



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

HHS

Gale Burstein, M.D., M.P.H.
Commissioner of Health

February 27, 2012

Dear Board of Health Member:

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday**, March 27, 2012 at 3:30 P.M. (Please note change in day). The meeting will be held in Room 904 of the Rath Building, 95 Franklin Street, Buffalo, New York 14202.

The minutes from the September 22, 2011 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 me at 858-7226. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Marcia Amadori Crosby
Secretary to the Board of Health

Encl.
/mac

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ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

ROOM 904 RATH BUILDING

MARCH 27, 2012

AGENDA

1. Vote to elect BOH President
2. Review of Minutes from September 22, 2011 meeting
3. Healthy Choices
4. Community Transformation Grant
5. Hydrofracking
6. Dentists' HIV testing update
7. National Association of Local Boards of Health
Membership

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 22, 2011

PRESENT: Richard Judelsohn, M.D.
James Hoddick, D.D.S.
Krista Van Wagner, Curly's Bar & Grill
Carolyn Montgomery, PhD, NP-C
Gail Polanski, RN, BSN
John Davanzo
Matthew Dunaif, D.V.M.
Nathaniel Webster, M.D.

EXCUSED: Dennis Galluzzo, R.P.H.

ERIE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Anthony J. Billittier, M.D., Commissioner, ECHD
Mark Kowalski, Environmental Health
Cheryll Moore, Community Wellness

GUESTS

Renee Cadzow, PhD
University at Buffalo Family Medicine
Paul Egan

I. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM MAY 12, 2011 MEETING

There was no quorum at the previous meeting, therefore it was not an official meeting. However the minutes can be entered into the general record; everyone was in favor of this motion.

II. DRUG DROP OFF DAY (addition to original agenda)

October 29 is the designated drug drop off day, at 14 various sites in Erie County. Cheryll Moore said that there is an announcement on the County website, and she also brought flyers for the Erie and Niagara County sites, as well as the overall flyer for the eight counties of western New York. There has been a great deal of community publicity.

III. COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION GRANT

Dr. Judelsohn brought up this subject, and asked Cheryll Moore to explain the grant to the BOH. Ms. Moore introduced Renee Cadzow, PhD, from the University of Buffalo Family Medicine Dept, who as Ms. Moore explained is an integral part of the grant. There were informational handouts also distributed.

The CTG grant was a Federal opportunity that the county applied for as a whole. The ECDOH is a lead agency with other agencies in the community that have pulled together for the various deliverables. A minimum of 50% of the funding had to go to the community. The grant originally was to be awarded by September 15, however this deadline has been extended to September 30. The ECDOH still does not know if they will be awarded the grant. There were to be 75 awards made across the country, with roughly 900 applicants.

The Western NY area has higher rates of diabetes, obesity as well as cardiovascular disease than some other areas in the country. We need to change behaviors. This area does not have equitable health care across the county, there are high needs in the city as well as rural areas. Disparity issues are very apparent with rates of death and disease in the population. As we move forward we need to look at the unique populations in the county and also those associated with poverty. Poverty is just not an urban issue; the first ring suburbs are also seeing the effects of poverty which impacts health effects and the effects upon the community as a whole, as well as the infrastructure.

Food destinations in Erie County encompass both healthy and unhealthy food. There is a concentration of fast food establishments in the inner city and areas of poverty as compared to outlying areas.

For children living in poverty, primary health care is getting more difficult to access. Women's care, gynecological care (which many women call primary care) is also getting more difficult to access.

Many clinics have been shut down, and people are heading to the emergency rooms.

Ms. Cadzow went on to say, that a model has been developed to show the various components of the grant. The strategies that have been included in the grant to cover home, family, society and individual needs will touch on policy, environmental and infrastructure programs.

The purpose of this proposal is to make long term change so that when the funding is gone, change persists.

The grant will also address marketing of tobacco products as discussed at the May 12, 2011 BOH meeting. The total package will encourage active living, healthy eating, and the whole food system; e.g., farm to school system, as well as farmlands and zoning.

There was some ensuing conversation among the BOH members regarding the CTG grant. Dr. Billittier told the BOH members about the tour of city community gardens that he had recently taken; fish are also being raised in some of the 60 gardens. He went on to say that community gardens create jobs for people, improve neighborhoods and reduce crime. One of the observations that he had was that for the most part the policy comes from the State, and the State sanitary code. He felt that the County could get more into the policy level either through the Legislature or through the BOH. One of the places that was visited in the tour was the Massachusetts Avenue Project; where about a year ago they wanted to raise chickens. The Council in Buffalo was about to pass a law directing how it should be done. The ECHD reached out to the Council so that we could look at the law to make sure that it is being done safely. The ECHD commented upon the law and the changes were made. Dr. Billittier said that it was interesting to go out and see the how the

chickens are being raised in the city. He felt that we could implement change in these kinds of situations, which are very different from traditional public health. Going forward on no or low cost issues he thought that the BOH could get involved in policy making; or to encourage the EC Legislature to do it, or even local government. Dr. Billittier also commented that the BOH should have some of the people that are involved in the community gardens come to the board with their information. Some of them sell food that they grow to neighborhood restaurants. Dr. Billittier asked Ms. Van Wagner if she had ever purchased any food from a local garden, to which she responded that she had.

