

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

November 1, 2017

Present: William Youngblood, Vice Chair  
Karen Hacker, MD, Secretary  
Anthony Ferraro  
Caroline Mitchell  
Ellen Stewart, MD  
Donald Burke, MD (via phone)  
Joylette Portlock, PhD  
Kotayya Kondaveeti, MD  
Edith Shapira, MD  
Absent: Lee Harrison, MD, Chair

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was held at ACHD's office at 542 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh.  
Mr. Youngblood called the meeting to order.

2. **Approval of Minutes from September 13, 2017**

Mr. Youngblood asked if there were any questions or comments about the minutes.

**Action:** Dr. Stewart moved to approve the minutes, Dr. Shapira seconded the motion.  
**Motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Public Comments on Agenda Items**

**A. Michelle Naccarati-Chapkis – Women for a Healthy Environment, re: Lead Exposure**

Ms. Naccarati-Chapkis stated that she was the Executive Director of Women for a Health Environment. She stated support for mandatory lead screening. She urged the County to get more lead investigators, and to take more actions after lead screenings.

4. **Old Business**

**A. Update on Accreditation**

Dr. Hacker informed the Board that the Public Health Accreditation Board granted accreditation to ACHD. She showed the Board a plaque that PHAB send to ACHD. Mr. Youngblood thanked ACHD staff, on behalf of the Board.

## **B. Update on Live Well Allegheny**

Dr. Hacker stated that Live Well was about to host a collaborative meeting regarding a Complete Streets Training Program. She stated that complete streets refer to the use of streets by everyone, regardless of their mode of transit.

Dr. Hacker also informed the Board that Live Well has also been working with Tobacco Free Allegheny and Allegheny Quits for Life to lower the smoking rate within the County. That rate has been on a downward trend, and is currently at 19%. Mr. Youngblood thanked Dr. Hacker.

## **C. Update on Lead Progress, Leading to the Start of Screening**

Dr. Hacker gave a presentation updating the Board on ACHD's preparation for universal lead testing. Areas of preparation included efforts for education/prevention, surveillance, intervention.

Regarding education, ACHD has prepared an FAQ document about the new regulations; completed a lead brochure for parents, which was translated into multiple languages; completed a document for physicians regarding case management recommendations; released a request for proposals regarding lead outreach mini-grants to support lead education of residents. Regarding prevention, ACHD has sent new parents living in high risk areas information on the Allegheny Lead Safe Homes Program; WIC and MCH staff are able to make direct referrals to the Lead Safe Homes Program; and ten Housing inspectors have been trained and certified as lead inspectors.

Regarding surveillance, ACHD has developed a risk model for identifying the highest risk census tracts for childhood lead exposure. Model factors include the high school education rate, the proportion of individuals under five years of age, the proportion of houses built before 1950, and the percentage of households below the poverty threshold. Dr. Hacker informed the Board that ACHD met with Dr. Potash, of the University of Chicago, to evaluate the impact of ACHD's regulation. Dr. Hacker informed the Board that the testing rates for all children under the age of 6 increased from 48.4% in 2009 to 61.3% in 2015, and that more individual children have already been tested in 2017 than in any year between 2009 and 2016.

Regarding intervention, ACHD has signed a contract with Gateway and is negotiating one with UPMC. Dr. Hacker stated that these two insurers are the two largest Medicaid providers for children in Allegheny County. ACHD has purchased equipment for the testing of lead blood levels, and is in the process of purchasing a new XRF.

Dr. Hacker stated that moving forward, the Lead Task Force will release its recommendations, and that ACHD will continue to work with Economic Development's grant, which uses HUD dollars to pay for lead remediation. Regarding the funds available for remediation, Mr. Ferraro asked how much has been used. Dr. Hacker stated that Allegheny County Economic Development would have that number.

#### **D. Update on SO<sub>2</sub> SIP**

Jim Kelly, ACHD Deputy Director for Environmental Health, informed the Board that the SIP was submitted to the DEP on September 14<sup>th</sup>, and that the DEP submitted the SIP to the EPA on October 2<sup>nd</sup>. The EPA found the SIP to be complete on October 10<sup>th</sup>, and ACHD has thus avoided the sanctions clock. Mr. Kelly informed the Board that the EPA has until April 2018 to approve the SIP. He stated that he is confident that the EPA will approve the SIP.

