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County of Erie

CHRIS COLLINS

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

HHS

ANTHONY J. BILLITTIER IV, M.D., FACEP
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

April 1, 2011

Dear Board of Health Member:

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 28, 2011 at 3:30 P.M. The meeting will be held in Room 904 of the Rath Building, 95 Franklin Street, Buffalo, New York 14202.

The minutes from the January 13, 2011 meeting as well as an agenda for the April meeting are enclosed for your review.

Please make every effort to attend the meeting. If you are unable to attend, notify my office at 858-7226. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard Judelson, M.D.
Medical Director

Encl.
RJ/mac

8D-7

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

ROOM 904 RATH BUILDING

APRIL 28, 2011

AGENDA

1. Fracking
2. Radiation
3. Healthy Choices
4. HIV Screening
5. New Business

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MINUTES

JANUARY 13, 2011

PRESENT: Richard Judelsohn, M.D.
James Hoddick, D.D.S.
Carolyn Montgomery, PhD, NP-C
Dennis Galluzzo, R.P.H.
Matthew Dunaif, D.V.M.
Krista Van Wagner, Curly's Bar & Grill

EXCUSED: Gail Polanski, RN, BSN
John Davanzo
Nathaniel Webster, M.D.

ERIE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Anthony J. Billittier, M.D., Commissioner of Health
Mark Kowalski, Environmental Health
Sandra Diagostino, RN, BSN, Immunization Action Plan

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Judelsohn.

I. PRESENTATION ON THE IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN BY
SANDRA DIAGOSINTO, RN, BSN, IMMUNIZATION SPECIALIST,
ECHD

An extremely in-depth presentation of the Immunization Action Plan was given to the Board members by Sandra Diagostino.

II. SANITARY CODE UPDATE

Dr. Judelsohn told the group that after the October meeting we were to finalize the amendments to the Sanitary Code that were adopted last spring. The only issue that had come up after that were Bed & Breakfasts vs. Rooming houses, which was resolved at the October meeting.

The entire Sanitary Code including the newly approved revisions will be sent over to the County Clerk's office for filing. An electronic version will also be available.

Also, there was a discussion of the revisions regarding the powers of the Erie County Health Dept. Commissioner from 2005. These revisions had been rejected by the New York State Health Dept. A follow-up letter indicated that there might be an opening to enact some of the revisions. Dr. Judelsohn went over the revisions line by line on what was allowable from in 2005 to what was allowable in 2010. Dr. Judelsohn drafted a response, and requested Environmental Health to look at the document.

III. HEALTHY CHOICES AND MENU CALC

Dr. Judelsohn brought up the presentation by Cheryll Moore on Healthy Choices and MenuCalc. Rob Free of the restaurant association also participated in this discussion at the October meeting. Krista Van Wagner's input was felt to be an important component by the other BOH members, so a vote was not taken at the October meeting on the BOH's role in endorsing Healthy Choices and MenuCalc. There was a press conference held on November 8 that Ms. Van Wagner participated in. An e-mail was sent to board members regarding their vote for endorsement, and a majority of the Board voted to endorse the Healthy Choices program. The publicity is widening and Cheryll Moore has drafted an article for Buffalo Healthy Living Magazine; information is posted on the Erie County website. There are 52 restaurants listed on the website that have signed up for the MenuCalc program. There is an ever widening pool of information regarding MenuCalc. It is a voluntary program with no mandates.

Dr. Judelsohn asked Ms. Van Wagner what her experiences have been at Curly's restaurant in regard to MenuCalc. Ms. Van Wagner responded that she did not have her new dinner menu with her at the meeting, but she had recipes that she entered into MenuCalc that she passed around to the Board member for their information. Ms. Van Wagner went on to say that she is actually changing some of her menu items to make them healthier. She is excited to be able to offer Healthy Choice menu items as other restaurateur's are also, as well as the logo, which will make everyone familiar with Healthy Choices. Ms. Van Wagner expanded her program access to incorporate more recipes so that the public is more educated as to what the nutrition facts are in the various menu selections.

Dr. Dunaif questioned if there was any education going on regarding reducing sodium intake. Dr. Billittier said that there is a 3 pronged approach: getting rid of Trans fats, menu labeling, and sodium reduction. The ECDOH applied to the CDC for a sodium educational grant, and was awarded a winning grant but not any funding. Dr. Judelsohn said that many people are unaware of the recommendations for fat, sodium etc. consumption. It was thought to be perhaps an educational issue for schools to provide.

IV. BOH ON ERIE COUNTY WEBSITE

Dr. Judelsohn asked the members if they had accessed the website. The Board of Health information has been posted on the Erie County Department of Health web page, which makes it easily accessible.

V. RABIES VACCINE AIRDROP

At the last meeting it was decided that the Board of Health suggest to New York State that it needs to inform the public when an airdrop occurs. Dr. Billittier said that the Federal government is involved in the airdrop. There was some ensuing conversation as to the dangers of the drop. The BOH would like to have veterinarians alerted when the drop occurs so they are aware of problems emanating from it. Dr. Judelsohn asked Dr. Dunaif if he could get the name of someone at the Veterinary Society regarding the airdrops.

