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# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

GALE R. BURSTEIN, MD, MPH  
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

December 15, 2014

Dear Board of Health Member:

The next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 3:30 P.M. The meeting will be held at the Rath Building, Room 904, 95 Franklin Street, Buffalo, New York.

The minutes from the September 9, 2014 meeting as well as an agenda for the January meeting are enclosed for your review.

Please make every effort to attend the meeting. If you are unable to attend, notify Marcia Amadori Crosby at 858-7226. Thank you and Happy Holidays!

Sincerely,

James Hoddick, D.D.S  
President,  
Erie County Board of Health

Encl.  
JH/mac

Comm. 1D-8  
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**ERIE COUNTY BORD OF HEALTH**

**ROOM 904 RATH BUILDING**

**JANUARY 6, 2015**

1. Review of minutes from September 9, 2014 meeting
2. Food Policy Council
3. Regulation of Smoking in Public and Work Places as per New York State Legislation
4. Food Facility Inspections
5. Public Health Accreditation
6. Ebola Virus\
7. New Business/Old Business

# ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

## MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2014

PRESENT: James Hoddick, D.D.S.  
Carolyn Montgomery, PhD, NP-C  
Dennis Galluzzo, R.P.H.  
Maureen Montgomery, M.D.  
Robert Free, Director, Food Service Operations,  
Buffalo Bison's Baseball  
Jonathan Daniels, M.D.  
Legislator Lynne Dixon

EXCUSED: Matthew Dunaif, D.V.M.

### ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Gale Burstein, M.D., Commissioner of Health  
Cheryll Moore, Medical Care Administrator  
Jeff Jurewicz, Environmental Health

#### I. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM MAY 6, 2014 MEETING

Dr. Hoddick asked if anyone had any suggestions, additions, or deletions to the minutes, there were none. Dr. Hoddick motioned to approve the minutes as written, there were no objections and the motion was carried.

#### II. FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Cheryll Moore commented that the council completed strategic planning. They are currently working on a meet and greet type event to introduce the Food Policy Council to agencies involving food throughout the County. It was to be scheduled in September but it has been moved up. A presentation was given at the State Group Food Policy meeting that was well accepted. Erie County has the best format of any food policy council in the state. They took the time to do a strategic plan attached to the BOH, and have built a sustainable model. There was a statement prepared addressing the green code within the City of Buffalo. This addressed areas of it, including chickens, goats in the neighborhood, community gardens and composting. And any changes that need to be inserted within the green code.

### III. REGULATION OF SMOKING IN PUBLIC AND WORK PLACES AS PER NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATION

Dr. Hoddick said that he understood that the Erie County Legislature is picking this up. Lynne Dixon commented that the Legislature is looking into this issue. They are currently working on scheduling an informational meeting. Entities to be invited will be Roswell Park, and the E-cig community as well. She also said that if the BOH had parties that were interested in this meeting to invite them as well. The long term goal is to look at legislation in Erie County that could be crafted as a local law. The law would then be voted on by the EC Legislature; if it passes it would go to the County Executive, then he would have a public hearing on it. Dr. Burstein asked if this included any type of smoking not just e-cigarettes, to which she responded that it is broader than just the e-cigs. Ms. Dixon said that Peter Savage had approached her as she chairs the Health and Human Services Committee. They are looking at September 23 however they will let us know when a date is decided upon. Dr. Burstein commented that perhaps Environmental Health could be made aware of the date of the informational meeting.

Dr. Hoddick moved to table Regulation of Smoking in Public and Work Places due to the Erie County Legislature's interested and involvement.

Dr. Burstein suggested an educational awareness with Erie BOCES. Ms. Dixon said that she sits on a committee in Hamburg where they are attempting to develop policies regarding drug and alcohol consumption among young people. She also suggested educating adults on what is out there, as well as the language that kids use.

### IV. FOOD FACILITY INSPECTIONS

Jeff Jurewicz gave the BOH a very informative overview on food facility inspections as well as a snap shot of restaurant ratings. The BOH was extremely appreciative of this information.

### V. PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION

Dr. Burstein told the BOH that the ECDOH is finalizing our strategic plan. We are going through a step by step process on how to implement it. There is a lot of documentation involved and how to improve the documentation. She went on to say that we are applying for a NACCHO grant to assist with a component of accreditation. Dr. Burstein said that from a financial standpoint it is expensive for a county of our size. She said that it will cost \$30,000 to apply. There is also a time constraint from the time of application to the time of application submittal. We are trying to get as prepared as possible. She thought that this would occur in

2016. Dr. Burstein also said that she and some other staff members would be traveling to Albany for Quality Improvement training.

#### VI. BOH'S MEMBERS' STATUS

Legislator Dixon, who is the new appointment for the Erie County Legislature vacancy was introduced to the board members. Several members of the ECDOH have run into Mayor Brown and discussed the possibility of him appointing a representative to the City of Buffalo vacancy. Dr. Burstein has several suggestions for this vacancy. Dr. Daniels has also attempted to contact him regarding this issue.

Ms. Amadori Crosby, secretary to the BOH, told the members that she would be retiring at the end of September

#### VII. EBOLA VIRUS

Dr. Hoddick mentioned that during the SARS outbreak there was a potential for a border closing. Dr. Burstein said that we are prepared for an event; there have been multiple health advisories by the county and the state to notify all health care facilities that may encounter this. There are policies and procedures in place. She also stated that we are concerned regarding students coming in from Africa as opposed to the Canadian border. As we have three schools with a large body of international students. Dr. Hoddick asked what hospitals would take these patients to which she indicated that a hospital that has an isolation facility with negative pressure. Such as ECMC, Buffalo General or Children's. She went on to say that they have ruled out three Ebola cases, which actually turned out to be malaria.

Lynne Dixon asked about a new virus recently identified. Dr. Burstein said that it is the Enterovirus EV-D68. She said that it seen commonly during childhood. There are many different strains that cause many different types of illnesses. Hand, foot and mouth disease is one. D-68 can cause respiratory, GI infections, conjunctivitis, pneumonia, meningitis, and encephalitis. D-68 is an uncommon strain that was identified initially in 1962. Adults have been exposed to it but children have not, as it has not been widely circulated in the community in recent times. It has been causing severe respiratory disease especially when children have chronic lung disease such as asthma. It is not a reportable communicable disease so we do not have any surveillance data on it. However it will be included by Kalieda's micro lab. It will be an Enterovirus test. 10 states have reported outbreaks. Ohio is one that is located close to New York. It should be managed as any other viral respiratory infection.

#### VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at 3:30 P.M.  
Dr. Hoddick motioned to adjourn, Carolyn Montgomery seconded the motion.

The meeting was then adjourned.

/mac