



Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2019

Members – Present

Dr. Arthur B. Rubin, President
Mr. Paul Nusbaum
Dr. William Payne
Mr. Danny F. Scalise II
Mr. Stephen Weber

Member(s) – Excused

Mr. Jeremy Nelson

Staff – Present/Presenters

Dr. Sherri Young
Janet Briscoe
Lori Kersey
Carol McCormick
Deborah Snaman

Staff - Excused

Stanley Mills

1. Call to Order - President, Dr. Arthur Rubin

Dr. Rubin called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

a. Roll Call – Kandy L. Forsythe

Ms. Forsythe conducted the roll call. All board members were present except for Mr. Jeremy Nelson.

2. Report of the President – Dr. Arthur Rubin

a. Approval of the minutes from the September 19, 2019 Board of Health meeting

Upon a motion by Mr. Scalise seconded by Mr. Nusbaum to approve the minutes of September 19, 2019, as submitted, the motion passed.

- b. Next item of business is the retirement of Ms. Janet Briscoe. Ms. Briscoe retired from her position here as the Epidemiology and Threat Preparedness Director. A resolution was read by Dr. Rubin in honor of her long career here.

3. Report of the Executive Director/Health Officer – Dr. Young **Point of Order**

a. KCHD Health Fair and Community Outreach

Dr. Young updated the board on our community outreach. Dr. Young informed the board that it has been two months since our first health fair. Dr. Young further stated that it was a good highlight to the health department and next year we want to do better and bigger. We did very well, and we are looking forward to the next one. Dr. Young informed the board that within the binders, there is a copy of a letter she received from the Kanawha County Commission, thanking her for attending the Breast Cancer Awareness Month proclamation and flag-raising ceremony in October.

b. HIV Update/HIV Task Force

Dr. Young stated that the current number of newly diagnosed HIV cases in Kanawha County was 18. Eight of these individuals reported intravenous drug use (IDU). Dr. Young stated that KCHD aimed to be a part of the prevention effort, and the only way to address this in an effective manner is working along with county leadership, the county sheriff's office, representatives from the city, Healthright and Covenant House. The HIV Task Force meeting was a very productive meeting. The task force identified and discussed several issues in addition to HIV, including naloxone distribution. Two meetings of the HIV Task Force have been held to date, with more participants requesting to join the meeting following the first. Dr. Young further stated that there was a woman in recovery in the latest meeting and her story about recovery was inspiring. Through collaboration with other task force members, individuals previously lost to care, were reconnected to HIV treatment and other services. KCHD has begun to work on the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation Grant with our first HIV outreach at Christ Kitchen in St. Albans. We assisted 37 individuals with zero testing positive for HIV. Educational information and connections to other services were provided to the participants. Dr. Rubin stated that the important part of the task force and testing is to try and identify individuals at risk for HIV as soon as possible and connect them to treatment. Dr. Rubin further stated that the level of trust is needed to connect with individuals battling addiction. Dr. Young shared that this gave the task force the idea of "meeting individuals where they are," and reaching out to them. Dr. Rubin added that the area that Dr. Young sought for the HIV testing event was needed, as resources are limited in this area.

c. Vaping Discussion

Dr. Young stated the CDC states that we have had 2,172 cases in 47 states with a vaping illness. The use of an activated thickening agent inhaled is a major piece in these illnesses. There was one case in Kanawha treated. Dr. Young wanted to also point out that the American Medical Association (AMA) has taken a strong stance against vaping products. As for the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department Clean Indoor Act, the restrictions state any type of tobacco product. The eight cases in West Virginia are all above age 20. Regarding vaping regulation, Dr. Rubin requested Dr. Young report on what other Boards of Health had passed, including the Cabell-Huntington Health Department (CHHD). CHHD has passed a resolution for a new vaping ordinance. It is currently on the CHHD website and open for a 30-day comment period. After the 30-day comment period, they will have a public hearing. Dr. Rubin stated there are several vaping related issues to review. The issue regarding the flavored vaping cartridges may require a strong statement. Mr. Scalise asked if the KCHD Board of Health would have the authority to outlaw flavors in our county. Mr. Weber stated that he does not think we can do that. Mr. Weber further stated that he thinks we would have a challenge in enacting something that is translated as secondhand vaping. With flavors, stated Mr. Weber, it is aimed directly at children. Mr. Weber further stated it he would recommend a letter of support from KCHD, for legislation that the age to purchase tobacco or electronic cigarette products be lifted from 18 to 21. Mr. Scalise stated that he would be interested in knowing if the Board of Health would have the authority to ban sales of flavored products. Dr. Rubin stated he wanted to separate the second-hand vaping issue from the sale of flavored vaping products. Dr. Young also stated that she can do more research. Dr. Rubin stated that he is not in favor of reopening the clean air act enacted in 2008. Mr. Scalise added that the priority is with the children. Dr. Young stated that the vaping, especially with the flavors, are enticing to youth and can potentially cause lifetime nicotine addiction. Dr. Rubin stated we need motions. Upon a

motion by Mr. Nusbaum, seconded by Mr. Weber to draft an indoor vaping regulation for review by the Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health. Dr. Rubin stated that an indoor vaping ordinance with the support of Board of Health, would also gain support from other leadership and stakeholders. The Kanawha County Commission has voiced support for an indoor vaping ordinance in previously scheduled public meetings. Mr. Nusbaum requests to ensure full communication. Dr. Rubin states that if the indoor vaping ordinance is passed, it will go to a 30-day comment period. This will be followed by a public hearing. Without further discussion, the motion to draft a vaping ordinance was unanimously supported. Motion carried and passed.

