



# Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

## Meeting Minutes

March 25, 2014

### Members – Present

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

### Presenting Guests

Dr. Rahul Gupta  
Ms. Lolita Kirk  
Ms. Sara Miller  
Ms. Candace Nunley  
Ms. Nasandra Wright  
Mr. Seth Staker

#### **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 motion was made by Dr. Rubin and seconded by Mr. Weber to approve the meeting minutes of January 16, 2014, as submitted. Ms. Snodgrass abstained from voting on the approval of the minutes, stating she had not had an opportunity to review them. The motion passed by the majority of votes.

Ms. Isaac informed everyone that Dr. Gupta has passed his five year anniversary at the Health Department. The Board congratulated Dr. Gupta on his anniversary and thanked him for his service. A celebratory cake was presented and enjoyed by the attendees.

#### **3. Report of the Director – Dr. Gupta**

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

Ms. Isaac questioned a recent document sent to healthcare providers from the State Health Officer, Dr. Tierney. Ms. Isaac asked if Dr. Gupta would explain the correspondence. On March 24, the Health Department received a memorandum from Dr. Tierney, dated March 17, 2014, requesting all healthcare providers report symptoms associated with the contamination of the water on January 9, 2014. Dr. Gupta added the reporting period requested by Dr. Tierney is January 9<sup>th</sup> through May 31, 2014. The documents apparently have been sent to over 800 practitioners in Kanawha County.

Dr. Gupta added that this crisis doesn't seem to ever go away. He added that West Virginia American Water Company had completed another series of tests and reported that while the levels of MCHM were undetectable (at Maximum Detection Level ranges from 0.38 ppb to 0.45 ppb) at intake (raw water), the finished water leaving the plant for customer use contained low concentrations of MCHM. West Virginia American Water Company stated they had not changed their filters to date, but were planning on changing them in the near future. He didn't know whether or not residents and businesses would be required to change all their filters and flush their systems once

again, after the Water Company completed their changes. The public continues to voice concerns about the water.

Dr. Gupta added that on March 24<sup>th</sup>, he participated in a panel discussion at the WVU School of Law to discuss water crisis and water protection. Many worthy ideas were discussed and the discussions are actively continuing.

Dr. Gupta discussed with the Board the resignation of Tanja Popovic, one of the lead scientists from the CDC that was active in the chemical spill. He stated multiple evaluations are being performed on the effects of this chemical including the physical and psychological effects.

Dr. Gupta added the Putnam County Commission has filed an action in Kanawha County Circuit Court against the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection. Putnam County is requesting the court halt the DEP from allowing the dumping of materials from Freedom Industries at a landfill in Hurricane. A stay order has been granted by the court. Dr. Gupta added he will attend the hearing scheduled for Thursday, March 28, 2014 as the Health Officer for Putnam County.

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

Dr. Gupta stated he would like to congratulate Ms. Wright, Mr. Sims, the Directors and the employees for their on-going accreditation related efforts. He added accreditation activities have continued even during the water crisis. Dr. Gupta stated there is still much work to be done, but the process gets closer every day, and he added that the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department is the only health department in the state (local or state) that has applied. Nationwide there are only 32 or 33 local health departments that have been accredited and 280 or so in the process, one of which is Kanawha-Charleston.

Dr. Gupta added that as of today, we have uploaded approximately 20% of the required documentation. Once this is completed, the Public Health Accreditation Board will review and if approved, a site visit will be set. Dr. Gupta stated he anticipates a site visit late summer or early fall.

Ms. Snodgrass asked about the fees accreditation. Ms. Kirk replied around \$20,000. Ms. Snodgrass asked if the Health Department was able to secure any funding for the effort. Ms. Kirk replied we had received some grant funds early in the process for quality improvement related activities. It was asked how many hours Mr. Sims works on accreditation, Ms. Kirk replied usually 12 to 20 hours per week. A question was asked about the term for accreditation, the Board was informed it is a five year term.

Dr. Gupta added that some states had included in their State Laws (like Ohio and Florida) that accreditation is a must.

Dr. Gupta informed the Board that our new Director of Environmental Health Services, Ms. Nasandra Wright, is a national site reviewer for the Public Health Accreditation Board. He added KCHD's previous Health Officer, Dr. Kerry Gateley is also a site reviewer currently.

