



# Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

## Meeting Minutes

### September 18, 2014

#### Members – Present

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

#### Presenting Guests

Dr. Rahul Gupta  
Ms. Janet Briscoe  
Ms. Lolita Kirk  
Ms. Tina Ramirez  
Ms. Nasandra Wright

#### Members – Excused

Mr. Stephen Weber

#### 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 July 17, 2014 Board of Health Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Strawn and seconded by Mr. Reishman to approve the meeting minutes of July 17, 2014 as submitted. The motion passed.

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

##### a. Report on meetings with WVDHHR and CDC to discuss medical monitoring related to the January 9, 2014 water crisis.

Dr. Gupta stated he had been attending meetings Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week with DHHR and CDC. A number of issues were discussed including the need for medical monitoring. The possibilities of working with CDC on studying a number of statewide issues including diabetes and obesity were discussed. Dr. Gupta added there is a need for the discussions to continue.

The Board and Dr. Gupta discussed the configuration of a possible medical monitoring process. Dr. Gupta added a system would have to be developed to compare information from the affected population to statewide data. Board members also discussed the exposure of miners to the same chemical. The difference of a topical exposure as opposed ingesting the chemical.

Dr. Rubin asked about the houses that are empty and have not been flushed. Ms. Wright stated that KCHD had to require flushing of seasonal business when they opened for summer.

##### b. Discussion of presentation to the Minnesota Association of Emergency Managers.

Dr. Gupta reported that at the request of Minnesota's Association of Emergency Managers he had presented at their Annual Conference at Breezy Point, Minnesota.

The presentation was on the January 9<sup>th</sup> water crisis. Dr. Gupta stated when he asked the conference attendees for a show of hands of how many had heard of the January water crisis, almost every hand in the room went up. Dr. Gupta also mentioned a very interesting television program on a Minnesota channel that was discussing their aging water infrastructure and the \$6.9 billion it would take to fix the system for Greater Minnesota. Dr. Gupta added an aged water infrastructure is an issue that needs to be addressed nationwide.

**c. Discussion of Dr. Gupta's appointment to the Public Water System Supply Study Commission**

Dr. Gupta stated he was recently appointed to the Public Water System Supply Study Commission by State Senate President Jeff Kessler. The Board congratulated Dr. Gupta on the appointment.

**d. Discussion of the Choosing Wisely program**

Dr. Gupta informed the Board last week the West Virginian's for Affordable Health Care held a press conference to launch the Choosing Wisely Program. Choosing Wisely, a national initiative of the American Board of Internal Medicine Foundation, and is geared toward ensuring that health-care providers are providing appropriate treatments. Dr. Gupta added nationally over 60 medical societies have joined the program.

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

Mr. Reishman reported the sub-committee met earlier and reviewed the end of the year report. He reported the Department had a good year. He added this was in part due to the arrangement with Putnam County, which has been mutually beneficial, and also to additional insurances being billed in the clinic and a quicker turn around on the billing. The Board briefly discussed the working relationship with the Putnam County Board of Health and was pleased with the progress.

**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.

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

**a.** Ms. Kirk stated the Department has begun flu clinics at the Health Department, community locations and business. School located clinics will begin on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. Once again KCHD will be offering the preservative free quadrivalent vaccine, injectable and nasal. Ms. Kirk added KCHD will also be receiving the flu vaccine for people with an allergy to eggs.

The Board members and Dr. Gupta discussed the nasal vaccine and its benefits and age limits.

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

**a. Update on accreditation related activities**

Ms. Wright informed the Board that over the past several months the KCHD staff especially those in this room have been working very hard to gather documentation for accreditation. Thanks to their hard work, we are in line to become the first fully accredited public health department in West Virginia as well as one of the earliest in the nation. Late last night, completion of the required documents was done and now KCHD

begins the process of preparing for the site visit. The Board congratulated the staff on the effort. Ms. Wright also added we have recently completed an update of the Strategic Plan, the Community Health Assessment and the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Dr. Gupta provided a review of the process for the Board, including a discussion of the site visit and the Board's participation in the process. Dr. Gupta added that in the foreseeable future, grant funding may be tied to accreditation. In fact, in Senate Bill §16-1-9c(h), "the commissioner's authority in reviewing and monitoring compliance with a source water protection plan may be transferred by the bureau to a nationally accredited local board of public health".

**b. Discussion of food protection and chemical safety**

Ms. Wright stated that recent events involving the contamination of food by chemicals has prompted Commissioner Carper and Dr. Gupta to request that Environmental Health staff evaluate their processes to make sure KCHD is doing everything possible to prevent any future incidents. The Board discussed a recent report of an incident in New Jersey where a number of children and staff of a day care were taken to the hospital due to being served bleach water to drink.

Ms. Wright added she had presented earlier in the day at the Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC) on food safety and infection control.

**c. Report on participation in Retail Food Safety Standards sponsored by NACCHO and FDA**

Ms. Wright informed the Board she had attended an FDA/NACCHO sponsored meeting in Washington, DC. KCHD is one of less than 5 organizations in West Virginia enrolled in the Retail Food Safety Program. She added the program can take several years to complete.

**d. Report on visit to Capitol Hill to educate Congressional staff about what KCHD does and how federal funding helps keep people in our community healthy and safe.**

Ms. Wright stated during her time in Washington, she also visited Capitol Hill and educated congressional staff about what KCHD does and how federal funding helps keep people in our community healthy and safe.

**e. Introduction of new staff**

- **Teresa Sherrod, Sanitarian**
- **Introduction Ayan Jha, MPH, Intern**

Ms. Wright introduced Ms. Teresa Sherrod – Sanitarian and Harvard Graduate Ayan Jha, Intern

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

**a. Discussion on Enterovirus-D68.**

Ms. Briscoe reported that the Division of Epidemiology has been investigating a cluster of respiratory illnesses that is affected predominately children. A local hospital reported seeing an increase in the number of children admitted with respiratory distress. The symptoms presenting are very similar to cases reported in Midwest states that have been confirmed to be enterovirus 68. On September 14, 12 positive entero/rhinovirus

specimens were sent to CDC for enterovirus 68 testing. Of the 12 specimens submitted, 10 were children and 2 were adults all admitted to an area hospital. The Division is doing surveillance with other hospitals and healthcare providers to determine the prevalence of illness in the community. More information is available at the KCHD website.

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

**a. Update on Community Transformation Grant funding**

Ms. Ramirez informed the Board the Community Transformation Grant has been extended to operate until the end of year.

**b. Chronic Disease Self-Management Leader training - October 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>**

Ms. Ramirez informed the Board recruitment has begun for participants to attend chronic disease self- management program leader training that will be held at KCHD. October 21 – 23. The class will train individuals in the community to teach classes in chronic disease self-management. This will allow for the program to be sustainable after the CTG ends. Ms. Ramirez added to date 300 people have been trained statewide to teach the classes.

**10. Old business**

None

**11. New Business**

**a. Public comment period**

Ms. Isaac asked if there was anyone in attendance, who wished to make a public comment. No public comment was made

**b. Executive Session - Discussion of legal matter**

On a motion Dr. Rubin and seconded by Mr. Reishman, the Board voted unanimously to enter into an executive session for the purpose of discussing a legal matter.

On a motion made by Dr. Rubin and seconded by Mr. Reishman the Board voted unanimously to come out of executive session. No further business was conducted.

**12. Adjournment**

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

Respectfully submitted,



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