



# COUNTY OF ERIE

**MARK C. POLONCARZ**

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

GALE R. BURSTEIN, MD, MPH  
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

August 30, 2016

Dear Board of Health Member:

The next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 27, 2016 at 3:30 P.M. The meeting will be held at the Rath Building, 95 Franklin Street, Room 904, Buffalo, New York 14202.

The minutes from the April 19, 2016 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.  
/mac

Comm. 18M-7

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

ROOM 904 RATH BUILDING

SEPTEMBER 27, 2016

AGENDA

1. Review of Minutes from April 19, 2016 meeting
2. Zika Virus
3. Food Policy Council
4. Wellness Institute Presentation
5. New/Old Business

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

APRIL 19, 2016

PRESENT: James Hoddick, D.D.S.  
Dennis Galluzzo, RPh.  
Maureen Montgomery, M.D.  
Robert Free, Director, Food Operations,  
Buffalo Bison's Baseball  
Jonathan Daniels, M.D.  
Legislator Lynne Dixon  
Matthew Dunaif, D.V.M.  
Dianne Loomis, DNP, FNP

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Gale Burstein, M.D., Commissioner of Health  
Dolores Funke, Environmental Health

I. FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Rob Free told the group that an executive team meeting was held and that they had previously been accepting applications to fill vacancies. Mr. Free said that they had received many responses. They narrowed down the submissions and will be bringing this to the full council at their next meeting to be held in a few weeks. There will be three tangible things to be accomplished by the council, within the terms of the oncoming members. For the first time in a while Mr. Free was confident that things will get done moving forward. Dr. Hoddick asked how the applicants were narrowed down. Mr. Free said that it depended upon what seat was up such as a local food producer. The ad hoc or at large positions were more difficult to fill. They narrowed it down to a good cross section of applicants. As an example someone might have been better versed in senior services, youth, or the minority population of the city. There is a good cross section. They are bringing recommendations to the full council.

Dennis Galluzzo asked if they had found anyone to represent the migrant workers, Mr. Free responded that they had someone from Social Services not a representative per say for them; but someone who represents their interests. Dr. Burstein asked what type of projects the Food Council was considering. Mr. Free responded local food at the table, feeding the impoverished and minority groups, and just making food available to them through bodegas or local stores. Featuring local food in restaurants. Enhancing public knowledge that there is local product being grown and is available. This needs to be put in front of the

consumers. There is a chef at Nardin who is already doing a lot of the local farms to table information. She has the educational background, and the wherewithal to bring it to fruition to show that it can be done and that it is viable. She also has some marketing experience. The council could use her as a showcase to say that this can be done. Hopefully Dan Olds from Olds Farms will stay on to help educate restaurateurs as well as the consumers. Some restaurateurs embrace it others say that it is way too expensive. Dr. Burstein asked if it was too expensive to purchase local foods or to advertise. Mr. Free said that many think it is too expensive to purchase local foods. This is the perception. Several years ago this was the case, now it is not as expensive, and it is however a more wholesome product. It needs to be marketed not only as local but better for you. Dr. Hoddick commented that people tend to eat fast food as an easier and less expensive option as opposed to wholesome foods that need to be prepared. He asked if there was anyone in the bodegas that would think that this is a good idea or that there would not be a market for it because it is more expensive. Mr. Free said that there needs to be some money behind this and one of the people brought in has a lot of grant writing experience so that they need to find a small revenue stream to help this along. It is again an educational component telling the bodega owners that this will work and to give it a try.

Lynne Dixon mentioned the communities with little or no access to fresh fruits and vegetables i.e. food deserts, and perhaps coming up with a plan for food trucks to be accessible with fresh fruits and vegetables. Mr. Free said that he would bring this up to one of the working groups that will be part of getting food to impoverished areas. Dianne Loomis spoke of her concerns for the bodegas taking in fresh food with no one purchasing it, it then gets wasted. Food trucks delivering fresh foods might be a more viable solution. Mr. Free mentioned that it would be a good idea to have the food trucks sponsored; that would be the ultimate goal. Ms. Dixon suggested Wegmans as they feature fresh local food in their stores. Mr. Free will bring these ideas to the council to be looked into.

## II. WATER QUALITY IN ERIE COUNTY

Dolores Funke of the Environmental Health Division of the Erie County Health Department gave an extremely in-depth report on the water quality in Erie County. She distributed maps to the group from the Erie County Water Authority so that the board members could have a picture of the water sources in the area. The map showed the infrastructure of the Water Authority and where they provide water in Erie County. Information included lead and copper monitoring, EPA action, and levels set for lead corrosion control. Water quality is responsible for regulating all of the public water systems in the County.

### III. STANLEY MAKOWSKI SCHOOL RODENT ISSUE

Dolores Funke addressed this issue by saying in October or November the Sanitarian that inspected Stanley Makowski School noticed that bags of garbage had been put out temporarily in the loading dock area. Which would of course attract rodents. The Sanitarian then revisited a few weeks later and everything seemed in order. We then received a complaint in February saying there were rats in the cafeteria. This turned out to be mice; there were some practices in the building that were attracting them, such as carelessness with garbage. Also it is an elementary school with a lot of classrooms that have food in them due to the fact that the students eat lunch and breakfast in them. The ECDOH made them close down the cafeteria initially and then doing a very thorough sanitization. We came back and inspected and no incidence of rodents was seen in the cafeteria area but there was evidence of them in some of the classrooms. The school is still on a high frequency sanitization. They were allowed to serve food initially that was prepared offsite, single use. As of March they have been able to prepare food in the cafeteria. We did get another complaint in March, upon re-inspection there was no evidence of rodent activity at that point and time. The ECDOH was out at the school six or seven times in the past few months; and the school was very cooperative. Our program manager for food has an ongoing relationship with the Food Service Manager in the City of Buffalo Schools. The ECDOH had also recommended exterminators for the school problem. Dr. Daniels asked if the children were still allowed to eat in the classrooms, Dr. Burstein said that they were but cleanup was strongly suggested after each meal.

