



# Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

## Meeting Minutes

### July 17, 2014

#### **Members – Present**

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

#### **Presenting Guests**

Dr. Rahul Gupta  
Ms. Lolita Kirk  
Ms. Janet Briscoe  
Ms. Sara Miller  
Ms. Candace Nunley  
Ms. Nasandra Wright

#### **Members – Excused**

Dr. Arthur Rubin

#### **1. Call to Order – President**

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

Ms. Isaac added she had a couple of items she wanted to note. Mr. Strawn recently was received the Jefferson Award. Ms. Isaac added the Jefferson Award is often referred to as the Nobel Prize for public service. The Board and staff congratulated Mr. Strawn on his award. Ms. Isaac said that Dr. Rubin's team took first place Festival Cook-off at Edgewood Country Club. Everyone congratulated Dr. Rubin.

#### **2. Report of the President – Ms. Isaac**

##### **a. Approval of the Minutes from the May 29, 2014 Board of Health Meeting.**

A motion was made by Mr. Reishman and seconded by Mr. Strawn to approve the meeting minutes of May 29, 2014 as submitted. The motion passed with unanimously.

##### **b. Election of a Board of Health President for FY2015.**

A motion was made by Mr. Strawn and seconded Mr. Weber for Ms. Isaac to be Board President for fiscal year 2015. The motion passed unanimously

#### **3. Report of the Health Officer – Dr. Gupta**

##### **a. Report on meetings in Boston, MA with the Harvard School of Public Health, June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.**

Dr. Gupta stated the meeting in Boston was very productive. He added that he, Ms. Briscoe and Ms. Wright attended the meeting and KCHD's presentation was very well received. He added other participants included Columbia, World Health Organization and Georgetown/Rand Corporation. Multiple partnerships and future work is anticipated.

##### **b. WV State Medical Journal Article "Comprehensive Tobacco Control Policies in West Virginia - Going from Intersection to Integration"**

Dr. Gupta informed the Board they would find copy of the above referenced article in their packets in the July/August edition of the journal. The article compares tobacco use rates and tobacco policies in West Virginia with those of surrounding states. He added policy changes are needed in West Virginia.

**c. Discussion of congressional visits in Washington, DC with Secretary Bowling, June 24<sup>th</sup>**

On June 24<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Gupta, DHHR Secretary Karen Bowling and Mr. John Law met with the state's congressional delegation including Congresswoman Capito, Congressman Rahall, Senator Manchin and the staff of Senator Rockefeller. During the meetings, the need for medical monitoring was stressed. The delegation was very supportive.

**d. Report on the briefing with U.S. Senate HELP Committee staff in Washington, D.C. on America's prescription drug abuse problem, June 4<sup>th</sup>**

Dr. Gupta informed the Board that he (representing National Association of City/County Health Officials or NACCHO) was joined by Jeffrey Levi of the Trust for America's Health and Paul Jarris of the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) to panel a meeting with staff of the Senate HELP Committee in June on the prescription drug problem. This has become not only an urban problem but is quickly spreading to rural areas. A robust discussion by this expert panel and a constructive question answer session was held.

**e. Discussion of presentations made by KCHD at:**

**• 2014 National Association of City/County Health Officials Conference - July 8th - 10<sup>th</sup>**

Dr. Gupta stated he and staff made several presentations at the annual NACCHO conference in Atlanta. Dr. Gupta added NACCHO represents almost 3,000 local health departments across the nation. The Department also had a number of poster presentations on display during the Conference. The presentations included:

- Multi-disciplinary Approach to the Development of Sound Scientific Support: The West Virginia Experience – Plenary Closing Session
- Affording the Affordable Care Act: How to develop a Sustainable Billing Practice in a Local Health Department
- Disruptive Innovation in Public Health: Creating Operational Efficiencies Through Shared Governance
- Merging Public Health and Food Safety Awareness Using a Mobile Application
- Comprehensive Tobacco Control Policies in West Virginia - Going from Intersection to Integration
- Change The Future WV (with state partners)

- Using Lean Program to Improve Efficiency in Environmental Health Services

Dr. Gupta noted that the plenary closing session was dedicated to West Virginia's water crisis. Dr. Gupta, Dr. Andrew Whelton, WV TAP, General James Hoyer, WV National Guard, and Dr. David Latif, University of Charleston delivered a presentation titled "Multi-disciplinary Approach to the Development of Sound Scientific Support: The West Virginia Experience". Nasandra Wright was the moderator.

Dr. Gupta noted that during conference, Dr. Andrew Welton, WV Tap. Announced his research had been unable to replicate some of the the Eastman aquatic studies.

**f. Discussion of DHHR's CASPER survey results consistent with KCHD's CAP Survey findings.**

Dr. Gupta discussed the CDC's CASPER survey results and the similarities to the WV CAPS study undertaken by KCHD and the University of Charleston's School of Pharmacy. Both studies reveal there was more exposure and illness than initially believed.

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

Mr. Reishman stated the financial report for the end of the FY2014 is not final yet and the Sub-committee did not meet. He added the numbers will be done by the next Board meeting.

