



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

GALE R. BURSTEIN, MD, MPH
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

March 11, 2015

Dear Board of Health Member:

The next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21, 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 January 6, 2015 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 Marcia Amadori Crosby at 858-7226. Thank you.

Sincerely,

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

Encl.
JH/mac

Comm. 6D-7
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ERIE COUNTY BORD OF HEALTH

ROOM 904 RATH BUILDING

APRIL 21, 2015

1. Review of minutes from January 6, 2015 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

MINUTES

JANUARY 6, 2015

PRESENT: James Hoddick, D.D.S.
Dennis Galluzzo, R.P.H.
Robert Free, Director, Food Service Operations,
Buffalo Bison's Baseball
Jonathan Daniels, M.D.
Legislator Lynn Dixon
Matthew Dunaif, D.V.M.

EXCUSED: Maureen Montgomery, M.D.
Carolyn Montgomery, PhD, NP-C

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Gale Burstein, M.D.

I. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 MEETING

Dr. Hoddick asked if anyone had any suggestions, additions, or deletions to the minutes, there were none. Dr. Dunaif motioned to approve the minutes as written, Legislator Dixon seconded the motion and it was carried.

II. FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Rob Free told the board that the Council has been established for one year. He felt that there was a good core group serving on the council. Dr. Burstein questioned if there was someone from the Food Bank of Western New York; to which Mr. Free said that there was not. He said that he would check into this issue. Legislator Dixon asked if anyone from Meals on Wheels was on the council. Mr. Free said that there was not. He felt that if this was the case everyone from every organization would want to be on the council. He went on to say that perhaps it is better to have one person representing a certain group as opposed to multiple people from one group. They have created some subcommittees, such as education, governmental affairs, and advocacy. There are people serving on these committees that have met informally but they now will be meeting on a regular basis and reporting back to the council. Presently there are fourteen members on the council. The schedule is set for the remainder of the year. The One Region Forward plan is being worked on that is a comprehensive plan to get local food from farms onto local tables. The council has looked at the

plan and each member of the council had different homework assignments to delve into it. Mr. Free said that his assignment dealt with the business side of it. How to get food to local restaurants. Some of the others were how to feed some of the lesser economically viable areas; and how to get fresh foods into local 7-Elevens which is a huge issue. Hopefully the plan will be finalized next month or so. The Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus has signed an MOU with an individual that is under contract to devote four hours a week for food policy council issues.

Legislator Dixon said that as a representative of the City of Lackawanna in the first and second wards there is no access in the area to fresh fruits and vegetables as well as grocery stores. There was an attempt to establish a farmers market but there were not enough people on board. The University of Buffalo completed a study and found it to be the neediest community in Erie County even more so than the East Side of Buffalo.

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

Dr. Hoddick questioned if the County or State has gone forward with any kind of legislation regarding this issue? Legislator Dixon replied that there is legislation regarding e-cigs that has been clocked in from Peter Savage, a County Legislator. This will prohibit e-cigs in public places where smoking is banned, but allow it in vap lounges. The vap lounges would have to register so that there is a record of where they are located. The legislation was placed on the calendar for January 26 which will entail a public hearing on the matter. There will be committee meetings next week as the legislation is on the agenda for the Health and Human Services committee. She also said that there has been quite a bit of discussion on it. Roswell Park as well as members of the vapping community also attended the Legislature meetings on the issue. After the public hearing on January 26 there will be a vote by the Legislature. After the legislation is passed it is then forwarded to the County Executive. He holds a public hearing and can decide either to sign or veto it. If it is vetoed it goes back to the Legislature.

Dr. Burstein said that the issue here is not whether vapping is good or bad, harm reduction is not the issue with this legislation. It is really an extension of Clean Indoor Air Act. People who do not smoke should have access to clean air. Even though e-cigs emit less particulate matter into the air they still do emit particulate matter. So that it is not clean air. We are advocating for everyone to have access to clean air. We are not being judgmental on whether to vapping or not we are again advocating for access to clean air. She emphasized that it needs to be clear at community or public health forums the discussion digresses and it turns into vapping or not vapping. It is up to the facilitator to remind people what the real issue is and why the law is attempting to be passed. Legislator Dixon replied that Peter Savage was willing to listen and get input before the law was drafted. The business owners were concerned that vapping was not going to be allowed in the vap lounges. Dr. Hoddick questioned who the vapping vendors

would be required to register with. Legislator Dixon believed that they would have to register with Erie County Health Department. There is no fee required. He also inquired if funding would be included to implement the law. Ms. Dixon said that she would look into this.

Dr. Dunaif asked if the vapping lounges also sold vapping products. To which Legislator Dixon replied that they did. There was no further discussion.

IV. PUBLIC HEALTH ACCREDITATION

Dr. Hoddick asked Dr. Burstein on the process regarding accreditation. Dr. Burstein said that we have not had the capacity in going forward with the process. The ECDOH has been overwhelmed with Ebola as well as the November storm. The accreditation process has been put on hold as there is not enough staff available.

V. EBOLA VIRUS

Dr. Hoddick asked Dr. Burstein for an update. She said that we are finalizing our revised updated isolation and quarantine policy. We are presently monitoring two or three people in Erie County who were low risk. They are being phoned twice daily to check on their temperatures. We have had an issue with people crossing the border. The US Border Patrol refuses to any participation in screening people because of contractual issues. But they want people screened. They are calling upon the County Health Departments to go whenever someone is being monitored from either country crosses to take a temperature. Dr. Burstein said that most border crossings take place in Niagara Falls. There was a case over the Christmas Holidays where we sent a person from Emergency Services. Legislator Dixon asked Dr. Burstein if this issue had been brought up to any local state or federal office holders. Dr. Burstein responded that she did not know if it had, but that it is a federal issue.

Dr. Daniels questioned what hospitals in the area are trained to handle Ebola. To which Dr. Burstein responded that all hospitals in the area have to be Ebola prepared. The NYSDOH regulates hospitals so they conduct inspections on them. There are two hospitals in Western New York that are the Ebola treatment centers. These are ECMC or a child would be taken to Children's Hospital. All hospitals have to be prepared to evaluate and care for them on a short term basis, if someone is suspected or confirmed for Ebola.

Dr. Burstein said that there is a lot of flu going around. There is no Tamiflu shortage as per Dennis Galluzzo.

VI. NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Burstein told the group that the ECDOH's Family Planning Clinic is scheduled to open before the end of the month. We are waiting for the

renovations to be completed. It will be located at our clinic at 608 William Street. There was no old business.

The next meeting was scheduled for April 21, 2015 at 3:30 P.M. Dr. Hoddick motioned to adjourn, Dr. Dunaif seconded the motion. The meeting was then adjourned.