**c. Discussion of the public health aspects of the WV Legislative Session.**

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

- 1) Senate Bill 373, regarding storage tanks passed. Dr. Gupta stated that the Governor has 15 days once the bill is received to sign the legislation into law. However as of today, the Governor's Office has not received the bill.
- 2) Senate Bill 15, addressing HIV testing and ability of Health Departments to bill insurances for the service, did not pass. The bill was an attempt to align the services of local health departments with the provisions of the Affordable Care Act.
- 3) HB4274 which would allow for the sale of raw milk did not pass.
- 4) Legislation that would require a prescription for pseudoephedrine was unsuccessful in the final stages at the Legislature. If passed, the legislation would have greatly assisted efforts to reduce the amount of methamphetamine being made. Dr. Gupta added this legislation is as significant to public health as the clean indoor air regulation.

**d. Attendance of the HHS Quality Meeting in Washington, D.C. – March 20, 2014**

Dr. Gupta stated that he attended the HHS Public Health Quality meeting in Washington, D.C. on March 20<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was to conceptualize and discuss illustrating the value of public health quality to advancing population health improvements. Idea is to follow the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine to have the IHI's leading health indicators align with the six priority areas for improvement of quality in public health. Dr. Howard Koh, Assistant Secretary for Health provided the background and meeting purpose.

**e. Discussion of NACCHO Board meeting – February 26 – 28, in Washington, D.C.**

Dr. Gupta informed the Board of his attendance at the NACCHO's Board and Executive Committee meetings in Washington. In addition to the meeting, the Board members also attended meetings at HHS with officials including the Director of CDC, Dr. Tom Frieden, Deputy Director, Dr. Judy Monroe, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Dr. Nicole Lurie and Assistant Secretary for Health, Dr. Howard Koh. He added as part of the meetings, he made visits to West Virginia's congressional delegation as well and the meetings were very productive.

**f. WV Senate Resolution**

Dr. Gupta informed the Board that Senate unanimously passed Resolution 54 recognizing his service on March 8, 2014. A copy of such was in their packets. The Board congratulated Dr. Gupta on the honor.

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

**a. Discussion and distribution of FY2013 annual audit report.**

Ms. Kirk informed the Board the annual audit has been completed, but the final report has not been received. She added she would send to the Board members before the next meeting.

**b. Discussion of 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter financial report**

Mr. Reishman stated that he had reviewed the report and that there was a negative as of December 31, 2013 however most of this was from the way grant funds are received. Mr. Reishman added an increase in fees is being considered.

Mr. Reishman stated that an estimate of what has been spent during the water issue will has been submitted. The amount is approximately \$200,000.

**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 the Putnam County Threat Preparedness Coordinator resigned and we are in process of interviewing for a replacement.

Ms. Kirk added that since Ms. Wright has been promoted to the Director of Environmental services, they are now looking for a Sanitarian Supervisor and clerical help for that department.

**6. Report from Clinic Services – Ms. Candace Nunley**

**a. Report on Hepatitis B Initiative Activities**

Ms. Nunley stated the clinic has been working with the Project 13 vaccines, and that the Health Department has completed three (3) Hepatitis B vaccination clinics. Clinics were held at the Charleston Treatment Center, the Men's shelter and on the campus of West Virginia State University. Ms. Nunley added more clinics are being planned.

**b. Legislative Wellness project**

Ms. Nunley informed the Board that there had been two Legislative Wellness clinics held in the rotunda of the State Capitol. Adult immunizations, BMI, blood pressure and other health screenings were offered. Over one-hundred individuals participated in the events.

**c. Other clinic related updates**

Ms. Nunley stated that the Health Department has provided approximately 13,000 flu shots.

Ms. Isaac added the Health Department has also held several evening clinics for Kanawha County School staff. The staff is very appreciative of these clinics.

Ms. Isaac asked if KCHD accepted AETNA insurance. Ms. Nunley replied she is currently working with AETNA to accomplish this.

**7. Report of the Director of Environmental Health Services – Ms. Nasandra Wright**

**a. Overview of the conditional re-opening of the restaurants**

Ms. Wright informed the Board that during the water crisis, KCHD staff and outside participants were able to re-open approximately 200 restaurants under conditional guidelines. Once the "the do not use" order was lifted restaurants were re-opened within

24 hours. Ms. Wright stated that 99.9% of the restaurants were re-opened within this time frame. She stated that many individuals worked around the clock and many worked into the early morning hours to accomplish the task. Ms. Wright added that KCHD received help from sanitarians from other counties, the Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority, WVDHHR, and the National Guard. At one time, there were over 50 staff members working to respond during the state of emergency. In addition to the inspection work, KCHD received over 3,400 calls and placed approximately 1,500 calls related to the water contamination. Ms. Isaac stated that she felt it was a good effort working with the community and partnering with other businesses.

Ms. Wright stated that the KCHD Food App came in very handy at the time of this crisis. Sanitarians from other locales were able to download and use the App to find facilities. Ms. Wright informed the Board that neighboring health department is looking into copying our Food App.

