



Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

August 16, 2012

Members – Present

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

Presenting Guests

Dr. Rahul Gupta
Ms. Lolita Kirk
Ms. Janet Briscoe
Ms. Krista Farley
Ms. Susan Jordan
Ms. Anita Ray
Ms. Kathy Worley

1. Call to Order – President

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

2. Report of the President – Ms. Isaac

a. Approval of the minutes from the June 6, 2012 Board of Health meetings

A motion was made by Dr. Rubin and seconded by Mr. Weber to accept the meeting minutes of June 6, 2012 as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Election of Board of Health President for fiscal year 2013

The floor was opened for nominations for Board President for fiscal year 2013. Dr. Rubin nominated Ms. Isaac and Mr. Strawn seconded the motion. A motion was made to close the nominations and the vote was unanimous to elect Ms. Isaac.

3. Report of the Health – Dr. Rahul Gupta

a. Discussion of Ethic Commission meeting on August 2, 2012

Dr. Gupta discussed with the Board members the August meeting of the West Virginia Ethic Commission. A copy of the Advisory Opinion was in the Board's packets. The Ethics Commission agreed with KCHD's stand including that the processes involving public employees serving on the Board of Local Health, Incorporated (LHI) were impermissible and a violation of the WV Ethics Act.

b. Update on the West Virginia Department of Health & Human Resources (DHHR) Infrastructure Grant issue

Dr. Gupta provided the Board with a recap of what has been going on with the Infrastructure Grant and DHHR. Dr. Gupta stated that after removing ourselves from the Association of Local Health Departments and LHI due to concerns of violations of the

WV Ethics Act by public employees serving on the LHI Board on April 23rd, KCHD applied directly to DHHR and were denied direct funding by DHHR on April 27th. On May 24, we submitted a letter to Dr. Lewis requesting direct funding from DHHR. This was denied on August 1st. On August 8th Mrs. Isaac sent a letter to the DHHR and insisted that Kanawha County citizens be funded and stated the Board's concerns of the proximity of the WVBPH leadership with a private non-profit, LHI. On August 15th, we received information that we could reapply for the grant, following the initial guidelines, directly to the DHHR. There were several public officials that were also very instrumental in getting the re-opening of the grant funding: The Governor's Office; Senator Foster; letters from both Mayor Jones and Commissioner Carper. We would like to acknowledge these individuals. KCHD has been instructed that the grant could be extended to December 2012. The deadline for us to re-apply is August 22nd.

Dr. Gupta went on to say that the Advisory Opinion is very clear in defining what should happen with State Agencies. Dr. Rubin asked if LHI was being restructured and Dr. Gupta stated that as of now, we are not aware that they are..

Mr. Strawn asked if KCHD was still not a member of the Association of Local Health Departments and Dr. Gupta stated that KCHD has not rejoined.

Mr. Weber congratulated Dr. Gupta and his staff for standing their ground and seeing the Ethics situation through.

Dr. Gupta thanked the Board for their support and recognized the staff also. He stated that many hours were spent on this issue that should never have had to be spent.

c. Report on NACCHO annual conference

Dr. Gupta stated the conference was held in Los Angeles, California this year. He added KCHD had three presentations accepted for the Conference. He (Dr. Gupta), Ms. Farley and Mr. Brandon Merritt represented KCHD. Dr. Gupta informed the Board that NACCHO Board, on which he serves, held their meeting in conjunction with the conference.

d. Introduction of the new Health Promotion employees

Ms. Farley stated that in May of 2011, the Grant was announced by CDC and funds were to be sent to the State. The State decided the funding would be better handled on the local level. It was a grant for 1.8 million per year for the next five (5) years, with the first year ending on September 30, 2012. Ms. Farley stated that she believed there was a strong and good partnership with eight additional counties and the state.

Dr. Gupta thanked Ms. Farley for her hard work in securing this grant and for the many personal hours she had invested. Ms. Farley stated that we had finally hired the extra staff that was covered under this grant and introduced them to the Board. Ms. LyCricia Criss was hired as the Regional Program Manager; Stacie Naylor, Mark Newland and Natalie Pack were hired as Prevention Coordinators. Ms. Farley stated that they had started having meetings in a couple of the counties and that their first newsletter had been printed (copy provided in Board folders). Dr. Gupta stated we were one of the first

to hire new staff. The grant can be extended for the next four years, on a yearly basis. The Board welcomed the new employees.