Dr. Portlock stated that the Air Quality program's enforcement report noted that some exceedances in SO<sub>2</sub> this year were the result of technology that will be implemented. Mr. Kelly stated that desulfurizing equipment malfunctions lead to violations, and that the SIP requires a redundant system. Ms. Mitchell asked about the plan regarding this redundant system, and if the operator was giving ACHD any details. Mr. Kelly stated that they were, and that the plan involves changing processes in addition to changing equipment, and that it is Federally enforceable.

#### **E. Update on SO<sub>2</sub> SIP**

Jim Kelly, ACHD Deputy Director for Environmental Health, reminded the Board that the air monitor in the Mon Valley was deemed by the EPA to be in non-attainment of standards. The SIP is ACHD's plan to achieve attainment, and was approved by the Board in July. Mr. Kelly stated that the SIP included modifying four permits, which involved 68 specific comments. Those permits are now complete and will be sent to the DEP tomorrow. The DEP will then submit the permits to the EPA.

Dr. Portlock asked when the measures will go into effect. Mr. Kelly stated that the attainment date was October 2018. Dr. Portlock stated that the Air Quality enforcement report noted that the Liberty monitoring station had exceedances. Mr. Kelly stated that was because US Steel's desulfurization equipment broke down, and that this SIP will require a redundant process. Dr. Portlock additionally asked about the status of a before and after report regarding Shenango. Mr. Kelly stated that was still being worked on.

### **5. New Business**

#### **A. Department of Human Services: Approach to Opioids**

Patricia Valentine, Executive Deputy Director of the Allegheny County Department of Human Services, gave a presentation to the Board regarding DHS's approach to opioids. Dr. Hacker stated that Ms. Valentine was invited to present to the Board in response to Dr. Portlock's request for more information regarding treatment.

Ms. Valentine began her presentation by stating that DHS's part is just one part, and that 'it takes a village' in response to opioids. Ms. Valentine stated that treatment alone isn't going to solve this problem, and that a whole-person approach is needed. She noted that many addicts lose a significant part of their life to addiction, and that family support is strained. Thus, there is a need for family/relationship counseling. Employment prospects are also limited, which leads to issues with stable housing and transit access, which creates a life structure that is difficult for employment. These are cyclical problems.

Ms. Valentine also noted the joint statement between ACHD and DHS regarding Medication-Assisted Treatment Programs (MATP). She stated that, previously, only abstinence-only treatment programs were accepted by many. She noted that MATP is evidence-based, and that it works for many people who abstinence-only programs don't work for. She stated that MATP leads to decreased drug use and overdose rates. Examples of medications utilized by MATP include Vivitrol, Suboxone, and Methadone.

Ms. Valentine stated that previously the only MATP program in the Allegheny County Jail was Methadone for pregnant women. However, a pilot program was just started for Vivitrol. Additionally, the Jail does help inmates with Medical Assistance access, prior to their release. Narcan is also offered to inmates upon their release.

Ms. Valentine spoke of two challenges that DHS faces. The first was the need to find many sources of revenue. Medical Assistance only pays for certain treatment models. There is also a need for funding for recovery supports and recovery housing. Another challenge is with education, in that individuals don't know about options for drug and alcohol treatments. Ms. Valentine stated that DHS is investigating a coordinated intake to help those individuals; to provide information regarding where vacancies are in treatment centers, and an engagement center to support those who are waiting for a treatment place.

Ms. Valentine stated that DHS is working with schools, for the purposes of education and Narcan distribution. The DEA also sends a monthly list, of individuals who overdosed and survived. This is an extremely high-risk group of individuals, and Ms. Valentine reported a gratifying engagement percentage with this group.

Ms. Valentine ended her presentation by noting issues that have not yet been addressed. These include there not being enough treatment programs that follow models other than the 12 Steps, and limited employment prospects for those impacted by opioids.