Ms. Wright also noted the plan used by KCHD has been shared as a model plan with the International Food Protection Administration (FDA).

Ms. Wright stated that she will be going to Atlanta on April 1, and that she has already been asked to present a model plan, used during our water crisis, at the NACCHO conference next year.

**b. Discussion of the water crisis impact on schools**

Ms. Wright stated that she has received over 60 complaints from schools related to issues with the water and the low odor threshold of MCHM.

**c. Announcement of launch for Tattoo and Body Piercing inspections to be posted on the KCHD website in real time**

On March 26<sup>th</sup>, KCHD will launch Tattoo and Body Piercing inspections on the Health Department's web site. Ms. Wright stated this will allow the public to review the inspections and make informed decisions when selecting a facility.

**d. KCHD enrollment in FDA Standards and Measures**

KCHD has enrolled in the Standards and Measures with the FDA. There are over 3,000 local health departments nationally and presently less than 5% meet the FDA standards. West Virginia Bureau of Public Health has been enrolled in the program since 2003 and has met two of the nine standards.

**8. Report of the Director of Epidemiology & Threat Prep – Seth Staker (in the absence of Ms. Briscoe)**

**a. Report on the CDC Local Technical Assistance Review of KCHD's Mass Countermeasures Plan**

Mr. Staker stated that KCHD had 5 staff members in attendance and that there was participation of partners and stakeholders from the community, including C.W. Sigman, Deputy Emergency Management Director, and representatives from Highland Hospital, CAMC, American Red Cross, and the Mountain State Center for Independent Living.

Mr. Staker added that in 2012, KCHD received a score of 95% out of 100%. In 2013, KCHD received a score of 98% out of 100%, and although we haven't received our final score for this year, he feels we should maintain the score from 2013. Mr. Staker stated the CDC people were very pleased with our work and had very complimentary comments regarding the Medical Countermeasures Planning.

Mr. Staker informed the Board that in March, KCHD also held two Multi-Agency Planning and Advisory Committee meetings with our community partners. The first meeting was a plans review meeting to outline changes to the Medical Counter Measures plans and to discuss those changes; the second was a regularly scheduled MPAC quarterly meeting on March 5, 2014, which was very well attended. Mr. Staker added that Dr. Gupta gave a report related to the water situation and our response, and all participants were able to report on their agency response and how they were impacted. It was a very informative meeting.

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

**a. Report on the Community Transformation Grant**

**• Chronic Disease Self-Management Program leader trainings**

Ms. Miller stated that her staff continues to train leaders to be able to educate others in their communities. Two CDSMP leader trainings have been held. A total of 21 individuals across multiple counties have completed the courses.

**• Tobacco Free Day**

Ms. Miller informed the Board staff participated in a "Tobacco Free Day" held on February 25<sup>th</sup>, at the State Capitol. Over 400 individuals flooded the State Capitol in support of tobacco prevention and cessation.

**• "Try This" Conference**

Ms. Miller stated that on June 6<sup>th</sup> thru June 7<sup>th</sup>, the "Try This" Conference will be held at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon. The Community Transformation Grant (Change the Future WV) is a statewide sponsor of the Conference and are providing 50 scholarships for individuals to attend.

Ms. Miller stated that the Community Transformation Grant originally scheduled to end in September of 2016, was not funded by congress in the 2014 budget, therefore the project, originally projected for 5 years, has been reduced to 3 years, and is scheduled to end in September of this year. The Bureau for Public Health continues to search for new avenues of funding; three new proposals are being developed by the CDC around Chronic Disease Prevention.

**b. Multi Health Department Walking Competition**

"Walk It Off" is a state-wide walking competition that begins April 7, 2014; its goal is to walk 100 miles in 100 days. A few other counties, presently signed up to compete, are Cabell, Berkley, Wayne and Mid-Ohio Valley. Ms. Miller invited the Board of Health Members to participate.

**10. Old business –**

Ms. Isaac noted she, Dr. Rubin and Sara Miller have applied for a Enhancing School Health Services through Training, Education, Assistance, Mentorship, and Support grant. Ms. Isaac noted we should know if we were approved for the grant by April 4.

**11. New Business**

- a. Public comment period  
None.

**b. Executive Session**

At 5:40 p.m. a motion was made by Dr. Rubin and seconded by Mr. Weber for the Board to go into Executive Session to discuss a legal matter. The Board voted unanimously to go into executive session.

At 6:13 p.m. a motion was made by Dr. Rubin and seconded by Mr. Strawn to return to regular session. The Board voted unanimously to return to regular session. No further business was conducted.

**12. Adjournment**

At 6:15 p.m. a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Weber and seconded by Mr. Strawn. The Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,



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