



Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2013

Members – Present

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

Presenting Guests

Dr. Rahul Gupta
Ms. Lolita Kirk
Ms. Janet Briscoe
Ms. Carol McCormick
Ms. Sara Miller
Ms. Anita Ray

Member(s) – Excused

Mr. James Strawn

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 September 19, 2013, Board of Health Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Weber and seconded by Dr. Rubin to approve the meeting minutes of September 19, 2013 as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Report of the Health Officer – Dr. Gupta

Dr. Gupta requested Ms. Briscoe introduce her two new employees to the Board.

a. Introduction of new staff

- Lindsey Mason, Regional Epidemiologist
Ms. Briscoe introduced Ms. Mason as the new Regional Epidemiologist. Ms. Briscoe added Ms. Mason is from Pennsylvania and attended WVU for both her BS in Industrial Mathematics and Statistics; along with her MPH for the combined Epidemiology and Biostatistics track as well as the Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences track. Prior to coming to KCHD, Ms. Mason completed an internship at the Morgantown NIOSH campus and spent the summer traveling the United States as a research team member for the National Roadside Survey. Ms. Mason is interested in infectious disease epidemiology and she is excited to broaden her experience and knowledge at KCHD.
- Michael Williams, CDC Public Health Associate
Ms. Briscoe then introduced Mr. Williams as KCHD's new CDC Public health Associate, a two-year fellowship position. Mr. Williams was appointed to KCHD in July of 2013, coming to us from Michigan, where he attended Grand Valley State

University and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration and Public Health. Mr. Williams held several internships with the Veterans Administration in Washington, DC, in the areas of Hospital Emergency Preparedness, Tobacco Cessation and Influenza Prevention. Ms. Briscoe added that Mr. Williams has an interest in STD/HIV, nutrition and public policy, with the hopes of attaining his Masters of Public Health in the near future.

Dr. Gupta stated he was proud to have Ms. Mason and Mr. Williams. He went on to say that Ms. Mason was hired through the Regional Epidemiologist Grant and Mr. Williams will be on assignment at KCHD for two years, from CDC, like our previous Associate, Ms. Rachel Holloway, who is now the Assistant to Rear Admiral Stephen C. Redd, MD, Director, Influenza Coordination for the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC).

The Board members welcomed both employees.

b. Status report on quality improvement and accreditation related initiatives

Dr. Gupta stated the Department's application for accreditation has been submitted to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The application has been accepted into the process. Dr. Gupta added the fees have been paid and the Department is waiting on its access to PHAB's website. Once access is given, the required documentation will be uploaded. After the documentation has been submitted, the next step will be the site visit.

Dr. Rubin asked if PHAB's representatives would be meeting with Board of Health. Dr. Gupta replied that would be a component of the site visit. Dr. Gupta went on to say that Ms. Wright and Mr. Sims have attended the required coordinator training.

c. Discussion of staff presentations at the American Public Health Assoc. Conference

Dr. Gupta stated he had recently attended the APHA's annual Conference. There were over 15,000 attendees at the Conference. Dr. Gupta added, KCHD had three presentations on emerging issues of public health significance and were received well by the audience. The three Conference presentations included: "Merging public health and food safety awareness using a mobile application", "When disaster strikes, there's an App for that", and "a sustainability model for School-located Influenza Vaccine Clinics."

d. Update on the activities of the Kanawha County Substance Abuse Task Force

Dr. Gupta stated he has been active in the Task Force headed by Dr. Dan Foster. There have been several news articles in the Charleston Gazette by Mr. Eric Eyre on the Taskforce's work. Dr. Gupta added there have been five (5) meetings so far. During the meetings there have been a number of national and state presenters from all sides of the issue.

Ms. Isaac commended the hard work of the City of Charleston police officers and the Kanawha County Sheriff's Department to get the meth labs under control. Ms. Isaac went on to say that it is such a bad situation; it destroys families; affects homeowners; and puts our first responders in difficult and dangerous situations.

Ms. Isaac added that there were extreme amounts of pseudoephedrine sold in Kanawha County. She added that the buyers had learned ways around the system; that they actually have people that come in from out of state and purchase the item for them, in mass numbers. These individuals are called "SMURFS". This issue puts pharmacists in harm's way as well if they refuse to sell the drug to the purchasers.

The Board and Dr. Gupta discussed the issue of pseudoephedrine being used to make Meth. Dr. Gupta stated that currently there are two products that are tamper resistant.

There has been a bill submitted to the Legislature to have pseudoephedrine listed as a prescription drug. Mississippi and Oregon currently have such a law in effect and Missouri may be the next state to pass this law. Dr. Gupta stated that it passed the House 2 years ago, but was defeated in the Senate.

Dr. Gupta added that the County Commission may be able to do something in Kanawha County, however it is believed that there may be a ruling that a local entity cannot make such rules. Dr. Rubin asked if there was anything the Board of Health could consider down the road and Dr. Gupta stated this is being looked into.

