



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

GALE R. BURSTEIN, MD, MPH
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

August 12, 2015

Dear Board of Health Member:

The next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 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 April 21, 2015 meeting as well as an agenda for the September meeting are enclosed for your review.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Hoddick".

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

Encl.
JH/mac

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

ROOM 904 RATH BUILDING

SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

1. Review of minutes from April 21, 2015 meeting
2. Food Policy Council
3. Ebola Virus
4. Mandatory testing for opioids for mothers of new borns
5. New Business/Old Business

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

APRIL 21, 2015

PRESENT: Carolyn Montgomery, PhD, NP-C
Robert Free, Director Food Operations,
Buffalo Bison's Baseball
Legislator Lynne Dixon
Jonathan Daniels, M.D.
Matthew Dunaif, D.V.M. via teleconference

EXCUSED: James Hoddick, D.D.S.
Dennis Galluzzo, R.P.H.
Maureen Montgomery, M.D.

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Gale Burstein, M.D., Commissioner of Health
Cheryll Moore, Erie County Health Dept.
Jeff Jurewicz, Environmental Health

I. FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Rob Free told the group that the Food Policy Council is starting to gel and produce tangible results. Cheryll Moore and Mr. Free have worked together on a path to get some realistic things done. Next week on April 28 there is a meet and greet for the Food Policy Council. Invitations were handed out to the board members. They have reached out to stake holders that have vested interest in the food policy whether it be through an organization or affiliation. They have been invited to the meet and greet to bring any questions they might have and to bring specific items or issues they feel the food policy council should hear. We will then take the items and make a master list that will be tackled moving forward. These items could go to the advocacy subcommittee or the legislative branch. He indicated that

progress has been made and that realistic expectations have been attained for what the council needs to do.

Mr. Free said that he and Cheryll Moore would reach out to Meals on Wheels as well as the Food Bank of WNY to invite them to the meet and greet. He said that they needed to take more of a leadership role. Legislator Dixon asked about the programs at Baker Victory and Emerson as well as some of the culinary programs that involve young people. Mr. Free said that they had discussed this with the restaurant association. There is a program called pro-start that gives kids a vocation in the food industry. There was discussion regarding bringing in MAP on the west side to work with pro-start. He is also meeting with Mark Thomas from Emerson today. Ms. Moore explained that MAP has a seat on the Food Policy Council. MAP engages kids and their families from a growing process to building a business to selling a product. They have hydroponic indoor farms and outdoor farms . as well as fish ponds. They also have developed a salsa product from foods that they have grown that is sold through Wegmans. This teaches them to learn about business as well.

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 6, 2015 MEETING

Dr. Daniels joined the meeting at this point. Ms. Montgomery explained that since Dr. Hoddick could not attend the meeting, she as the Vice President of the Board was running the meeting. As Dr. Daniels joined there was a quorum and the past meeting minutes could be addressed. There were no corrections or additions so the minutes were approved as written by Ms. Montgomery and Dr. Daniels seconded the motion.

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

Dr. Burstein told the group that the Erie County Legislature passed a law revising our Clean Indoor Air Act in Erie County. All forms of smoking including electronic nicotine delivery systems such as e-cigarettes are included in the Act. Exempt are businesses that sell tobacco and nicotine products , They must however register with the ECHD to get the exemption. Legislator Dixon said that vapping will

be allowed in the vap lounges. She also said that there was quite a bit of push back from the vapping community. They were very vocal and active at the public hearings. Mr. Free said that restaurants are grateful for this enactment of the law as it has been a very grey area. Ms. Dixon said that she contacted restaurants in the district that she represents to get a feel on what their opinions would be. She said that the restaurants that were initially opposed to the smoking ban because they thought that it would negatively impact their businesses were in favor of it. They also said that the smoking ban has actually caused their business to go up as people can enjoy their food longer.

IV. FOOD FACILILTY INSPECTIONS

Jeff Jurewicz brought information on the ECHD's food inspection website hits from the beginning of the year as well as during the Hep A crisis to see how it impacted the web hits. From the start of the year to 2 days ago the inspection website had 3500 hits for the year. From the period of the public announcement during the Hep A at Casa de Pizza there were 1500 hits. The normal average is 32 hits a day, the average for that month was 49 hits a day. The average for the week is usually 180 sessions a week, which increased to 879 sessions a week of the announcement. There was a 500% increase and over a 500% increase in users; and over 700% increase in page views for that week. A week after the public announcement everything went back down to normal levels. Mr. Jurewicz commented that first time visitors to the website went from an average of 70 to over 84% of first time users.

