



# Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health Emergency Meeting Minutes April 8, 2014

## **Members – Present**

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

## **Members – Excused**

Dr. Arthur Rubin  
Ms. Shannon Snodgrass

## **Presenting Guest(s)**

Dr. Rahul Gupta

### **1. Call to Order – President**

Ms. Isaac called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

### **2. Update on KCHD's scientific study related to the January 9<sup>th</sup> Elk River Chemical spill – Executive Director/Health Officer – Dr. Gupta**

Dr. Gupta stated the study commenced last Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Volunteers and KCHD staff began making calls during the hours of:

Thursday and Friday 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Monday and Tuesday 9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Dr. Gupta added he wanted to caution the public that the survey will end tonight at 9:00 p.m. Any phone calls after tonight, will not be the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department.

Dr. Gupta added the calls are being made from a random sample of numbers, both landline and cell. So far over 2,000 calls have been placed and we have received 420 responses. This is way above our goal of 300. The Health Department is also receiving in-kind research assistance from the University of Charleston, University of California-Irvine, and the RAND Corporation.

After today, the survey will also be placed on the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department's web site so individuals who did not receive a telephone call, can participate.

Mr. Strawn asked if the survey was going to be shared. Dr. Gupta replied it would be distributed to anyone interested. The aggregated results will be shared with the community within approximately 30 days of collecting the data.

Dr. Gupta stated in addition to KCHD's study, the WV Department of Health & Human Services is conducting a Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) survey starting today. This survey is a door-to-door survey and is being conducted in the nine counties affected by water contamination. Dr. Gupta added KCHD's study and DHHR's CASPER are important instruments to obtain the community feedback on the event and public health's response.

### **3. Executive Session**

**a. Executive session to discuss legal issues related to the January 9<sup>th</sup> Elk River chemical spill**

Mr. Weber stated that before the Board adjourned into Executive Session, he wanted it noted in the minutes that he had a conflict of interest and would be abstaining from the discussion and any votes.

On a motion made by Mr. Strawn and seconded by Mr. Reishman, the majority of the Board voted to enter executive session. Mr. Weber abstained from the vote and excused himself from executive session.

**4. Return to regular session**

**a. Discussion and/or action on items related to Executive Session**

On a motion Mr. Strawn and seconded by Mr. Reishman, the majority of the Board voted three in favor and one abstention, Mr. Weber, to return to regular session.

Mr. Reishman made a motion to approve the following resolution: "A resolution by the Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health authorizing and directing the administration of the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department to: join with the City of Charleston in any and all legal actions related to the contamination of the City of Charleston's drinking water on or about January 9, 2014; retain DiTrapano, Barrett, DiPiero, McGinley & Simmons and the Forbes Law Office to represent the interests of the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department and the Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health in those legal actions; and to take all other necessary or reasonable steps to effectuate the foregoing."

Mr. Strawn seconded the motion. The majority of the Board voted three in favor of the motion and one abstention, Mr. Weber.

A motion was made by Mr. Strawn to approve the following resolution: "A resolution by the Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health authorizing the administration of the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department to retain counsel for other matters relating to the January 9<sup>th</sup> Elk River spill."

Mr. Reishman seconded the motion. The majority of the Board voted three in favor of the motion and one abstention, Mr. Weber.

**b. Grant status – Ms. Isaac**

Ms. Isaac informed the Board that the application for TEAMS grant was not accepted.

**5. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,



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