IV. HEALTHY CHOICES

Dr. Judelsohn asked Cheryl Moore for an update regarding Healthy Choices. She commented that Healthy Choices was placed into the Community Transformation Grant proposal. She handed out a list with the participants. She mentioned Anderson's, who is revamping their entire menu, and they are incorporating Healthy Choices into it. There is a problem in not having personnel dedicated to Healthy Choices. Ms. Moore said that she did receive an e-mail from the San Francisco Dept. of Health involving a model of what the ECHD had done with Healthy Choices. San Bernardino County is also involved, the same type of voluntary program.

Dr. Billittier suggested that if we are awarded the Community Transformation Grant, Healthy Choices should be rolled into it. To which Ms. Moore responded that it is. Dr. Judelsohn asked Mark Kowalski if the restaurant inspectors could hand out brochures regarding Healthy Choices when they make their visits. He went on to say one of the messages in the brochure could be a suggestion to add a Healthy Choice item (which is endorsed by the NYS Restaurant Association) to their menu. This could be offered not just for the health of the restaurant's patrons but for the health and survival of their establishment. Mr. Kowalski responded that in dealing with the managers the people who are doing the work are not necessarily those who would make this kind of decision. Correspondence is sent out to the actual operators of the establishment. He suggested possibly sending out information regarding Healthy choices at that point.

Dr. Dunaif inquired if county-wide there was a standard of what is allowed inside of a school in terms of nutrition and vending machines, including what is being offered in cafeterias or what is sold and are there standards and or variances between towns and the city? He also wondered if things could be standardized and healthier choices offered? Dr. Judelsohn said that we do not compel them to do these things. Soft drinks have been taken out of the vending machines in schools. Dr. Billittier said that much of this is regulated federally or by the state ed. The schools can supercede this. Dr. Billittier thought that the BOH could not control this. He also went on to say that this would be a component of the Community Transformation Grant. We partner with BOCES, as they have a foot in the door in almost of the school districts.

Cheryll Moore said that this would be one of the policies they would agree to regarding vending policies. Even if the vending machines are not pulled out, there are no sales in school during the school day, just during sporting events. Ms. Cadzow commented that many schools have already pulled soda out of their vending machines. She also said that there is NYS legislation that there will have to be stricter compliance regarding incorporating healthier foods into school menus. Krista Van Wagner said that it is definitely more expensive and more labor intensive to include fresh foods into menus. Dr. Judelsohn asked to look into getting the San Francisco proposal for the Board to take a look at.

V. HYDROFRACKING

Dr. Judelsohn asked if anyone had any updates on gas wells, the Marcellus shale or hydrofracking. Dr. Billittier said the NYSDEC released their SGEIS , Secker Environmental Impact Analysis. The document is 1000 pages long, and they gave a 60 day comment period deadline. He said the comment period is quickly coming to a close, some agencies tried to get an extension to 90 days, but they will not comply. From the public health aspect, if fracking is done it needs to be done correctly, with protections and adequate funding for local public health. The DEC created an advisory committee, but did not appoint anyone from local public health. Dr. Billittier encouraged NYSACHO to send them a letter saying that this is unacceptable.

Fracking does have the potential to cause public health problems that could create major costs for us. We do not have the staff to deal with the problems, is the reality of it.

Dr. Billittier went on to say that hydrofracking has always gone on, it is nothing new. It was always done with vertical wells, and not very deep. The difference now is that they go down deep, and then horizontally. There is much more water used, and perhaps more chemicals. It is done through the water table, not above it.

Dr. Billittier said that the DEC has restricted two places for hydrofracking. One is near New York City, the other is an area around Onondaga where no fracking can be done. However, if we can harness natural gas, and get away from coal and our reliance on foreign oil there is much to be gained.

VI. NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATION

Dr. Judelsohn wanted to share that the legislative session that ended in June, where bills that were passed that went on to the governor's desk; that have either lingered there or been signed or vetoed included the Pharmacist Immunizer law. We lobbied for this law in 2008, but it was due to expire in March of 2012. Someone introduced a bill in 2011 to extend it further and expand it in minimal ways. The bill that was passed and signed by the governor extends the law to 2016, but it has only changed one of the other items that were suggested for expansion: standing orders for patients walking in off the street for the drugstores with out a doctor, can be signed by a physician who has a relationship with the pharmacist from that county or contiguous counties.

Dr. Judelsohn asked Dr. Hoddick if there was anything new regarding HIV testing by Dentists. To which Dr. Hoddick responded that on October 22 the program will be up and running. It is funded and the Dean of the Dental school has supported it.

There was no new business. The next meeting of the Erie County Board of Health was scheduled for January 19, 2012. The meeting was then adjourned.