accreditation committee at PHAB, we will have one year to demonstrate compliance with the action plan. Some of these measures are simply better documentation of processes already in place while others provide us with an opportunity to improve existing processes. As a learning organization, we welcome the opportunity to demonstrate our proficiency and become fully accredited. Dr. Brumage added that currently there are only 79 accredited local health departments out of the 2,800 across the United States and we aspire to be the first PHAB accredited local health department in West Virginia.

#### **c. Report on Cabell County's Harm Reduction program - Discussion of creating a Kanawha-Charleston Harm Reduction program**

Dr. Brumage informed the Board the Cabell-Huntington Health Department kicked off their Harm Reduction program on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and saw 15 people on the first day. The following week they saw 21: 17 new and 4 returns, and this week had 41 people come in as the trust grows in their program that offers needle exchange, treatment

and recover services, as well as health screening. Ms. Ramirez and I personally attended their program kickoff and observed their process. We are very thankful to our colleagues in Huntington for being so open to assisting us and sharing their literature and lessons learned.

In collaboration with the Charleston Police Department (special thanks to Lt. Chad Napier), the Mayor's office, the County Commission, the US District Attorney's office, Kanawha Communities that Care, Kanawha Coalition for Community Health Improvement, and Dr. Dan Foster, we have openly discussed starting a similar Harm Reduction program in Kanawha County and in Putnam County as well, which has been well-publicized in the local media. We have had very little resistance for this initiative and quite a bit of support. We are at the point of forming a steering committee to discuss and implement public messages and arrange the logistics of providing the supporting recovery services and the cost of needles and syringes. My preliminary target for beginning a harm reduction program is mid-December 2015 but could shift earlier or later depending on the logistics and unforeseeable circumstances.

The Board also discussed a City of Charleston's proposed ordinance that will allow the needle exchange program to move forward. The ordinance will be presented at next Monday's City Council Meeting.

Dr. Rubin commended Dr. Brumage for moving forward with the Action plan and the Harm Reduction program.

**d. Report on the activities of the WV Association of Local Health Departments**

Dr. Brumage reported we are providing the Association membership with media updates several times a week that deal with local health and other health care issues. We are also providing reports on legislative interim committee meetings, actions of the State Personnel Board and other legislative and regulatory actions. Additionally, we are working with the Association and its consultant, The Susman Group, to develop a strategy to make legislators and the public more aware of the importance of local health departments. Dr. Brumage added we have also agreed to serve on a newly formed Finance Committee. The first meeting of the group will be September 28th. The group's first meeting will be to establish goals and objectives. Our hope is that this group can work with some of the struggling local health departments to provide technical assistance and guidance.

**e. Discussion of Kanawha Coalition for Community Health Improvement's September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

During the Coalition's Steering Committee Meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>, the members requested to support concerns by CAMC and Thomas Hospital Systems regarding the Clean Indoor Air regulation. Specifically, patients and staff were complaining that the 15 foot smoking restrictions were insufficient for hospitals with doors close to public sidewalks. One hospital noted the cigarette smoke was wafting into their emergency room where it created an unsafe working environment for their staff. While hospital accreditation organizations like the Joint Commission are pushing hospitals to adopt tobacco-free campuses. The current Clean Indoor Air Regulation permits smoking on the city sidewalks surrounding these health care facilities. The KCCHI asked for KCHD to consider amending the current regulation to allow for a greater standoff distance from public entrances to the hospitals. Currently, all

Federal facilities mandate a 50 foot no-smoking zone around the entire building. KCCHI steering committee requested a review of Clean Indoor Regulation to permit this standoff distance to include public sidewalks only where those public entrances are within 50 feet of the sidewalk. To be clear, this request for consideration would only apply to public entrances within 50 foot of the sidewalk that were not already part of the hospital campus. On a separate, but related note, the topic of vaping (non-combustible nicotine use) was brought up since this was also being observed near hospital entrances. In our review of the clean indoor air regulations from across the state, we learned that 28 of the 55 counties included vaping in their clean indoor air regulations.

I am proposing to the board to form a subcommittee to review the existing Clean Indoor Air regulation to determine the feasibility of the requested accommodations from the KCCHI steering committee and to additionally consider the feasibility of adding vaping to the existing clean indoor air regulation.

The board members discussed the current regulation and the distance requirement for public entrances. The member also discussed electronic cigarettes. Ms. Isaac stated the Board could review the regulation. On a motion from Mr. Weber and seconded by Dr. Rubin the Board voted to form a sub-committee for the purposes of reviewing the Board's Clean Indoor Air Regulation. Ms. Isaac, Dr. Rubin and Mr. Strawn volunteered to serve on the sub-committee.

**4. Report of the Board's Finance Sub-Committee**

**a. Review of FY2015 financial report**

Mr. Reishman informed the Board they would find copy of the financial report in their packets. Mr. Reishman added we are moving forward on the building projects.