The Board also discussed assistance that could be provided by emergency responders during instances of drug overdoses. Dr. Gupta went on to say that statewide, committees continue to meet regarding the meth issue.

e. Other Updates

Dr. Gupta discussed with the Board recent activities with the National Association of City/County Health Officials (NACCHO). Dr. Gupta added that several staff members as well as he are working on a variety of NACCHO committees.

Dr. Gupta discussed with the Board, his involvement with National Quality Forum. The Forum has invited him to serve on the steering committee to obtain multi-stakeholder input on a National Priority: Improving Population Health by Working with Communities – Population Health Framework.

4. Report of the Board Sub-committee on Finance – Mr. Robert Reishman

Mr. Reishman informed the Board the Sub-Committee had met earlier to review the 1st quarter finances. Everything is in good order.

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

a. Presentation and discussion of staffing report

Ms. Kirk informed the Board that the staffing reports were in their packets. She added that we were still recruiting employees for Putnam County.

Ms. Snodgrass asked if Kanawha County was going to continue managing Putnam County. Ms. Kirk stated that it looked like we might, at least for a while. She added that the Commission and Board of Putnam seemed to be pleased with the way things were going.

Dr. Gupta stated that more services were being scheduled and as long as both Boards of Health agreed, then we could continue to provide the services. Dr. Gupta instructed the Board that the monies provided by the state for Putnam County would come to us, but be distributed as needed for Putnam County's services.

Ms. Snodgrass asked what the impact of the inflow of the additional funds would have on Kanawha. Dr. Gupta replied that the funds are being tracked separately, and followed very closely.

6. Report from Clinic Services – Ms. Carol McCormick

a. Activity report for flu immunization clinics

Ms. McCormick stated KCHD has just completed the school flu immunization clinics. She added that we have given 1,500 more vaccines overall than last year.

Dr. Rubin asked if there was any relationship between the vaccine and latex allergies. Ms. Briscoe stated that our vaccine syringes may have a little latex, but it should never touch the vaccine.

It was also asked how long the flu vaccine protects the patient and Dr. Gupta stated there was no guarantee that an individual wouldn't get the flu, however, it should be good through the flu season. He stated that in the future there may be a universal shot that would be a one-time shot, or may last for at least ten years, like some other vaccines.

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

a. Presentation and demonstration of the KCHD Food App

Ms. Ray provided the Board with an instruction sheet for downloading the Health Department's new Food Safety Mobile App. The Board of Health also reviewed the KCHD poster presented at the American Public Health Association Annual Conference in Boston. Ms. Ray stated that the App is very easy to use and that it is updated almost immediately upon an inspection being entered by the sanitarian. It has many benefits and is an excellent educational tool. Ms. Ray added KCHD has received many favorable comments including people even from overseas. Dr. Gupta proceeded to provide a demonstration of the App's features.

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

a. Update on pertussis cases

Ms. Briscoe updated the Board on the recent pertussis cases and reported that the cases were contained to one household and did not develop into an outbreak. To date, there have been no further cases of pertussis reported in Kanawha County.

b. Status report and discussion of State Point of Dispensing (POD)

Ms. Briscoe reported that progress was being made on developing the Closed Point of Dispensing (POD) site plan at the State Capitol Complex and last week, the West

Virginia Department of Military Affairs Cabinet Secretary, Joseph Thornton, briefed the Governor's Cabinet and other top state leaders, regarding the project.

9. Report of the Director of Prevention and Wellness – Ms. Sara Miller

Ms. Miller stated the Change the Future WV just finished the first run of an obesity awareness campaign on WOWK-13. The commercial ran for 7 weeks with 21 commercials per week. Ms. Miller stated that the next round of commercials will be targeted toward the use of tobacco. The commercial is currently being discussed and planned.

a. Discussion of staff training

MS Miller stated that her staff has now been trained in the Diabetes Prevention Program. She added they are currently coordinating with local partners to establish some classes in the community, beginning mid-January.

The Prevention & Wellness staff have now been trained as Master Trainers for the Chronic-Disease Self-Management Program. We are currently assisting with a class in Cabell County due to staffing issues and are beginning recruitment for upcoming classes in our region.

b. Status of Clinic/Referral Network for Chronic Disease Prevention Programs

Ms. Miller added that the referral process for all prevention programs offered by CTFWV has been implemented with the KCHD clinic. Ms. Miller added that this is a pilot program for 2 to 3 weeks. We are also implementing a program in Putnam County. After obtaining approximately 30 interested community members, we will contact them to set up classes that meet their prevention needs.

10. Old business - NONE

11. New Business

a. Public comment period

Even though there were no comments from the public, Dr. Rubin addressed the Board and stated that he wanted to give Dr. Gupta a commendation for his hosting of the WV School of Osteopathic Medicine students at the Health Department and the training they are getting. They are not only getting training in the clinic, but Environmental and Epidemiology.

Dr. Rubin went on to mention Ms. Briscoe and to thank her for a presentation she did for the students on Threat Preparedness. He stated she did a great job.

12. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the Board meeting was made at 5:31 p.m. by Mr. Reishman and seconded by Mr. Weber. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



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