



# Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

## Meeting Minutes

January 27, 2011

### Board Members Present

Ms. Brenda Isaac  
Mr. Robert Reishman  
Ms. Shannon Snodgrass  
Mr. James Strawn  
Mr. Stephen Weber

### Presenting Guests

Dr. Rahul Gupta  
Ms. Lolita Kirk  
Ms. Janet Briscoe  
Ms. Krista Farley  
Ms. Anita Ray

### Absent Members

Dr. Arthur Rubin

#### 1. Call to Order – President

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

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

Ms. Isaac thanked Ms. Briscoe, Ms. Karen Shelton, Ms. Penny Spangler and the clinic services staff for their assistance with providing vaccinations to the principals and assistant principals of Kanawha County Schools. Ms. Isaac stated that the KCHD staff was very efficient and professional.

##### a. Approval of prior meeting minutes

Mr. Weber made a motion that the minutes of December 2, 2010 Board meeting be accepted as read. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reishman. The Board voted and the motion passed unanimously.

#### 3. Report of the Health Officer – Dr. Gupta

##### a. Influenza update

Dr. Gupta stated that the Board would find several charts in their packets. The charts, Dr. Gupta added, provide the numbers of seasonal influenza vaccinations for the various components of this year's vaccination campaign. Dr. Gupta added that to date there had been no significant flu activity in the community. Dr. Gupta stated that of the 5,000 plus cases of influenza like illness across the state, there had only been 65 of these cases reported in Kanawha County. However, he stated, we may see the numbers increase in February and March. Dr. Gupta informed the Board, that since September, KCHD has given over 16,000 flu shots; approximately 8,000 in the schools and over 7,000 to communities and businesses. He also added that this was the Health Department's second year of partnering with Kanawha County Schools to provide immunizations in the schools.

**b. U.S. Chemical Safety Board**

Dr. Gupta stated on January 20, 2011, he participated on a panel of witnesses regarding the Bayer incident of 2008 in which there were two fatalities. Dr. Gupta informed the Board that the Chemical Safety Board (CSB) has recommended that the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department be charged with developing a hazardous chemical release prevention program. Dr. Gupta added that currently there are three such programs in the country. The programs are in Massachusetts; New Jersey and California. The very successful California program is led by a local health department in Contra Costa County. The program being proposed in Kanawha County would be similar to the California program. Dr. Gupta added that due to this program implementation in that county, the number of incidents, injuries and fatalities have decreased substantially. He stated that he and Ms. Ray are looking into this program, but added that the development depends on the Board's approval and appropriate action(s) by the state legislature. Dr. Gupta stated it might be a good idea to coordinate this program with the County's Emergency Management Authorities. The Federal CSB would like to see this program originate at a local level.

**c. Healthcare Reform activities**

Dr. Gupta updated the Board on the activities of the West Virginia Insurance Commission and the plans to form the WV Health Insurance Exchange. The Exchanges allow for any of the three directions: state, regional, and federal level. If the state or regional cannot efficiently handle these activities, then it automatically defaults to the federal level. Dr. Gupta stated that most stakeholders would like to see the Exchange at the state level. Dr. Gupta stated that there needs to be a bill introduced very soon or the State stands to lose a lot of federal grant dollars. Committees are working hard to assist in getting this completed.

In addition, Commissioner Carper has announced the formation of a Kanawha County Health Reform Task Force that will look at Healthcare Reform and its impact locally. Dr. Gupta added that he has been requested to serve on this group.

**d. Tobacco Prevention**

Dr. Gupta informed the Board there was a flyer in their packets. He went on to say that the American Lung Association gave Kanawha County an **A** regarding the Clean Indoor Air Regulation.

Dr. Gupta noted that there was a copy of West Virginia Bureau for Public Health's Division of Tobacco Prevention 2010 Annual Progress Report in the Board's packets. Dr. Gupta added that the flyer states the Program spent \$1.8 million dollars in 2010 for West Virginia Program. Dr. Gupta added that since KCHD is not aware of the existence of a statewide Clean Indoor Air Law at this time in WV, we cannot inform the Board where that funding is being spent. He agreed with Board members that we need to find this out.

**e. Legislation**

Dr. Gupta stated that Senator Foster was working on a State-wide bill regarding CIAR and tobacco tax.

He also informed the Board that there was a bill evolving (Bill # 2849) pertaining to unused drugs being turned back in to LHD pharmacies from nursing homes, but none such entities (licensed LHD pharmacies) exist. These bills are still in the working stage.

**4. Report of the Administrative Director – Ms. Lolita Kirk**

Ms. Kirk informed the Board that a copy of the financial report was in their packets. Ms. Kirk added that a copy of the Department's staffing report was also in their packets.

Ms. Kirk updated the Board on the status of the funding from the Threat Preparedness Grant. Ms. Kirk stated that since the last Board meeting (December 2, 2010) the Department has received the H1N1 Grant funds that were outstanding. Ms. Kirk added that the grant for the current year has also been finalized. The Department, Ms. Kirk stated, was able in January to invoice for the months of for August through December 2010. She added that the total of the outstanding invoices is \$115,000.