### IV. OPIATES

Legislator Dixon said that the committee meetings of the Legislature tend to be work sessions. The Legislature asks the questions of the Administration about how finances are going to work, and what the plan is going forward. There were questions regarding this being the best use of the money involved. There were parents present that had lost children to drug abuse. The Legislation was however passed and an amendment was put forth that indicated looking into it six months from now right before budget time to determine the best use of money. Is the hotline being effective and if it is being utilized, and what are they doing with the information they obtain once they call the number. Are there ways to get the information out in a better fashion?

Dennis Galluzzo asked about specifics regarding the Legislation that was passed. Dr. Burstein responded that Crisis Services is going to man a 24-7 line whereby licensed drug counselors will be doing evaluations involving demographics and insurance information and then referrals will be made to get a more thorough evaluation on what actual needs could be and what type of services might serve them best. She also said that patients tend to think that they need in patient detox, she said that this is not true many times and there is also a misperception that there are not enough detox beds available, which is also not

true. If someone is seeking services and they have only one phone number which does not have any openings, or their insurance is not accepted, Crisis Services hotline will be able to coordinate this. This line will take about two months to get up and running. The funding piece of it needs to be released through budget balancing amendments that the administration sends over. This will take place at the next Legislative session. If there is no funding balance this component will have to be worked into the spending plan for 2017. This will have to be worked into the regular budget. The County Executive will propose a budget for 2017 in October. It then goes into the process of meetings and public hearings. The Legislature then votes on it in early December.

Dr. Hoddick said that Cheryll Moore gave the impression that there is a shortage of treatment facility beds. He asked Dr. Burstein if there is, to which she said that she has been told there is not. She said that not everyone needs a bed who needs treatment. This might not be the best strategy for people who are seeking treatment. Some places might not practice evidenced based intervention. Places have to be looked at where they are offering quality services. As well as the person being a good candidate for in-patient treatment or would they be better served by a methadone clinic so that they can be weaned off heroin, and started on methadone. Dr. Dunaif asked if there was coordination between methadone maintenance services, physicians and crisis services. Dr. Burstein said that crisis services as part of their responsibility will get information for who is available for care. There will be an addiction treatment specialist who will handle every single case. For Naltrexone a physician must have a special DEA license waiver so they have to receive specific training for 8 hours. We have received funding from the Tower Foundation to be able to offer the training. Half of it is on-line and then half in person. We will be offering it on September 10 at Catholic Health headquarters and we are also working with the folks from CAP PC Child and Adolescent Psychiatric, psychiatry in primary care contact to be able to offer training for substance use screening for teens, and ultimately offer suboxone training for pediatricians. The national experts are in Boston Children's, we are discussing them coming to us to help build our capacity. There are a few local child and adolescent psychiatrists who have expressed an interest in being certified for suboxone. They would do the on-line training and then shadow for a few days at Boston Children's Addiction Treatment Services. Dr. Burstein said that we will be able to grow our local capacity for treatment.

Dennis Galluzzo mentioned that in March along with the ECDOH and Cheryll Moore's assistance they trained 80 pharmacists in Narcan. He said that Ms. Moore gave them a directory with places for treatment that people could access. Lynne Dixon said that Horizons has a facility in Niagara County for treatment. With the County wide task force and different committees Dr. Burstein has received reports from each of them. She is on the education committee that has met 4 or 5 times since the Task Force has begun in February. One of the things that they are working on and finalizing is a pamphlet that will have all of the

information for the parent of an addict. This will be ready soon, as well as a facebook page that will have pertinent information on it also.

V. NEW BUSINESS/OLD BUSINESS

Dr. Hoddick mentioned the letter from the Board of Health to the Buffalo News regarding the opiate problem. He thanked Cheryl Moore and Ms. Crosby for their assistance on the letter. He said that he had received comments from board members after it had been published. Dr. Burstein thought that it was important that the BOH made a public statement regarding this issue.

Dr. Hoddick also thanked Ms. Crosby for visiting the UB School of Dental Medicine for handing out FIT Kits to screen for colon cancer on behalf of the Cancer Services Program of the ECDOH. He indicated that it was well received by faculty, staff and patients.

Lynne Dixon said that she had received a copy of a letter that out to one of our state lawmakers in support of the Ten Lives Club in the district that she represents. They are after county money to take care of the cat situation. Dr. Burstein replied that we have no financial resources to support this.

Dr. Burstein spoke of the Zika Virus. These are travel associated infections. We are providing education to Erie County residents and to health care providers especially OB/Gyn's and then working with the State to support testing for surveillance purposes. Dr. Burstein said that we do not anticipate that we will see viral transmission of Zika virus in Western New York, however in downstate and mid-Atlantic and southern states they have mosquito strains that can possibly transmit the Zika virus. Travel restrictions/warnings will be expanded to the continental United States.

There was no other new business. The next BOH meeting was scheduled for September 27, 2016 at 3:30 P.M. The meeting was then adjourned.

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