4. Report of the Board of Sub-Committee on Finance

a. Presentation and discussion of FY2012 financial report

Mr. Reishman stated the committee met and that there were no specific issues. Basically everything was good.

Ms. Kirk informed the Board that Ms. Worley, Ms. Jordan and Ms. Farley applied for a Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation Grant and was awarded funding that will allow the Health Department to purchase two new examination tables for the Clinic. One table will allow KCHD to have an ADA accessible exam room and the other will be for child friendly exam room.

5. Report of the Director of Administrative Services – Ms. Lolita Kirk

a. Distribution of the Conflict of Interest statement for FY2012 audit.

Ms. Kirk informed the Board that the Conflict of Interest statements that are required as part of the annual independent audit was in their packets. She added that the financial reports were also in their packets.

6. Report from Clinic Services – Ms. Susan Jordan and Ms. Katie Worley

a. Discussion of the start of flu shot clinics

Ms. Jordan stated KCHD has started receiving flu vaccine and have begun administering flu shots upon request. Several colleges are recommending flu shots for students as part of their pre-admission policies. Ms. Worley said she was working with WorkForce WV to hire some clerical help. Ms. Snodgrass asked if these employees will have background checks performed. Ms. Worley replied WorkForce will conduct the background checks.

Ms. Worley stated that due to the new school vaccination requirements for 7th and 12th graders, the clinic has been giving over 100 shots per day. Ms. Worley added on the busiest day the clinic saw 158 patients. Ms. Jordan added that several doctors' offices were out of the vaccine and that many counties were also. Fortunately KCHD has been able to accommodate those patients. Ms. Jordan stated that her nurses were reviewing records closely to make sure all shots were given that were needed. Ms. Isaac commended the Health Department on a job well done. She stated she knows it is a little crazy, but that we were keeping up with it. Mr. Weber asked if the vaccinations for school are a one-time shot or a booster and Ms. Isaac added that these were usually booster.

Ms. Worley stated that despite the increase in patients, the billing was staying current. Dr. Gupta stated that in a private practice the billing is the key to maintaining their status and the fact that Clinic staff are keeping up the volume with increased number of patients is impressive.

7. Report of the Director of Environmental Health – Ms. Anita Ray

a. Status report on the Environmental health Software

Ms. Ray informed the Board that the ten counties participating in the pilot of the Healthspace Software System were instructed to go from the “test” version to “live” beginning July 1st. Ms. Ray added there are still many issues to work through with the software company; however we are in constant contact with both Healthspace and the State Division of Environmental Health to work out these issues. Ms. Ray stated she believes it will take several months to get all modules completely operable for their recording needs, for office staff and field staff.

b. Discussion of the pilot food inspection program

Ms. Ray informed the Board the six-month pilot of the new food rating system was started on August 1st. The area includes all of South Charleston and those Charleston food service establishments located in the Corridor G area. Because we do not have the ability to print the new form with the rating on the bottom of the form, the sanitarian, David Winowich, is having to bring the inspection back to the office to have it typed into a template with the proper rating and then return it to the restaurant the following day, to be posted properly. We are hoping the designers with the software company, will have this available for us to use and print the inspections forms on site soon. Ms. Ray added there is a comment section on the Department’s web site. We welcome all comments, pro or con, and suggestions on how we might improve on the system.

Ms. Snodgrass asked if there had been any comments. Ms. Ray stated there had not been, however she feels the more restaurants that are inspected, the more the public will respond.

Mr. Weber asked if the information was entered when the sanitarian is in the field and if they have the capability to print them. Ms. Ray said that each of the sanitarians had tablets and mobile printers that were purchased from a grant, and that is their desire in the future to be able to print the inspections in the field.

Ms. Ray informed the Board that they had checked on other electronic recording software and the costs were between \$50,000 and \$80,000. That is when it was suggested the State develop software that all counties could use. Ms. Ray stated this was a fairly easy sale to the State since they would be getting more accurate data with this software. The grant came along that helped with the purchase of the equipment and hopefully it will continue. We also purchased wheeled cases for the tablet and printer to be carried in.

Dr. Gupta stated that we are looking into electronic health records, something that would be going in the same direction as Environmental.

