



Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2014

Members – Present

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

Presenting Guests

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

Members – 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 September 18, 2014 Board of Health Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Reishman and seconded by Mr. Strawn to approve the meeting minutes of September 18, 2014 as submitted. The motion passed.

b. Acknowledgement and discussion of Dr. Gupta's acceptance of the position as the WV State Health Officer/Commissioner for the Bureau for Public Health

The Board members discussed Dr. Gupta's appointment. The Board expressed their gratitude to Dr. Gupta for the job he had done in elevating the Health Department to a new level. Ms. Isaac added that she was happy Dr. Gupta would be remaining in West Virginia.

3. Report of the Health Officer – Dr. Gupta

Dr. Gupta thanked the Board of Health for their commitment to public health. He added none of the accomplishments of the past 5 ½ years would have been possible without the staff. Dr. Gupta summarized a number of the highlights during his time at the Health Department.

- The first week he started the county had a pediatric flu death.
- The 2009 H1N1 pandemic. The same year was also the year he had to take his board certifications.
- Out of the mass clinics done at schools during the H1N1 pandemic, the school located influenza vaccination (SLIV) clinics were created. The SLIV clinics have been very successful and are now in their sixth year.

- While the Derecho storm a few years ago presented challenges, a lot was learned about our county's emergency preparedness plans.
- Under Ms. Briscoe's guidance, a state Point of Dispensing (POD) plan was created.
- KCHD is the only health department in WV that has applied for national accreditation with the Public Health Accreditation Board.
- Ms. Nunley continues to expand the number of insurances being billed for clinic services. The Health Department is currently billing over fifty insurances.
- Ms. Briscoe has successfully applied to the CDC's Public Health Associate Program. The Health Department has been assigned three Associates. One of the Associates, Ms. Rachel Holloway is currently working for CDC. Two others are currently working at KCHD.
- Under Ms. Kirk's guidance, the agreement with the Putnam County Board of Health has been a success.
- The Board and the Health Department have received multiple national awards and recognitions. These include the school located influenza vaccination program; clean indoor air efforts, and the mobile apps. The Department has also received promising and model practice awards from the National Association of City/County Health Officials (NACCHO).
- The Department has developed mobile apps for emergency preparedness and food safety apps. The food app was very useful during the water crisis.
- Ms. Wright has been successful in computerizing environmental health inspections and making the inspections available in real time on the Department's web site.
- Implementation of the color coded food rating system
- Despite some difficulties at first, the Clean Indoor Air Regulation has been successful. The compliance rate is currently at 99%.

Dr. Gupta stated he would also like to make some recommendations.

- The Department continues the accreditation work currently being done by the Leadership Team.
- KCHD continues to follow and annually update the Strategic Plan.
- Continue work on chronic disease management efforts.
- With the success of the Clean Indoor Air Regulation Inspections, discontinue the Department's practice of conducting the routine inspections and go to a complaint and needs based system.

- Maintain engagement with the National Association of City/County Health Officials (NACCHO)
- a. **Report on grand rounds presentation at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health – October 10th.**

Dr. Gupta informed the Board he was invited to present at John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in October. Dr. Gupta added the topic of his presentation was the “Inter-disciplinary Approach to the Development of Sound Scientific Support: The 2014 West Virginia Water Crisis Experience”. The presentation was well attended and should be helpful in reaching an understanding of the impact of the January 2014 water crisis...
- b. **Report on the activities of the Public Water System Supply Study Commission**

Work continues on the Commission’s report. The final report is due to be filed December 15th.
- c. **Discussion of the Choosing Wisely program and activities**

The Choosing Wisely program is set to expand statewide. The program provides material to medical providers and encourages them to discuss among other things with their patients the overuse of antibiotics and the appropriateness of certain diagnostic medical tests.
- 4. **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.
- 5. **Report of the Practice Manager – Ms. Lolita Kirk for Ms. Candace Nunley**- a. **Discussion of upcoming flu shot clinics**

Ms. Kirk informed the Board the clinic is still conducting flu shot clinics. To date the Department has provided nearly 12,000 flu shots. She added we are currently administering 20 – 30 flu shots daily.
- 6. **Director of Environmental Health Services – Ms. Nasandra Wright**- a. **Discussion of sanitary survey being conducted in the Loudendale area.**