**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. Participation in the WV State Auditor's Purchasing Card Coordinator training**

Ms. Kirk informed the Board Ms. McCormick had been requested by the State Auditor's Office to be a panelist at their P-Card Coordinator Training. Ms. Kirk noted that Ms. McCormick has done an excellent job as the Health Department's P-Card Coordinator. The Board members congratulated Ms. McCormick on a job well done.

**6. Report of the Practice Manager – Ms. Candace Nunley**

Ms. Nunley stated back to school immunization clinics have been scheduled for next month. She added the Board would find a flyer with the dates in their packets.

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

**a. Update on accreditation related activities**

Ms. Wright informed the Board that by the next regular Board of Health meeting, the Accreditation Team will complete uploading the documents into the Public Health Accreditation Board's web site. Ms. Wright added the directors and Mr. Law have all volunteered to work nights and weekends to ensure the deadline is met.

**b. 2014 National Environmental Health Association Conference, Las Vegas - July 9th**

Ms. Wright reported on her presentations at Annual NEHA conference:

- Transforming environmental health services using the LEAN principle. She added LEAN has not been used before in environmental health in West Virginia.
  - Project CLEAN: Clean Living Environment in Appalachian Neighborhoods
- c. Report on the Chemical Safety Board's public meeting and update into the Chemical Leak at Freedom Industries– July 16, 2014**  
Ms. Wright informed the Board she had attended the Chemical Safety Board's public meeting on July 16<sup>th</sup>. She added the leak was primarily caused by corrosion and the materials may have been leaking prior to January 9, 2014. Ms. Wright provided an overview of CSB's report and displayed a number of the photos contained in CSB's report on the monitor in the Board room.
- d. Introduction of new staff – Ms. Lynne Hunt**  
Ms. Wright introduced Ms. Lynne Hunt as the new office assistant in Environmental Health. Ms. Hunt has an excellent background as an administrative assistant and possesses an Associate's Degree in computer science.
- 8. Report of the Director of Epidemiology & Threat Prep – Ms. Janet Briscoe**
- a. Report on participation in the National Guard's Ridge Runner emergency preparedness exercise – June 25, 2014**  
Ms. Briscoe stated for the second year the National Guard Civil Affairs Team had requested the Health Department participate in their Ridge Runner Exercise. The training incorporated various local community members and agencies to engage the trainees from Fort Bragg, North Carolina in various scenarios to prepare for later deployment to countries that need assistance with rebuilding infrastructure and resources.
- b. Update on the mosquito-borne illness - Chickungunya**  
Ms. Briscoe provided an update on the recent cases of chickungunya. She added West Virginia has its first case of the mosquito borne illness. The disease is not spread person to person. Mr. Weber asked Ms. Briscoe what the symptoms were. Ms. Briscoe replied, high fever, and joint pain are the primary symptoms. She added the mosquito is the same breed that carries dengue fever. The mosquito-borne illness has recently become endemic to islands in the Caribbean. At risk are travelers to countries where the infected mosquitos are found. There is also a risk that the virus will be imported to the United States by infected travelers.
- 9. Report of the Director of Prevention and Wellness – Ms. Sara Miller**  
Ms. Miller stated that the Wellness newsletter was in the Board's packets.
- Ms. Isaac noted that Ms. Miller had done a great job on a presentation to members of the Kanawha Coalition for Community Health Improvement.
- a. Discussion of Partnership to Improve Community Health grant application**  
Ms. Miller informed the Board the Health Department is applying for a PICH grant. She added 15 – 20 will be awarded. KCHD's application is for \$750,000 a year for 3 years. The grant will focus on some of the same priority areas as the Community

Transformation grant. Mr. Reishman asked when would the Health Department hear about the awards. Ms. Miller replied September 30, 2014.

**b. Update on the Walk-it-Off competition**

Ms. Miller informed this is the final week of the competition. Currently KCHD is in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. All 10 local health departments continue to participate. KCHD has walked 7,647 miles in 14 weeks.

**10. Old business**

None

**11. New Business**

**a. Public comment period**

Ms. Isaac asked if there was anyone in attendance, that wished to make public comment.

Ms. Maya Nye with the People Concerned About Chemical Safety was recognized. Ms Nye stated she wanted to thank Dr. Gupta for being at the forefront of the water crisis. She stated CDC is being petitioned to continue testing. She requested the Board to play whatever role in going forward with testing that they can.

Karen Ireland, Charleston resident, shared with the Board how she become ill on January 6, 2014 and experienced a odor in an upstairs bathroom in her home. She has friends have moved because of the water contamination. She said that because of this event she has become an accidental activist. She added how refreshing it is to be in a room of officials that she felt she can trust. The federal government needs to step up, she stated. She supports officials who are doing the right thing.

Linda Sodaro, thanked the Board for everything. As a grandmother, her concerns are for the generations down the road. What the prenatal exposure may have been.

Robin Blakeham, Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition. Members of the Coalition throughout the state encourage coordination with other entities. She asked that the Health Department work with neighboring counties such as Boone.

Dr. Gupta thanked the speakers and noted that he had talked with the Boone County Health Officer, Dr. Galapon, today in fact.

**12. Adjournment**

On a motion made by Mr. Reishman and seconded by Mr. Strawn, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

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