8. Report of the Director of Epidemiology & Threat Preparedness – Ms. Janet Briscoe

a. Report on KCHD’s Local Technical Review Score for Countermeasures Mass Prophylaxis Plan

Ms. Briscoe reported results of the review of the KCHD Medical Countermeasure Mass Dispensing plan are now back. KCHD received a ninety-five (95) out of one-hundred (100) score on the local technical assistance review (LTAR) from CDC.

b. Discussion of the Health Department's emergency response after the Derecho storm

Ms. Briscoe reported that KCHD's Division of Epidemiology and Emergency Preparedness, along with other KCHD staff, were part of the response to the Derecho on June 29th. On Saturday, June 30th, two Kanawha County long-term care facilities (LTCF) were evacuated. KCHD personnel responded to the relocation site to assist and immediately set up an Incident Command Center at the health department to coordinate the public health response. Representatives were sent to the Emergency Operations Center throughout the recovery period. Initial response efforts included providing support with the evacuations, public information, and to maintain food and water safety. Ms. Briscoe thanked the KCHD staff who participated in the response, for their dedication and support during this critical time.

Mr. Weber asked if there was a central source where individuals could get information during an emergency such as this and Ms. Briscoe stated that the media did a great job getting the info out and the Emergency Info Centers were very effective. Ms. Briscoe stated that it is important to have equipment to help keep you informed and stated a crank top battery radio in case there is no electricity, was a way to obtain necessary information. This instrument could keep you informed.

c. Status report on Influenza A - H3N2v

As of August 16, 2012, West Virginia is reporting 3 laboratory-confirmed cases of H3N2v, in persons who attended an Ohio agriculture fair, where swine were being exhibited. From July 12th to August 9, 2012, a total of 153 cases have been reported to CDC from multiple states. Almost all of the H3N2v cases this year have been linked to agricultural fairs. This strain of swine flu was first identified in July 2011. Illness in humans has so far been mild and very similar to seasonal influenza. No deaths have been reported in those who have been confirmed. There is no evidence of sustained efficient human-to-human transmission. Additional information for the public and testing guidance for clinicians is available on KCHD website. Ms. Briscoe added that often rapid test have false negative readings; samples actually need to be sent to a lab for confirmed results.

d. Status report on West Nile Virus

Nationally, the number of human cases of West Nile virus (WNV) reported this year is higher than any year since the disease was first detected in 1999. According to the CDC, nearly half of the 693 (336) human WNV cases reported this year have been in Texas. The Texas HD is reporting even higher case numbers (465) and 17 deaths this year. The mayor of Dallas declares a state of emergency to combat the spread of WNV. West Virginia is also seeing a trend in the number of mosquitoes testing positive for WNV. Testing of mosquito pools around the state has shown an increase in positive WNV (41 of 200 or 20.5%) in the mosquito population. In comparison in 2011 only one out of 70 (1.4) mosquito pools were positive. Of the 41 mosquito pools testing positive 11(27%) were in Kanawha County. Even though WV has not reported any WNV cases this year,

we are concerned that the increase in positive mosquitoes could be a risk for more human cases this year. To be proactive, we are providing information via our website for the public on reducing mosquito breeding areas and actions to prevent mosquito-borne illnesses.

Ms. Ray added that the state entomologist had set traps and in all the pools that were tested for several different diseases, they all came back with West Nile.

9. Report of the Director of Health Promotion – Ms. Krista Farley

a. Report on the Community Transformation Grant

Ms. Farley stated the Grant is an opportunity to be a model to the communities involved. Ms. Farley added that a media campaign has been planned and hopefully time will change the public perspective. Ms. Farley stated they are still working on getting health items in the checkout aisles and fresh fruit in the convenient stores.

Mr. Weber acknowledged Ms. Farley for her dedication and help on the Kanawha Dental Health Council.

10. Old Business

None.

a. Executive session to discuss legal issue.

Dr. Rubin made a motion to go into Executive Session; it was seconded by Mr. Weber. (5:40 p.m.) Dr. Rubin made a motion to return to regular session (6:00 p.m.) and it was seconded by Mr. Weber. It was stated that the Board would seek advice from legal counsel on a potential litigation issue.

11. New Business

a. Public comment period

None.

12. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Reishman to adjourn and seconded by Dr. Rubin. It passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



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