



Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2014

Members – Present

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

Ms. Shannon Snodgrass

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 November 21, 2013 Board of Health Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Strawn and seconded by Dr. Rubin to approve the meeting minutes of November 21, 2013, as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Discussion of Kanawha County Substance Abuse Task Force's Final Report and necessary action.

Dr. Gupta and Ms. Isaac, as members of the Task Force, chaired by Dr. Dan Foster, presented the Task Force's final report to the Board. The report outlines the seriousness of the issue and makes a number of recommendations, including proposed legislation. The Board discussed the report and recommendations. A motion was made by Mr. Reishman and seconded by Dr. Rubin to issue a resolution in support of the Task Force's recommendation number four (4). The recommendation calls for legislation that would make pseudoephedrine products a Schedule IV controlled substance, with the exception of those that have a minimal capacity to be converted into methamphetamine. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Report of the Health Officer – Dr. Gupta

a. Discussion of the chemical spill/State of Emergency.

Dr. Gupta stated the chemical spill/water contamination, resulting in the Governor declaring a State of Emergency, began one week ago today. Last Thursday evening, permitted facilities were ordered to close. The public was instructed not to use the water in the affected area, except for sanitary purposes, i.e. flushing toilets.

In an effort to address a number of issues, including nutritional needs, KCHD's Division of Environmental Health executed plans for permitted facilities to be conditionally open.

Facilities submitted plans, sanitarians inspected the facilities and if they passed they were given a conditional permit. To keep the public informed of which facilities were open, the web site was continually updated. Sanitarians worked nights and weekends toward this effort. Additionally, assistance was requested from the State or extra sanitarians. National Guardsmen, WVDHHR sanitarians, and sanitarians from other local health departments assisted KCHD in the task of inspecting and re-opening facilities.

Dr. Gupta noted, between the EOC, Metro 911, the Poison Control Center and KCHD, over 10,000 telephone calls were received in the last week.

The flushing of the water lines began on January 13th and the 'Do Not Use' order has been lifted in a number of areas. Dr. Gupta stated on January 15th, KCHD received an advisory issued by WVDHHR and the CDC, advising pregnant women to not consume the water. The advisory did not address any other vulnerable populations, such as children, immune compromised people, residents of care facilities, etc.

Ms. Isaac stated there were a few people who wished to make public comments on the issue.

Ms. Isaac acknowledged Dr. Raheel Khan, West Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and WVU Associate Professor of Pediatrics. Dr. Khan expressed his concerns that the DHHR/CDC advisory for pregnant women did not include children. He stated that there is a risk that children might get more of the chemical as opposed to adults by proportion. Dr. Khan questioned whether the advisory shouldn't be extended to younger children. Dr. Khan stated he did not wish to create panic, but the question should be asked. Dr. Gupta replied he would contact his state colleagues and ask about this concern. In the meanwhile, Dr. Khan recommended that children, especially those under 3 years of age should not consume the water at this time. Dr. Rubin agreed that these questions needed to be addressed.

Ms. Isaac acknowledged Mr. Jeremy Parsons. Mr. Parsons stated he had contacted a number of agencies with questions about the 1 ppm level. Mr. Parsons added that he felt that didn't seem a safe threshold. Mr. Parsons stated state agencies referred him to CDC, while CDC referred him back to the state agencies. Mr. Parsons asked if the Board could wait until more information is available before allowing the water to be used. Mr. Weber stated the Board must rely on data received from outside sources such as WVDHHR and CDC/ATSDR.

The Board and Dr. Gupta thanked the speakers for their comments. Dr. Gupta added that he is advising that the state/federal authorities, at this time, consider the water safe however, in presence of significant continuing concerns as well as so many people presenting daily with self-reported symptoms, people should consider making their own decisions when it comes to whether or not to drink the water. He added that some people's adverse reactions may not be due to the chemical's toxicity, but rather to allergic reactions, or a reaction to the odor of the chemical.

b. Status report on quality improvement and accreditation related initiatives.

Dr. Gupta discussed the Department's most recent accreditation related activities. He stated that at the end of the month or later we will be in a position to begin uploading documents to PHAB. He added we may see a site visit mid to late summer.

c. Discussion of the WV Legislative Session.

Dr. Gupta discussed with the Board a number of public health related bills being followed.

d. Attendance of the National Quality Forum Steering Committee Meeting in D.C. to develop national priorities.

Dr. Gupta stated he attended the Forum's Multi-stakeholder Input on a National Priority: Improving Population Health meeting in Washington, D.C. on January 9-10. The national meeting was held to establish consensus and commitment on the project scope and goals, discuss key findings from the analysis of frameworks and operationalize next steps and identify areas for the Committee to directly engage in the further development of the Community Action Guide.

e. Discussion of the WV Public Health Symposium presentation on public health and implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

In late November, Dr. Gupta stated he presented at the Symposium on the importance of public health implementation of the Affordable Care Act and billing issues.

f. Introduction of new staff

- Mr. John Law, Public Information Officer
- Ms. Kristin Bailey, Sanitarian
- Mr. Matthew Law, Sanitarian
- Mr. Andrew Kenney, Sanitarian
- Ms. Kayla Amos, Threat Preparedness Coordinator, Putnam County

The new KCHD staff members were introduced and welcomed by the Board.

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

a. Status of the FY2013 audit.

Mr. Reishman stated Finance met earlier and that everything is proceeding as expected.

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.

b. Distribution of conflict of interest statements-annual audit requirement.

Ms. Kirk distributed the conflict of interest statements to the Board.

6. Report from Clinic Services – Ms. Carol McCormick

a. Report on flu vaccination numbers

Ms. McCormick reported that KCHD has given 13,000 flu shots so far.

b. Legislative Wellness project

The first event of the session was held on Wednesday and response was good. KCHD provided services to legislators and the state employees.

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

a. Discussion of Ms. Wright’s attendance at AARP’s Food Policy Council meeting

Item was tabled, due to activities related to the water emergency.

b. Discussion of KCHD Tattoo and Body Piercing Workshop.

Item was tabled, due to activities related to the water emergency. Mr. Reishman asked about the process to permit these facilities.

c. Discussion of Tattoo and Body Piercing inspections to be posted on the KCHD website

Item was tabled, due to activities related to the water emergency.

Ms. Ray discussed the flushing procedures issued by WV American Water. She also discussed the process permitted facilities were required to follow before KCHD would inspect and permit the facilities to re-open. In response to a question from Dr. Rubin, the group discussed the water testing.

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

a. Report on influenza activity

Ms. Briscoe stated some regional influenza activity is being reported. She added some states are seeing widespread influenza. With the water crisis, we may see an increase in influenza-like illness due to hand washing not occurring as it normally would.

b. Announcement of Ms. Briscoe’s election to the Kanawha/Putnam Emergency Planning Committee (KPEPC) Board of Directors.

Ms. Briscoe informed the Board of Health she has recently been elected to the KPEPC Board of Directors.

c. Discussion of KCHD response to low temperature event.

During the low temperature event, KCHD worked with emergency planners on the setup of shelters.

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

a. Activities Update

Ms. Miller reported that staff with the Community Transformation Grant continue to provide Chronic Disease Self Management classes, in the region. She added that the division is also working with the Clinic Services Division on the Legislative Wellness program.

10. Old business - NONE

11. New Business

- a. Public comment period**
SEE Section 3a.

12. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn 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