



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

GALE R. BURSTEIN, MD, MPH
COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

March 16, 2016

Please enter at Pettibones
canopy on Washington Street

Dear Board of Health Member:

The next Board of Health Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 3:30 P.M. The meeting will be held at Pettibones Grill, located at 1 James D. Griffin Plaza, Coca Cola Field, Buffalo, New York.

The minutes from the January 19, 2016 meeting as well as an agenda for the March 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

PETTIBONE'S RESTAURANT

APRIL 19, 2016

1. Review of minutes from January 19, 2016
2. Food Policy Council
3. Water Quality in Erie County
4. Stanley Makowski School rodent issue
5. Opiates
6. New Business/Old Business

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

JANUARY 19, 2016

PRESENT: James Hoddick, D.D.S.
Dennis Galluzzo, R.P.L
Maureen Montgomery, M.D.
Robert Free, Director, Food Operations
Buffalo Bison's Baseball
Jonathan Daniels, M.D. via teleconference
Legislator Lynne Dixon, via teleconference
Matthew Dunaif, D.V.M., via teleconference

GUEST: Dianne Loomis, DNP, FNP

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Gale Burstein, M.D. (Commissioner of Health)
Cheryll Moore, Medical Care Administrator

I. FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Rob Free told the group that there were board seats that were up on the council and it was decided at the last meeting that they need to recruit people or take applications to fill the vacancies. A goal was set to accomplish this by mid-February. Dr. Hoddick asked what the time commitment was, Cheryll Moore said that there are monthly meeting held at the innovation center located at the Trico building Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8 depending upon the farming season, as well as three work groups. The work groups were working on recruitment of new members as well as awareness in the community. Lynne Dixon asked how many members were presently on the council. Mr. Free and Ms. Moore responded there were 12 seats and a leader. Ms. Moore said that they need slots to be filled with people perhaps with some legal knowledge, as well as marketing. As well as some representation for lower income, immigration communities in the area who could be either liaison or representative for them. Sean Mulligan will be contacted regarding his input as to what they are looking to accomplish.

II. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Hoddick introduced Dianne Loomis to the Board as a potential new member replacing Carolyn Montgomery. She will be representing nursing, she is on the

faculty at UB School of Nursing. Ms. Loomis is also an advanced practice nurse and has a clinical practice doing integrated care with those with serious mental illness and also provides primary care. They have a partnership with Lakeshore Behavioral Health and they will be expanding their integrated care over the next year. They went around the room, as well as those teleconferencing and had members introduce themselves to her, and Ms. Loomis to them.

III. OPIODS

Cheryll Moore told the board members that the County Executive announced the Erie County Opiate Epidemic Task Force. The first meeting is scheduled for February 1, 2016 at the Fire Training Academy from 10:30 to 12:30. There is a breakdown of seven sub groups that will be the work groups. There is not enough treatment, and no detox for children under eighteen. Detox slots are extremely few and far between. For the straight opiate user there is no detox available. As far as treatment there is very limited in-patient treatment. None of the insurers pay for the same thing, and there are many problems that have aligned. Hopefully under the structure of work groups and the task force that will be meeting quarterly, the work groups will be meeting monthly. One of them is the Police Assisted Addiction and Recovery initiative; one is naran; one of them Dr. Burstein is leading up and that is changing policy at the provider level such as prescribing practices, as well as increasing soboxone providers. There will also be a work group of treatment providers of which Mike Ranney is heading up. Barbara Burns and Bill Hochul from the US Attorney's office are heading up community education and prevention. One of the legislators, Pat Burke is hosting the committee of advocacy and parenting consumers. There needs to be a forum for consolidation of services.