Ms. Wright informed the Board that her staff had recently concluded a sanitary survey in the Loudendale area. Of the nearly 500 residences and businesses surveyed, more than 29 percent were verified as to their current status of functionality. More than 50 percent of those verified systems were failing or not functioning properly at the time of the survey. The Board asked Ms. Wright several questions regarding future course of action: what happens next. Ms. Wright stated that KCHD’s report would be used along with engineering reports in an effort to hopefully obtain public sewer for the area.
- b. **Update on accreditation related activities**

Ms. Wright stated the Department’s PHAB site visit will be March 25th and 26th, 2015.
- c. **Report on briefing with the U.S. Chemical Safety Board attended by Ms. Wright and Ms. Briscoe on October 10th in Washington, D.C.**

Ms. Wright reported she and Ms. Briscoe had attended the USCSB’s briefing. The briefing included a report on the status of the USCSB’s recommendations to West Virginia.

d. Report on attendance of the Chemical Release Roadmap Planning meeting on October 24th.

Ms. Wright reported on her attendance meeting on October 24th. Ms. Wright stated the purpose of the team is to develop a roadmap for implementing a Chemical Release Prevention Program for Kanawha Valley as recommended by the U.S. Chemical Safety Board.

e. Report on the KCHD presentation made at the American Public Health Association's Conference.

Ms. Wright informed the Board she and Mr. Tom Sims had presented at the APHA conference in November on KCHD's challenges and successes on the pathway to accreditation using the Transtheoretical Model.

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

a. Discussion of the Kanawha-Putnam Ebola Taskforce

Ms. Briscoe reported that the Division is continuing to work with hospitals, healthcare providers, the EMA/EMS systems and many other community partners in Kanawha and Putnam Counties to coordinate plans in the event that a local response would be needed in our community for Ebola. Three taskforce meetings have been held at KCHD. The Division is now developing a monitoring and movement plan as recommended by CDC. Staff from the Division also attended a tabletop exercise at the airport and personal protective equipment (PPE) training at one of the local hospitals.

b. Update on influenza activity

Ms. Briscoe informed the Board that in early December, the CDC issued a health advisory regarding the circulation of drifted influenza A (H3N2) viruses. Surveillance data across the United States has indicated that 58% of the influenza A (H3N2) viruses collected in recent months have been antigenically different "drifted" from the H3N2 vaccine component. How well the vaccine works depends in part on the match between vaccine viruses and circulating flu viruses. West Virginia is seeing sporadic cases of flu. If a drifted influenza A (H3N2) virus circulates broadly in WV this season, this could mean a reduced vaccine effectiveness against circulating H3N2 viruses and make for a severe flu season. She shared with the Board that it is still important for everyone to get the flu shot because studies have shown evidence of cross protection which might reduce the likelihood of severe influenza associated complications such as hospitalization and death and will offer protection against other circulating influenza strains that are included in the vaccine.

8. Report of the Director of Prevention and Wellness – Ms. Kirk for Ms. Tina Ramirez

a. Report on activities with the UC School of Pharmacy and Health Promotion programs to offer CDSMP (Chronic Disease Self -Management Program) and DSMP (Diabetes Self-Management Program) leader classes to students.

Ms. Kirk report that Ms. Ramirez has been working with University of Charleston's School of Pharmacy to officer CDSMP and DSMP leader classes to interested students. The classes are currently on-going.

9. Old business

None

10. New Business

a. Public comment period

None

b. Executive Session for the purposes to discuss a personnel matter

On a motion to go into executive session for the purpose to discuss a personnel matter made by Mr. Weber and seconded by Dr. Rubin, the Board voted unanimously to enter into an executive session.

On a motion made by Mr. Weber and seconded by Mr. Reishman, the Board voted unanimously to come out of executive session.

A motion was made by Mr. Weber to accept the resignation of Dr. Gupta. Mr. Reishman seconded the vote. The Board voted unanimously to accept Dr. Gupta's resignation effective December 31, 2014

On a motion made by Mr. Weber and seconded by Mr. Reishman, the Board voted to appoint Dr. Rubin as Interim Health Officer.

On a motion made by Mr. Weber and seconded by Mr. Reishman, the Board voted to appoint Ms. Isaac as Interim Executive Director.

On a motion made by Mr. Weber and seconded by Dr. Rubin the Board voted and selected Ms. Isaac, Dr. Rubin and Mr. Weber to search as the search committee for a new full-time executive director/health officer.

11. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,



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