**5. Report of the Director of Environmental Health – Ms. Anita Ray**

Ms. Ray informed the Board that the Health Department had suspended the food service and child care permits of the Kiddie Academy Child Care Center. Ms. Ray added that the action was initiated due to complaints filed with KCHD relating to a severe rodent infestation in this facility. The Environmental Health Services Division, stated Ms. Ray, worked closely with the Center's owners to try to get them into compliance so that they could re-open and minimize the disruption of services to the parents of the children attending the facility. Ms. Ray added that the Center operates in a building leased to them by the Catholic Diocese which operates the John XXIII Center. Ms. Ray added that once KCHD suspended the permits, that action triggered the loss of the Center's state license from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR) Child Care Licensure Program. Ms. Ray stated that KCHD has worked closely with the state inspector to get this facility back into compliance

Ms. Ray stated that unfortunately while the facility was closed the owners took it upon themselves to reopen in the John XXIII Center. This was done without any notice to the KCHD or the DHHR. None of the required equipment was set up to provide for the safety of the children. The required emergency contact numbers for the children were not readily available when KCHD and the Child Care Licensure inspector shut the Center down a second time. KCHD Staff had to wait until all of the parents were contacted to come and get their children before staff left the John XXIII Center.

Ms. Ray updated the Board that the Kiddie Academy has now re-opened with the Health Department permits being reinstated and a provisional license issued to them by the DHHR. Ms. Ray added that KCHD will continue to inspect this facility under an accelerated inspection schedule until continued compliance is assured.

Ms. Ray briefly discussed with the Board the new US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Food Safety Modernization Act. Ms. Ray informed the Board that food facilities must have a written preventive controls plan that spells out the possible problems that could affect the safety of their products. The FDA must establish science-based standards for the safe production and harvesting of fruits and vegetables. In the Act, the FDA is directed to increase the frequency of inspections. FDA is also authorized to mandate a recall of unsafe food if the food company fails to do it voluntarily. The legislation did not include sufficient fee resources to cover the costs of the new requirements.

**6. Report of the Director of Epidemiology –Ms. Janet Briscoe**

Ms. Briscoe provided the following updates on public health preparedness activities at the Health Department:

- A SNS exercise is scheduled for April 20, 2011. Staff and volunteers will be participating. Planning meetings are in progress. Ms. Briscoe extended an invitation to Board members to participate in the exercise.
- Ms. Briscoe updated the Board on the three Public Health Emergency Preparedness grant proposals that were submitted to the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Center for Threat Preparedness for special projects. Two of the applications were accepted. The accepted projects include development of a risk communication toolkit for special populations and development and production of an educational training video for staff and volunteers to respond to a mass prophylaxis emergency. A grant proposal was also submitted for development of a mass dispensing plan for the state capitol and state government which would assure continuity of government and protect critical government infrastructure. This project was rejected.
- Ms. Briscoe apprised the Board of disease outbreaks in Kanawha County and the role of the Division in those investigations. Ms. Briscoe added that Board members would find a report on these activities in their packets.
- The Board was informed by Ms. Briscoe that the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health has filed for an amendment to Rule 64CSR95-Immunization Requirements and Recommendations for New School Enterers. This amendment would add two previously "recommended" vaccines to a new section on "required" adolescent immunizations. According to the amendment, beginning in the fall of 2012 all West Virginia school children will be required to receive the Tdap and Meningococcal vaccines prior to entry into 7th grade. It also requires that students entering 12th grade provide proof of a second dose of the Meningococcal vaccine.

#### **7. Report of the Director of Health Promotion – Ms. Krista Farley**

Ms. Farley informed the Board that KCHD has received a grant from National Association of City/County Health Officials (NACCHO) to support the recruitment and retention of volunteers in the Health Department's Capital Medical Reserve Corps.

Ms. Farley stated that the KEYS 4 HealthyKids physical activity map has been finalized and is available in hardcopy or on the Health Department's website. Ms. Farley added that the program is currently working on the East End and West Side of Charleston and will expand county-wide in 2012. Ms. Farley stated that last week, she attended a meeting in Nashville, TN hosted by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation entitled A Regional Perspective: Supporting Capacity to Reverse Childhood Obesity. The meeting, Ms. Farley stated, was for all funded programs throughout the south. KCHD was eligible for this meeting because of the Health Department's NACCHO Policy Leadership grant and the KEYS 4 HealthyKids project.

#### **8. Old Business**

Dr. Gupta informed the Board that he had a meeting recently with the new West Virginia Department of Health & Human Resources Secretary, Dr. Michael J. Lewis and Bureau for Public Health Acting Commissioner Chris Curtis. Dr. Gupta added that during the meeting, he expressed to Dr. Lewis his desire for the agencies to have a transparent and workable relationship. Dr. Gupta added that he has been informed by Commissioner Curtis that OHFLAC/FOIA issue is being looked into closely and would have some resolution soon.

## 9. New Business

### a. Discussion of a \$100,000 funding cut for FY2012 by the City of Charleston

Mr. Reishman discussed with the Board the issue of the City of Charleston cutting the Health Department's funding by \$100,000. Mr. Reishman added that the City feels other municipalities should be contributing to the Health Department's operation.

### b. Discussion concerning contracting with an architect for the remodel of clinic areas, including the main lobby

Ms. Kirk stated that the Health Department had received a number of proposals for architectural services. She added that she and Mr. Reishman had interviewed three of the firms. Based on the proposals, interviews and staff feedback, Associated Architects is the firm that is being recommended to the Board.

Mr. Reishman made a motion to approve the recommendation. The motion was seconded by Ms. Snodgrass. The Board voted and motion passed unanimously. Ms. Snodgrass suggested that a committee be formed to help further decisions with the re-structure.

### c. Public comment period

Mr. C. W. Sigmon, Kanawha County Fire Coordinator, and Mr. Dale Petry, Kanawha County Emergency Services Director, were recognized by Ms. Isaac. Mr. Sigmon stated they wanted to express their thanks to Ms. Briscoe and KCHD staff for their willingness to come to the volunteer fire departments and administer vaccinations that are needed by the volunteer fire crews.

## 10. Adjournment – 5:45 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Weber to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Reishman. The Board voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH, FACP  
Health Officer/Executive Director