



Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2015

Members – Present

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

Presenting Guests

Ms. Janet Briscoe
Ms. Lolita Kirk
Ms. Candace Nunley
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/Interim Executive Director – Ms. Isaac

a. Approval of the Minutes from the December 11, 2014 Board of Health Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Weber and seconded by Mr. Reishman to approve the meeting minutes of December 11, 2014 as submitted. The motion passed.

3. Report of the Health Officer – Dr. Rubin

a. Report on Update on the accreditation process

Dr. Rubin provided an update on the recent activities related to accreditation and the Board's need to prepare for the upcoming site visit. Dr. Rubin stated he had completed his on-line orientation as Health Officer last week. The public health accreditation process is very similar in structure as the process for hospitals. Dr. Rubin also stated he and several Board members attended an accreditation readiness event at KCHD on Tuesday. In addition to staff and Board members, Dr. Gupta and several DHHR staff members attended.

b. Update on the Kanawha Coalition for Community Health Improvement (KCCHI) activities

Dr. Rubin reported on the activities at CAMC related to the KCCHI Community Health Needs Assessment. CAMC is moving towards turning the issues identified by KCCHI into blueprints that the local hospitals will use to deal with medical disparities and ideas to improve community health. One area is trying to develop ways to provide better assistance to multiple visit patients.

c. Discussion of support for legislation making products containing pseudoephedrine available only by prescription.

Dr. Rubin and the Board discussed possible legislation this session to make the products containing pseudoephedrine (except tamper-resistant forms of the drug) available only by prescription. The Board also discussed the problems experienced by law enforcement, emergency responders and children exposed to illegal meth labs. On

a motion made by Mr. Reishman and seconded by Dr. Rubin, the Board voted to endorse legislation that would make products containing pseudoephedrine available by prescription only.

Mr. Reishman asked about the medication that is being discussed to reverse the effects of drug overdoses. Dr. Rubin stated it was brought up last year about allowing first responders to use the drug Naloxone. Ms. Isaac stated that thinks some of the issues about the use of Naloxone by first responders had been resolved and maybe legislation would pass this session.

4. Report of the Board's Executive Director/Health Officer Search Sub-Committee.

Ms. Isaac reported that about 10 applications have been received so far. She added not all have met the Board's requirements. The Search Sub-Committee has decided at this time to not consider any applications that do not meet the requirements. Ms. Isaac added some of the applicants did not have an MPH and several were not physicians.

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.

Ms. Kirk added a financial report was also in the packets.

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

Ms. Nunley reported that plans for the annual legislative wellness screenings are underway. Ms. Nunley stated KCHD will provide immunizations, BMI and blood pressure readings during the wellness screenings.

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

a. Discussion of meeting with the Coal River Group

Ms. Wright reported that she and Ms. Alicia Page, Sanitarian recently met with the Coal River Group and discussed the Coal River Watershed. The Group is preparing a grant application through the WV Department of Environmental Protection to the EPA's Section 319 Program. The goal is to remediate failing home septic systems in the areas of Browns Creek and its major tributary Angel Fork. Health Department staff are preparing to conduct a sanitary survey is planned for that region in spring 2015.

b. Discussion of clean indoor air inspection

Ms. Wright informed the Board they would find a report on the Clean Indoor Air Regulation inspections in their packets. Ms. Wright added that due to the sharp and steady decline in the number of clean indoor air violations, it is recommended that we change our current practices in regards to frequency of clean indoor air inspections. As indoor air quality has been shown to have improved since the inception of the Clean Indoor Air Act in Kanawha County and is now less of a public health concern, it is recommended that indoor air inspections be reduced to a complaint basis only. This change will allow resources to be reallocated to other public health programs. The Board requested Ms. Wright provide them with a report

c. Report on water crisis anniversary events

Ms. Wright informed the Board that there have recently been a number of events commemorating the one year anniversary of the water crisis. She added she presented to the on December 17th on aiming for a safe drinking water supply at the Civic Center.

Additionally, she also participated in a number of activities that were hosted at the Culture Center on Friday, January 9th, including a roundtable discussion. A number of dignitaries were in attendance, including elected officials and other public health organizations. Ms. Wright stated there is also the look back project with Harvard that was recently completed.

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

a. Update on influenza activity

Ms. Briscoe reported that she attended the State Board of Education/WVDHHR flu press conference at West Side-Mary C. Snow Elementary along with Ms. Isaac on January 5th. Influenza activity in the U.S. remains high overall and is likely to continue for several weeks. The severity of flu disease so far this season is similar to some previous seasons during which influenza A (H3N2) viruses have circulated predominantly. H3N2-predominant seasons often cause more severe disease among children younger than 5 years and adults 65 years and older compared to H1N1 seasons. CDC recommendations still include vaccination and prompt treatment with flu antiviral drugs for people who are hospitalized, very sick with flu or people who are at high risk of serious flu complications also is recommended. Nationally, for the seventh consecutive week, ILI remained above baseline. Flu activity is beginning to decline in parts of the country and is increasing in others. It is too soon to tell whether influenza activity has peaked yet this season. Ms. Briscoe reported that locally, sentinel providers and hospitals are still reporting an elevated numbers of flu illnesses.

9. Old business

None

10. New Business

a. Public comment period

None

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

A motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter was made 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 Dr. Rubin, the Board voted unanimously to come out of executive session. No further business was conducted.

11. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,



Arthur B. Rubin, DO, FACOP, MHA
Health Officer