VI. DRUG DISPOSAL

At the prior BOH meeting Mr. Galluzzo told the board about a nurse that he was acquainted with, that worked at a nursing home, who was told to flush unwanted drugs down the toilet, which contrasts with standard public health recommendations. Ms. Montgomery works at five assisted living facilities as well as a nursing home where she looked into the policies and procedures regarding drug disposal. The New York State Dept. of Health actually does instruct facilities to dispose of their dated medications by flushing them down the toilet. "Legend" drugs may be returned to the pharmacy in some cases. They must have a pharmacy contract in place for this. These will then be appropriately disposed of. All narcotics are routinely flushed down the toilet as per the NYSDOH. She checked with Mark Ludwig who is the head of Woodmark Pharmacy who said that the DEC and the Attorney General of NYS are attempting to come to a solution where the drugs that are still being flushed, will instead be collected and correctly disposed of. All the massive amounts of drugs need to be taken into consideration that are going into the water system, must be safely collected and disposed of properly. This is the issue that NYS is being forced to address.

Mr. Galluzzo thought that the BOH should be involved in protecting the water system by coming out and taking a stand on this practice.

In documentation provided by Ms. Montgomery dated January 4, 2011, Dr. Judelsohn read that the NYS Dept. of Health recommends that medications not be flushed, they should be placed in sealed bags, empty cans or other containers. Ms. Montgomery said that this pertains to the legend drugs, and over the counter medications.

Dr. Billittier commented that he thought that the Board of Health has no authority over flushing of drugs into the water system, so he inquired to whom the message should be addressed to. Nursing homes have received a letter dated January 4, 2011 from the NYSDOH telling them not to flush outdated, unused drugs down the toilet. Ms. Montgomery said that narcotics are disposed of differently. Enforcement is also a problem. Mr. Galluzzo thought that the BOH could issue a guideline for disposing of drugs. Dr. Judelsohn suggested that the BOH is in support of a guideline for disposing of drugs to the public primarily through community drop offs. This could be targeted to the public. Dr. Billittier said that this issue is being addressed with the public drug drop-offs that are being co-sponsored by the Erie County Department of Environmental and Planning and the Health Department. Dr. Hoddick brought up the issue of metabolites being continually flushed into the water system. He went on to say that there is a double fisted problem. Mr. Galluzzo said that the drugs collected at the drop-offs are incinerated; the drugs in landfills are degraded over time. Dr. Billittier said that the preference of disposal is the drug drop-off as opposed to landfills, which is better than flushing. He went on to say that perhaps the BOH should encourage more drug drop-offs.

Dr. Judelsohn suggested posting a drug drop-off schedule endorsed by the BOH on the ECHD website.

VII. INFLUENZA 2010-2011

Dr. Judelsohn asked Dr. Billittier if he had any comments on Influenza, to which Dr. Billittier said that we are watching H1N1. It seems to be smoldering in other parts of the world. Mr. Galluzzo said that it seems that not many people are sick with influenza; there seemed to be a higher incidence in Erie, Pennsylvania and Albany. Dr. Billittier said that there have been two cases of H1N1 in Erie County. Dr. Judelsohn commented that the CDC once a week publishes the national data as they know it. Last Friday listing the week ending January 1st, the only NYS place that had an influx of flu was the New York City area. Nationally the

isolates that were tested were influenza B, some influenza H3N2 and a small amount of H1N1. March seems to be the peak month for flu. Not a lot of people were willing to get immunized against the flu, except for health care facilities where there was much better health care worker flu vaccine uptake.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Judelsohn asked if there was any new business; Dr. Hoddick wanted to thank Dr. Billittier and the ECDH for collaborating with the U. B. Dental School in obtaining screening for HIV and diabetes up and running.

There was some ensuing conversation regarding the new mandate that certain providers recommend that patients 13 – 64 be offered HIV screening. The Dental School needs to look into whether they are subject to the law, then all of the rules need to be followed. Dr. Billittier stated that the Dental School has an Article 28 facility; dentists are not State regulated entities. However there are some State regulated clinics, i.e. Children's Hospital. Dr. Billittier did not know if being an Article 28 facility makes the facility subject to HIV screening. Dr. Judelsohn said a fast facts is being written. He thought that it is not the entity that is responsible for doing the screening, but the type of provider. Dr. Judelsohn did not remember seeing Dentists on the list. Dr. Billittier said that physicians, primary care providers, also patients in hospital emergency departments, and in-patient settings are to be offered screening. So it is not necessarily just providers. Dr. Billittier went on to say that this law in many ways is an advancement but also is a major undertaking for providers to be able to offer everyone an HIV test.

IX. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 21, 2010 MEETING

Dr. Judelsohn asked for a review of the minutes of the October 21, 2010 meeting. There were no corrections or additions, Dr. Hoddick moved to approve the minutes, all were in favor.

The next meeting of the ECBOH will be held on April 28, 2011.

The meeting was then adjourned.

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