**5. Report of the Division of Administrative Services – Ms. Lolita Kirk**

**a. Presentation and discussion of staffing report.**

Ms. Kirk informed the Board they would find a copy of the staffing report in their packets. Recruitment to fill vacancies is progressing.

**b. Discussion of preliminary approval of FY2016 Program Plan from the WV Bureau for Public Health**

Ms. Kirk stated the Board members would find in their packets a copy of a letter from the Bureau for Public Health giving preliminary approval to the FY2016 Program Plan. Preliminary approval is what we are receiving this year rather than the conditional or unconditional approval we usually receive.

**6. Report of the Division of Clinic Services – Ms. Candy Nunley**

Ms. Nunley informed the Board that the annual flu vaccination campaign is underway. The nurses are out daily providing flu shots at community and business locations. Ms. Nunley added the school located flu vaccinations will begin on September 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Board members and Dr. Brumage discussed the high dose flu vaccine and its effectiveness. Ms. Isaac said gave a thank you to the clinic staff who have been preparing for the school located influenza vaccination clinics. She added the school clinics start September 24<sup>th</sup>.

**7. Report of the Division of Environmental Health Services – Mr. David Winowich**

**a. Discussion of three new sanitarians, currently attending training class.**

Mr. Winowich informed the Board that the three newest employees are in training in Morgantown and will be introduced to the Board at a later meeting.

The Board also discussed how the DHHR training school for sanitarians is only held once a year.

**8. Report of the Division of Epidemiology & Threat Preparedness - Ms. Janet Briscoe**

On September 15th and 16th the Division staff participated in a functional exercise to train state employees in skills such as setting up a mass prophylaxis Closed Point of Dispensing (POD) operation and dispensing of medications. This was widely attended by state officials and local volunteers from WVU-TECH school of nursing and Volunteer West Virginia. For several years the Threat Preparedness staff has been working with West Virginia state government including DMAPS, West Virginia Division of Protective Services and other state agencies in the development of a closed Point of Dispensing at the Capital Complex.

Matthew Law, Threat Preparedness Coordinator for Putnam County is leading the Kanawha-Putnam Household Preparedness Initiative (KPHPI). He has been working on this for several months and the initiative had the official “kick-off” this month. The initiative uses the evidence-based program “Do 1 Thing” to help people prepare their families for disaster by working together in community workshops. Groups can sign up for workshops at the website [kphpi.org](http://kphpi.org). KPHPI also includes a social media outreach through Twitter and Facebook that has been especially active during National Preparedness Month. More information on the project has been provided in the board packets.

The Division is investigating a cluster of cases of Epidemic Keratoconjunctivitis (EKC) has been identified in residents of Kanawha and Putnam Counties.

**9. Report of the Division of Prevention & Wellness – Ms. Tina Ramirez**

**a. Report on the No Butts About it pick up**

The “No Butts About It” campaign has had 4 pick-ups with over 100,000 cigarette butts collected. Yesterday, a pick-up was done as part of the Health Department’s participation in United Way’s Day of Caring.

**b. Discussion of the United Way Day of Caring on September 16<sup>th</sup>**

Ms. Ramirez informed the Board that yesterday, we participated in the United Way Day of Caring. This year volunteers from Goodwill, Job Corp and Capitol High School’s Raze project participated in the “No Butts About It” Campaign. The volunteers also assisted us with our school flu vaccination program by preparing the consent forms that will be going out to the parents.

**c. Discussion of Bonnie’s Bus scheduled to be at KCHD on September 24<sup>th</sup>**

Ms. Ramirez informed the Board the Bonnie’s Bus- Mobile Mammogram Unit from WVU will be at KCHD on September 24<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. There are still appointment times available. Ms. Ramirez added the Board they would find a flyer for the event in their packets.

**d. Report on working with WVU on a Diabetes Management & Prevention Program**

Ms. Ramirez informed the Board, KCHD will be working with WVU on the Diabetes Management & Prevention Program. So far the program has 12 participants registered and it is slated to begin September 27<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Ramirez added the program is a 22 session, year-long program, that is modeled after the NDPP (National Diabetes Prevention Program from University of Pittsburgh). Anyone at high risk for diabetes or diabetics are welcome to participate. A copy of the program flyer is included in their packets.

## **10. Old Business**

## **11. New Business**

### **a. Public comment period**

The following individuals made comment about the work of the health department and its staff:

Ms. Nasandra Wright, Ms. Julia Gonzalez, Dr. Charles Schade, Mr. Bill Curry, Mr. Tom Sims, Ms. Pauline Shaver, Ms. Jeannie Burns.

## **12. Adjournment**

On a motion made by Mr. Weber and seconded by Mr. Reishman, the Board voted to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Brumage, MD MPH, FACP  
Executive Director/Health Officer