



Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

March 15, 2018

Members – Present

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

Member(s) Excused

Ms. Martha Yeager Walker

Presenters

Ms. Janet Briscoe
Dr. Dominic Gaziano
Ms. Christina Hinkle
Ms. Lolita Kirk
Mr. John Law
Mr. Stanley Mills
Ms. Brandi O'Dell
Ms. Tina Ramirez

1. Call to Order - President, Ms. Brenda Isaac

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

2. Report of the President – Ms. Brenda Isaac

- a. Dr. Dominic Gaziano was introduced as Interim Health Officer, and Judge Tod J. Kaufman, Chief Judge of the 13th Judicial Circuit, administered the Oath of Office to Dr. Gaziano.
- b. A motion was made by Mr. Weber and seconded by Dr. Rubin to approve the meeting minutes of January 18, 2018, as submitted; Dr. Rubin moved, and Mr. Weber seconded the motion to approve the emergency meeting minutes of February 7, 2018, as submitted; and Mr. Weber made a motion and Dr. Rubin seconded to approve the emergency meeting minutes of February 26, 2018, as submitted. The motions passed unanimously.
- c. Board President Brenda Isaac led a discussion regarding KCHD's harm reduction program, after thanking Kanawha Commission President Kent Carper and County Manager Jennifer Herrald for attending the meeting. Among President Isaac's points:
 - Kanawha County and West Virginia have an opioid problem of several years standing that was severe enough to be addressed by then-President Barack Obama during an Oct. 21, 2015, visit.
 - As it has done with past emergent health issues, KCHD examined the scientific evidence to determine effective strategies to address the opioid problem and created programming around those strategies.
 - One of those strategies created is a harm reduction program, in which Ms. Isaac noted her pride and KCHD's continuing commitment to harm reduction, even if the syringe exchange facet of the program becomes unfeasible.

Board member Stephen Weber said harm reduction and the issues surrounding it must be approached as another problem that the local health departments must address. He noted program improvements can always be made and called upon those with program issues to meet with KCHD officials to address those issues.

Acting Executive Director Lolita Kirk detailed recent harm reduction program changes. She noted clients may now only get supplies for themselves, not other established clients. She said clients are being requested to show some type of identification to receive services. They continue to meet with recovery coaches and are offered testing for HIV and hepatitis.

Interim Health Officer Gaziano noted the cost of treating diseases such as HIV and hepatitis and the steps other than syringe exchange KCHD can take to provide harm reduction services, including guiding women to birth control services thus reducing the births of drug-addicted babies.

Discussion ensued on a proposal to suspend the program for 30 days. No action was taken after several board members said the program should remain available to provide client services.

Stan Mills, director of environmental services, said sanitarians are picking up needles when complaints are received and offered to work with officials at the Charleston Police Department and the Charleston Fire Department.

Commission President Kent Carper called the number of needles distributed by the program “staggering,” and noted police and first responders are addressing the needle problem every day. He encouraged KCHD to work more closely with law enforcement.

3. Report of the Finance subcommittee- Mr. Robert Reishman, Chairman

Mr. Reishman presented the second quarter financials. He reported that the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department was in safe financial condition.

4. Report of the Health Officer – Dr. Dominic Gaziano

Dr. Gaziano reported that he has been meeting the staff and learning their duties.

5. Report of the Acting Executive Director– Ms. Lolita Kirk

Ms. Kirk has been concentrating on the Accreditation process, particularly performance management, such as reviewing the Harm Reduction program.

6. Report of the Division of Administrative Services – Ms. Brandi O’Dell

During the presentation and discussion of staffing report, Ms. O’Dell reported two full time staff vacancies.

7. Report of the Division of Clinic Services - Ms. Christina Hinkle

Ms. Hinkle reported on “Project Last Shot”, a program where the Health Department partnered this winter with the Kanawha County Commission to vaccinate citizens for free to help stem the flu epidemic. The clinic has seen an uptick in the number of people requesting vaccinations for traveling overseas lately. Also, Ms. Hinkle reported that the clinic has an adequate supply of the Hepatitis A vaccine; a prophylactic series of two shots covers people for life.

8. Report of the Division of Environmental Health Services – Mr. Stanley Mills

- a. Mr. Mills presented the statistics report.
- b. Because of a staff shortage at the Putnam County Health Department, Mr. Mills has had sanitarian staff rotating work schedules to help cover inspections in Putnam County.
- c. Complaints about food poisoning at local restaurants appear to have been caused by a Noro-virus outbreak in the community as opposed to poor food handling.

9. Report of the Division of Epidemiology and Threat Preparedness - Ms. Janet Briscoe

- a. In her report of recent Division activities, Ms. Briscoe mentioned an event in Washington, DC sponsored by the PEW Charitable Trust Antibiotic Resistance Project, called *"Supermoms Against Superbugs"* where advocates from around the country traveled to Washington to meet with members of Congress and policymakers, to share their personal and work related experiences and unique perspectives to raise awareness about the growing public health and national security threat posed by drug-resistant bacteria to and urge continued support of programs related to Antibiotic Stewardship.
- b. Ms. Briscoe provided status reports on current disease investigations including the recent Hepatitis A reported in a food service worker which included a joint epidemiology and environmental health investigation. Public notification was released through the media by John Law, PIO. Staff fielded calls after the press release to answer questions and concerns from the public.
- c. On March 29th, the Division, along with preparedness partners, will present a training event for CMS facilities covered under the CMS Emergency Preparedness Rule for participants from Kanawha and Putnam Counties.

10. Report of the Division of Prevention & Wellness – Ms. Tina Ramirez

Ms. Ramirez advised that an AmeriCorps VISTA, Micaela Morrissette, will be housed at KCHD for a year to work on diabetes issues throughout the county. She will be working closely with Cabin Creek Health Systems and Kanawha Coalition for Community Health Improvement on the Community Health Improvement Plan.

11. Legislative Report – Mr. John Law

Mr. Law reviewed action taken during the 2018 Legislative Session. Of particular interest to the Board, he reported that there was no action taken on bills introduced to loosen the clean air or required vaccination statutes. The 5% salary increase that passed for State Employees does not apply to Local Health Departments, but SB 472 may be reviewed in special session to award that increase to our staff, as well.

12. Unfinished Business

Media guests asked questions about the specific numbers of syringes given to patients in the Harm Reduction Program. Ms. Rukse reported that 471,747 syringes had been distributed to returning patients since December of 2015, with 415,812 dirty syringes returned.

13. Adjournment

Mr. Reishman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Strawn. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Lolita Kirk, Acting Executive Director