Dr. Kondaveeti stated that Ms. Valentine's presentation was excellent. Dr. Burked asked if there was a way to estimate the future of the epidemic. Ms. Valentine stated that the epidemic is estimated to continue to worsen until at least 2020. Dr. Burke asked if DHS had an estimate of the resources required, if this trend continues. Ms. Valentine stated that they do not, DHS looks at can best be done with existing resources. Dr. Portlock stated that Ms. Valentine's presentation was helpful, and thanked her. She asked Ms. Valentine if existing needs were being met. Ms. Valentine stated that they were not, as there are still waiting lists for treatment.

## **B. Violence Prevention Efforts**

Dr. Rod Harris, ACHD Deputy Director for Community Health Promotion & Disease Prevention, gave a presentation to the Board regarding ACHD's Office of Violence Prevention. He stated that homicide was the third-leading cause of death for those aged 10-24, and the leading cause of death for African-Americans in that age bracket. Dr. Harris reminded the Board that County Executive Rich Fitzgerald announced the formation of the Public Health Commission on Preventing Violence and Promoting Community Mental Health in May 2013. The Commission sent its recommendations to the Executive in December, 2014. One of the recommendations was to create a public health collaborative to prevent violence.

In July 2016, ACHD received a two-year, \$500,000, grant from the Heinz Endowment to address violence from a public health perspective. Core strategies were based on the recommendations of the Commission and evidence-based approaches. Strategies included street outreach, trauma response, and the incorporation of violence prevention strategies into existing youth programs.

In September 2016, ACHD hired Mr. Taili Thompson as the Violence Prevention Coordinator. ACHD identified communities to target for its efforts by examining data such as the volume and rate of homicides and the number reported gun shots fired. In the City of Pittsburgh, Homewood South had the highest average number and rate of homicides per year. Outside of the City of Pittsburgh, the highest number of homicides occurred in McKeesport, Wilkinsburg, Penn Hills, and Duquesne.

Dr. Harris stated that a 32 member Community Advisory Board was launched in January 2017. At least 50% of the Advisory Board's members have been personally affected by gun violence. The Advisory Board was involved in drafting the language of the RFPs for street outreach, trauma response, and micro-grants; scoring the RFP applications; and awarding the contracts.

The contract for street outreach was awarded to Pitt Public Health. Two full-time street outreach interventionists will work with key at-risk populations; interface with the City of Pittsburgh's Group Violence Intervention/Family Life Corporation effort; and work closely with others to monitor social media, track arrests, and defuse imminent violence by mediating disputes.

The contract for trauma response was awarded to Focus Pittsburgh. Their focus will be on grief counseling. Their members are trained in psychological first aid, mental health first aid, and public safety. Their vehicle, staff, and volunteers will be on-scene within 24 hours of being notified of an incident, and will remain on-scene for 48 hours after notification to support families and communities. They will provide appropriate after-care referrals, as needed.

Dr. Harris stated that five microgrants were awarded in August 2017 to organizations to integrate violence prevention into their youth development work. Each award was for \$5,000 or

less. The timelines for supported projects ranged from 90 days to 2 years. A capacity-building learning collaborative was launched in September 2017, for both successful and unsuccessful micro-grant proposers.

Dr. Harris ended his presentation by speaking about monitoring and evaluation of the program. He informed the Board that DHS will be launching a Homicide Dashboard in 2018. The Community Advisory Board will continue to be actively engaged. And partnerships are being formed with Carlow University faculty to conduct formative and process evaluations of the grantees.

Dr. Portlock asked about the status of the microgrants. Dr. Harris stated that they were already done. Dr. Burke asked if ACHD was working with police departments. Dr. Harris stated that representatives from police departments serve on the Community Advisory Board.

Dr. Hacker stated that social media is playing an increasingly large role in violence, and noted that this is a community-wide effort to reduce gun violence and homicides.