A motion by Mr. Weber seconded by Dr. Payne was made to support the draft of a letter to state leadership regarding support for an increase in the age of sales for tobacco and vaping products to age 21, as well as a ban on flavored vaping products, was made. Without additional discussion the Board voted unanimously to for Dr. Young to draft a letter of support for this legislation. Motion carried and passed.

d. **Podcast**

Dr. Young stated that she and Ms. Kersey's last podcast was about vaping. Their guest was a 16-year-old high school student named Susan who was inspired to do well for her community. Susan stated that vaping is a big problem for the youth. Dr. Young stated she was very impressed with Susan's desire to help those her age. Dr. Young stated her thoughts regarding the planning of a teen health board, wanting her peers to mentor them and go into the schools. It has been done in other counties. Would like suggestions for names.

4. **Report of the Division of Administrative Services – Ms. Carol McCormick**

a. **Capital Asset Transfer**

Ms. McCormick updated the board on the Capital Asset Transfer. Upon a motion by Dr. Rubin seconded by Dr. Payne, the board voted to approved asset transfer without additional discussion. The motion carried and passed unanimously without opposition.

b. **Sanitarian Proposal**

Ms. McCormick stated Ms. Lolita Kirk had sent up a proposal for the sanitarian pay. DOP contacted Ms. McCormick earlier this month and wanted KCHD to withdraw the previous proposal. Ms. McCormick asked if the board would like to keep it or withdraw our current proposal. Upon a motion by Mr. Scalise and seconded by Mr. Weber, the board voted to withdraw the proposal. Motion carried and passed without opposition.

c. **Staffing Report**

Ms. McCormick informed the board of current staffing for KCHD.

Ms. McCormick added that the Kanawha County Commission decided earlier in the year they were going to close county agencies on December 24th. For KCHD to close for this holiday they need board approval. She asked for additional approval for December 31st if the county would close on this holiday, as well. Ms. McCormick stated that she will be working. Upon a motion by Dr. Rubin and seconded by Mr. Weber the board unanimously voted to close for December 24th, and if the County Commission grants a holiday for December 31st, KCHD would also close. The motion carried and passed without opposition.

d. **Financial Report**

Ms. McCormick stated that financially, KCHD was at the same level as previous year.

5. **Report of the Division of Clinic Services – Ms. Deborah Snaman**

a. **Community Flu Update**

Ms. Snaman updated the board regarding administered flu vaccines. Ms. Snaman stated they were winding down, and they had visited 59 schools, 38 businesses and administered more than 2000 flu vaccines. Ms. Snaman further stated that there is still a large supply left and recommended another push through media. December 1st through 5th we are offering incentives to get the flu shots and will be working with Aetna Better Health of West Virginia.

6. **Report of the Division of Environmental Health Services – Mr. David Winowich speaking for Mr. Stanley Mills**

a. **Statistics and Staff Training Updates**

Mr. Winowich updated board on sanitarian inspections. Newly hired employees finished exam and passed in field inspections. Dr. Rubin applauded at the numbers of inspections. Dr. Rubin further mentioned that the training numbers are very high and good job. Dr. Rubin asked if Mr. Winowich was prepared to make a comment on cannabis. Dr. Young interjected that the guidelines are very comprehensive. Dr. Rubin stated no additional action is needed at this time regarding this matter.

7. **Report of the Division of Epidemiology and Threat Preparedness – Ms. Janet Briscoe**

a. **Presentation of EPI Updates**

Ms. Briscoe stated this would be her very last report. Ms. Briscoe further stated that she put the EPI report for the first quarter in the binders and activities on what they have done in the last quarter. Ms. Briscoe stated they she did fill the EPI position and she is stationed here but she does have six counties. Her employee, Katie, began the first of November and has been doing an excellent job. One of the things Ms. Briscoe wanted to shine a light on was that after investigation two cases, there were no cases of vaccine preventable diseases found.

8. **New Business – Mr. Stan Mills**

a. **Grease Trap**

Mr. Mills arrived with new business, after attending the Kanawha County Commission meeting that was scheduled simultaneous to the Board of Health meeting. He went before the County Commission to discuss a recent issue with a restaurant grease trap. Mr. Mills stated that earlier in the week, a child who stepped on a grease trap lid and had fallen through. Thankfully, her mom was able to grab the child. The grease trap lid, Mr. Mills stated, is smaller than a manhole cover. This grease trap lid had been inspected by the South Charleston Sanitary Board prior to the event and had been cleaned out. The bolts were put on after the cleaning but were not locked properly. This is not previously the KCHD jurisdiction; however, KCHD works to make this a safe community. Within 48 hours of notification, a meeting held at KCHD with the Office of Homeland Security, City of Charleston Sanitary Board, the City of South Charleston Sanitary Board and KCHD. An immediate ordinance was written, and KCHD will now be looking at these during routine restaurant inspections, in addition to inspections by Sanitary Boards.

9. Personnel Matter.

- a. Mr. Nusbaum made a motion to go into executive session, seconded by Mr. Scalise. A personnel matter was discussed, and no action was taken. Mr. Nusbaum made a motion to leave executive session, as seconded by Mr. Weber.

10. Unfinished Business

- a. **Public Comment Period**
None

Dr. Rubin noted the next meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. A meeting to discuss the indoor vaping ordinance may be scheduled prior to the regularly scheduled meeting.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Weber motioned to adjourn seconded by Mr. Nusbaum. The Board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Sherri Young, DO, FAAFP
Executive Director/Health Officer