Dr. Daniels questioned how the Hepatitis A outbreak was brought to the attention of ECDOH. To which Dr. Burstein commented that we have in NYS a great public health surveillance system for reporting communicable diseases. Any clinical lab that operates in NYS has to participate in the NYS Electronical Clinical Reporting System. All test results have to be programmed for all reported communicable diseases to automatically shoot a positive result to the NYS Dept. of Health. Then the NYSDOH notified whatever county the resident resides in. The employee in the Hepatitis outbreak had positive serology for Hepatitis A, this was sent to the State and the State sent it to us. This is how we were alerted. Once we receive those results then an investigation is initiated. In Hepatitis A it is really important

to know if the index case has any contact with food, or serving other people. During the investigation it was determined that there was possible exposure to other people. The best response in this situation was to offer Hepatitis A vaccine to those who may have been exposed. Carolyn Montgomery asked how many people took advantage of the vaccine. To which Dr. Burstein responded that 1300 people received them. The ECHD conducted a pod at the Convention Center in the downtown area. Children's Hospital was initially concerned that there would be a lot of exposed staff, as they order food for meetings etc. from Casa di Pizza for takeout. They were going to offer immunizations to their employees and patients that may have been exposed. We were able to determine that there was no exposure from takeout. However CHOB still continued to offer the vaccine, and also were very generous in offering the vaccine to Casa di Pizza employees as the proximity of the restaurant is close to the hospital.

Dr. Daniels questioned that when an incident like this occurs if the medical community is alerted. Dr. Burstein replied that a health alert is sent out. Dr. Burstein said that she also contacted Debbie Licata from the Buffalo Pediatric Society and asked her to e-mail the information to local Pediatric groups and individual Pediatricians. To register she said that you click on the ECDOH website and click on health alerts button to register.

V. PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION

Dr. Burstein responded that the ECDOH does not currently have the staff or the resources to pursue this endeavor.

VI. EBOLA VIRUS

Dr. Burstein said that at the current time we are not monitoring anyone. This is partially due to the fact that the number of new cases is decreasing in West Africa. So they are finally seeing a turn around. Also we have been able to work out an agreement with the State and Feds at the border so that we are able to skype temperatures if the agent at the border agrees to it at the time. This has not come up yet for us in Erie County. Dr. Daniels told the group that the Medical School was having the foremost Ebola expert, Dan Kelly present Lessons Learned from the Ebola Crisis; coming in to speak during a

clinical day in May. Dr. Burstein indicated that it was set for May 30. Dr. Daniels said that a lot of information would be given out on that day.

VII. NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Burstein said that on Thursday evening we are holding a small meeting organizing a steering committee involving our leaders in the health care community to talk about what we could do regarding the opioid epidemic. The health plans will be present, as well as the medical school from family medicine and med peds, as well as the dental school. They will discuss what can be done on primary prevention and other alternatives for pain management. Secondary prevention to perhaps conduct screenings and helping to empower patients to get into care those that are addicted. Getting more providers interested in following patients on sob Oxon and managing them. Cheryll Moore has been training many first responders in our community on how to identify an overdose and using Naloxone . We are training the community also. Any resident can also come and get the trainings. We will be offering two trainings a month for at least the next six months. We will determine what the demand is to see if we need to continue.

Legislator Dixon related to the group that the E.C. Legislature is working on a pawn shop law. Young people are stealing from their families to support their drug addiction. The pawn shop law would require a holding period when something comes in. They have met with some pawn shop owners as well as law enforcement to fine tune that law. Dr. Burstein asked if the pawn shop owners were receptive to which Legislator Dixon responded that for the most part they are being reasonable. Dr. Dunaif asked what the minimum age is for pawning an item, to which Ms. Dixon responded that it was eighteen years of age. However a lot of the shop owners do not ask for identification. Leads on on-line will be a tracking system that will require the pawn shop owner to ask for ID from the person and plug it into the system. Law enforcement also has access to this system.

Ms. Dixon told the group that the City of Lackawanna voted to not allow a hookah lounge . Some Erie County Legislators have been approached regarding growing marihuana for medicinal purposes.

There are a few in Amherst interested . Dr. Burstein said that NYS would have to be involved in this problem. This would involve the State prescription license. She did not think that legally this could be accomplished on a County level. There are many providers in Erie County who have patients that reside in Niagara County or other counties. Dr. Burstein said that before the County moved on this it would have to be run by the County Attorney to determine if it would be legally feasible. Ms. Dixon did not think it would get to that point.

Dr. Burstein mentioned that the Health Dept. is providing rabies clinics on May 20 at the Broadway market, May 27 at the ECC South campus and some scheduled for September.

Dr. Dunaif motioned to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Dr. Daniels. The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 15, 2015

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