#### **C. Re-Appointments to Board of 3 Rivers Wet Weather**

Mr. Kelly asked the Board to vote to reappoint three members of the Board of 3 Rivers Wet Weather, which is a non-profit organization founded by ACHD and ALCOSAN to address storm-water run-off issues. ACHD's nominees for reappointment were Patricia Schaefer and Michael Lamb. The joint nominee, from ACHD and ALCOSAN, was Senator Jay Costa. Mr. Kelly stated that the appointment term was for two years.

**Action:** Mr. Ferraro moved to re-appoint the three Board members to 3 Rivers Wet Weather, Dr. Stewart seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **D. Receiving Delegation of Solid Waste Incinerator Federal Plan – Request for Final Approval**

Jayne Graham, Program Manager of ACHD's Air Quality Program, requested that the Board approve ACHD to receive delegation of the solid waste incinerator Federal plan. Ms. Graham stated that ALCOSAN would be the only source in Allegheny County that would be impacted by this plan. Ms. Graham stated that two public comments were received regarding this request. The first comment asked if ACHD had the necessary bandwidth to do this, Ms. Graham stated that her program does and that this would not be a heavy load. The second public comment expressed concern that ACHD is too close to ALCOSAN. Ms. Graham stated that there would be no conflict, and noted that ACHD already has regulations that impact the Port Authority and the Airport.

Dr. Portlock asked when the Federal plan went into effect. Ms. Graham stated that it went into effect last year.

**Action:** Mr. Shapira moved to grant final approval to receive delegation of the solid waste incinerator Federal plan, Dr. Kondaveeti seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **E. Request to EPA for De-delegation of the Risk Management Program**

Ms. Graham stated that only ACHD and Delaware were the only agencies to request this type of delegation. Ms. Graham stated that Delaware will continue doing this, as they started it. Ms. Graham requested that the Board approve a public comment period for ACHD to De-delegate the Risk Management Program.

**Action:** Mr. Ferraro moved to approve a public comment period for ACHD to request that the EPA de-delegate the Risk Management Program, Dr. Stewart seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **F. Environmental Health Fund Request: \$60,000 for 2018 Household Chemical and E-Waste Collection**

Joy Smallwood, ACHD Recycling Officer, requested \$60,000 from the Environmental Health Fund to hold collections for household chemicals and e-waste. Ms. Smallwood stated that during these collections in 2017, 234,000 pounds of chemicals were collected from 3,000 participants and 339,000 pounds of e-waste were collected from 3,800 participants. Ms. Smallwood stated that this request for \$60,000 is to hold these events again in 2018.

**Action:** Dr. Shapira moved to approve \$60,000 from the Environmental Health Fund for 2018 household chemical and e-waste collections, Dr. Stewart seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **G. 2018 Board of Health Meeting Dates**

Mr. Youngblood confirmed that Board members had a list of meeting dates proposed for 2018. There were no objections to any of the proposed dates.

**Action:** Dr. Shapira moved to approve the 2018 Board of Health meeting dates, Dr. Stewart seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **6. Director's Report**

Dr. Hacker informed the Board that there is a meeting set with stakeholders in mid-November to discuss pool regulations.

7. **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

8. **Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items**

**A. Blaine Martin, re: Non-Compliant Industrial Emissions**

Mr. Martin stated that he is a resident of Morningside, and that he moved here one year ago. He stated that his wife had an asthma attack during their second day living in Pittsburgh. He noted that Clairton Coke Works has had more than 6,700 violations in a 3.5 year period. He asked the Board to encourage ACHD to hold US Steel to account to stop emissions violations.

**B. Lisa Minetti, re: Air Quality Concerns**

Ms. Minetti stated that she loves Pittsburgh and was excited to move home to Pittsburgh. But she was unhappy that the stench was still in Pittsburgh. She stated that Pittsburgh has some of the worst air quality in the United States, and that it needs to do better. She demanded that US Steel stop polluting the environment by having zero violations.

**C. Mark Dixon, re: Air Quality Concerns**

Mr. Dixon stated that 'better than it used to be' is no longer good enough regarding Pittsburgh's air quality. He stated that Pittsburgh literally stinks. He urged ACHD to suspend or revoke operating permits for malodor violators, and demanded that the Clairton Coke Works have zero violations.