Dr. Dunaif questioned if this was an official epidemic? So that emergency funding could be attained for treatment slots. Cheryll Moore responded that this is a countrywide epidemic and not just in the area. She said that the epidemic blew up faster than resources had become available. It is on every national agenda, statewide and local. We are hoping that it does free up money, however none is available at the present time. Chronic pain has providers writing prescriptions for pain medication. There are many drivers and 30 years of not good practice. Dennis Galluzzo said that we need to educate our providers and pharmacists as to what is happening in the streets. ISTOP also plays an important part in identifying what drugs are being prescribed to patients. Statistics show that there is really not that many less opiates going out. But not that much less, and the amount of people that were not able to get narcotics, are paying more for them, as opposed to heroin being less expensive (\$5 a bag as opposed to \$10 a milligram for prescription drugs) and more available. This is causing the epidemic. Some of the heroin is being compounded with fentanyl which makes it much stronger and is causing deaths.

Lynne Dixon told the group that she hosted a meeting where a physician from BC/BS addressed the issue of insurance companies and what they will cover and the continuity of services across the board. Also there is a lack of availability of beds.

Drug traffickers are adept at what they do that when they find out what areas in the communities that programs such as ISTOP are working they will hit those places where people are actively seeing illicit drugs. There is a denial factor going on where communities that do not believe that this is occurring in their community. Addiction should be treated as a disease with no stigma attached. Dr. Daniels proposed the idea of creating a registry to identify those that might need help immediately. Then to try to get some type of peer education going. Dr. Dunaif asked if there was anything the BOH could do as a course of action perhaps writing a letter endorsing a more serious treatment of this problem as a disease or public health issue? Cheryll Moore thought that the BOH could advocate that this problem be treated as a disease. Dr. Burstein thought that maybe a letter to the Buffalo News or an op ed could be completed. All the members could contribute to the piece. Dr. Hoddick asked Cheryll Moore to put together an outline and a letter would be completed.

IV. CHIPOTLE FOODBORNE ILLNESS OUTBREAK

Dr. Burstein said that one of the cases of e-coli was diagnosed in our area in November from a meal that was consumed at the end of October. There was only one case that was an east coast case. All the others had been diagnosed on the west coast. There were several in the mid states also. The restaurant was inspected and the finding was that there were no major violations so the hypothesis was consistent with what the CDC was thinking that it was a contaminated food shipment or menu item that was the cause. CDC has not determined specifically which food item was the cause but since then there have been more outbreaks. The last was norovirus. There were three major outbreaks in six months. Chipotle has a strategy where they are closing all the restaurants in the country for a half a day to complete some intensive training of all restaurants. Dr. Hoddick asked if the vector in the e-coli was the same in all the states involved, to which Dr. Burstein replied that it was the same strain.

V. INFLUENZA

Dr. Burstein said that there have been very low numbers of flu so far this year. The cases have been classified in New York State as sporadic, and not of the epidemic level. She asked the members what they have been seeing in their practices to which they replied that the cases seen were indeed sporadic as compared to those last year. She said that the state posts the number of cases from the last five years on a graph and that this is definitely the lowest it has been. However with the cold weather we are experiencing there could be an uptick.

VI. ZIKA VIRUS

Dr. Burstein informed the group of this mosquito borne virus which has been responsible for what is believed an outbreak of children born with microcephaly (i.e. brains and heads are small and deformed and do not work well). This has occurred in Brazil and has been linked to the Zika virus. It has been rapidly spreading in the America's. The mosquito is indigenous to South and Central

America, the Caribbean and last month the first case of local transmission in Puerto Rico. Before that we have been seeing cases in the States where travelers returning from these areas are infected with it. In Puerto Rico a local transmission case has been identified. We suspect that there is only a matter of time before it hits the continental United States. In Erie County at the present time this species of mosquitos is not seen. The CDC issued a recommendation that women who are pregnant or are considering pregnancy who have planned travel in Central, South America or Puerto Rico or other places where local transmission could occur should postpone their trip until the pregnancy is complete. The warning is for any trimester of pregnancy where infection can occur. If travel is absolutely necessary they should speak with their health care provider to get recommendations about how to prevent mosquito bites. This particular strain bites all day not only at dawn and dusk. Only one in five people will develop symptoms, and if you do they are mild. Fever, headache or rash may occur which may last a week and then subside. Similar to Rubella.

There was no other business.

The next meeting of the Board of Health will be held on April 19, 2016. The meeting was then adjourned.

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