**D. Jacqui Bonomo, re: Clairton Coke Works**

Ms. Bonomo stated that she is the President and CEO of Penn Future. She stated that the Clairton Coke Works have had 100 years of pollution, which hurts people as far away as the East End. She noted that the Clairton Coke Works have had 6,700 violations in a 3.5 year period, and that consent agreements with US Steel haven't resulted in legal compliance. She requested an agenda item for a public presentation of information on where US Steel stands in terms of legal compliance.

**E. Dr. Ned Ketyer, re: Air Quality Concerns**

Dr. Ketyer stated that he was a pediatrician. He thanked the Board for their attention to the lead issue. He stated that air pollution was a problem in Allegheny County. He noted that 22% of Pittsburgh's schoolchildren have an asthma diagnosis, which is three times the national rate. He noted that 6,700 violations over 3.5 years meant that there was an average of three or four violations per day.

**F. Elisa Beck – Sustainable Monroeville, re: Clairton Coke Works**

Ms. Beck was not present to offer her comments.

**G. Sue Seppi – GASP, re: Odors and Toxics in the Mon Valley**

Ms. Seppi stated that she was a Project Manager for GASP. She stated that she asked at the last meeting for the hydrogen sulfide standard to be met. She stated that this standard must be met, and that it is violated year after year. She requested a plan of attainment for the hydrogen sulfide standard and a reduction in recent higher benzene levels.

**H. Nora Johnson, re: Clairton Coke Works Pollution Violations**

Ms. Johnson stated that she lives in Squirrel Hill. She complained of stinky air and expressed concern of the health risks from illegal emissions. She noted that, under the Pennsylvania Constitution, people have the right to clean air. She stated that ACHD has not adequately penalized Clairton Coke Works for their violations and stated that zero violations were needed from the Clairton Coke Works.

**I. Angelo Taranto, re: Wood Burning**

Mr. Taranto stated that he will save his comments on wood burning for another time, and will comment today on the Clairton Coke Works. He requested immediate action from ACHD. He stated that the Clairton Coke Works have not been adequately penalized for 6,700 violations in a 3.5 year period. He requested that ACHD demand zero violations from Clairton Coke Works.

*At this time, Dr. Shapira excused herself and left the meeting.*

**J. Matt Mehalik – Air Quality Collaborative, re: Climate Reality Project**

Mr. Mehalik stated that he was pleased to have ACHD employees and Board of Health members at a recent climate change training. He stated that green house gases need to be reduced, and stated that the top ten emitters have double the impact of all of the cars in Allegheny County. He stated that ACHD needs to penalize repeat offenders and seek the maximum penalty.

**K. Pamela Newcomb, re: Health Issues**

Ms. Newcomb was not present to offer her comments.

**L. Laura Dagley – Physicians for Social Responsibility, re: Clairton Coke Works**

Ms. Dagley stated that she is a nurse who lives in Allegheny County. She stated that she is concerned about Clairton Coke Works and noted that air pollution effects everyone. She asked the Board to prioritize public health by holding Clairton Coke Works accountable and not allowing more violations.

**M. Annie Regan – Penn Future, re: Clairton Coke Works Violations**

Ms. Regan stated that she was an outreach coordinator with Penn Future, who has worked with Clairton residents for two years. She read statements from Clairton residents describing the impact on their health from Clairton Coke Works. Such impacts included

developing asthma, having their friends die from cancers, and having their children develop breathing difficulties.

**N. Dave Smith, re: Clairton Coke Works**

Mr. Smith stated that he was an outreach coordinator with the Clean Air Council of Pennsylvania. He stated that he was concerned that the Clairton Coke Works was not an agenda item for the Board's meeting. He stated that ACHD is not protecting the health of Clairton.

**O. Melanie Meade, re: Clairton Coke Works**

Ms. Meade stated that she was a resident of Clairton and is certified as a natural health practitioner. She stated that she would like ACHD to devote more time to getting air and water information to the public. She asked ACHD to enforce violations and to put penalty money to use in communities impacted by the violations.

9. **Adjournment**

Mr. Ferraro moved to adjourn the meeting, Dr. Stewart seconded the adjournment.