

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

January 7, 2015

Present: Lee Harrison, MD, Chair  
William Youngblood, Vice Chair  
Karen Hacker, MD, Secretary  
Joylette Portlock, PhD  
Donald Burke, MD  
Edith Shapira, MD  
Kotayya Kondaveeti, MD  
Ellen Stewart, MD

Absent:

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was held at the Clack Health Center, 39<sup>th</sup> and Penn Avenue, Pittsburgh. Dr. Harrison called the meeting to order. Dr. Harrison stated that the Board held an executive session to discuss personnel matters. He stated that Joan Cleary had resigned from the Board and acknowledged her years of service to the Board.

2. **Approval of Minutes from November 5, 2014**

Dr. Harrison asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

**Action:** Dr. Stewart moved to approve the minutes, with the amendment that notes her as present. Dr. Shapira seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Election of Officers for 2015**

**Action:** Mr. Youngblood moved to nominate Dr. Harrison as the Chairman. Dr. Shapira seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously**

**Action:** Dr. Harrison moved to nominate Mr. Youngblood as the Vice Chairman. Dr. Shapira seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

4.

**Public Comments on Agenda Items**

**A. Angelo Taranto – Community Health Assessment**

Mr. Taranto of Ross Township spoke about the detrimental health effects of air pollution on Allegheny County residents. Mr. Taranto urged the Board to ensure the Department's Community Health Improvement Plan reduces air pollution in the region.

Dr. Harrison thanked Mr. Taranto for his comments.

**B. Barbara Pace – Community Health Assessment**

Ms. Pace spoke about the difficulty that some firms, such as Google, have in attracting prospective employees to relocate to Pittsburgh due to the air quality. Ms. Pace also commented on the health issues that affect residents in Ben Avon due to air quality issues. Ms. Pace urged the Board to view a recently completed video produced by the BBC regarding air quality in Allegheny County.

Dr. Harrison thanked Ms. Pace for her comments.

**C. Michael Bett – Air Quality**

Mr. Bett, a Ben Avon Council member, stated that the Pennsylvania Constitution states that the People have a right to clean air and that ACHD's mission is to protect, promote, and preserve the public health of Allegheny County. In accordance with this, Mr. Bett asked ACHD to shut down the Shenango coke plant due to the health effects of air pollution.

5.

**Old Business**

**A. Live Well Allegheny Update**

Dr. Hacker stated that January 9<sup>th</sup> was National Take the Stairs Day. This information will be spread through the County.

She stated that Live Well continues to work closely with the Pittsburgh Public Schools.

She also informed the Board that Live Well is working with a company to develop a marketing campaign and brand the Live Well effort. Hannah Hardy invited the Board members to attend a Live Well marketing meeting, to be held at the end of January.

Dr. Hacker stated that Live Well continues to engage with stakeholders outside of the delivery system, such as Allegheny County Economic Development, in cross-sectoral efforts.

**B. Community Health Assessment update**

Dr. Hacker reported that ACHD has completed fourteen community meetings, including a meeting with the Spanish-speaking community. ACHD acquired a tremendous amount of information during the meetings, which ACHD staffers are now categorizing.

In late January, ACHD will hold a large stakeholder meeting to prioritize and identify three to five key health indicators. Dr. Hacker stated that the Community Health Improvement Plan not be just the Health Departments, but must be owned by Allegheny County.

Dr. Hacker thanked ACHD's community partners for their collaborative support during this process.

At this time, Council Member Sue Means arrived. Dr. Hacker thanked her for attending.

### **C. Community Health Improvement Plan process**

Dr. Hacker stated that a planning process will occur after the prioritization process. During the planning process, stakeholders will commit to actions.

Dr. Hacker also informed the Board that ACHD is on its way to completing a Behavioral Risk Factor Survey in 2015. ACHD has been working with local foundations and hospitals to partner with for the survey. ACHD's goal is to increase the number of people surveyed, in order to acquire more data about different areas within the County.

Dr. Kondaveeti asked Dr. Hacker how involved ACHD was with the behavioral system in Allegheny County. Dr. Hacker stated that behavioral health is under the jurisdiction of Allegheny County's Department of Human Services. ACHD sees DHS as a partner and Dr. Hacker reported that she is working closely with Marc Cherna, the Director of DHS.

## **6. New Business**

### **A. Mumps update**

Dr. Kristen Mertz reported that there has been an outbreak of mumps in the National Hockey League. The Pittsburgh Penguins had five confirmed cases, most of whom are Allegheny County residents. Dr. Mertz reported that there was concern about mumps in the community, but that at present there were no confirmed cases in Allegheny County outside of the Penguins community. Local providers have been encouraged to test for mumps.

Dr. Harrison asked if the five Penguins players were immunized. Dr. Mertz stated that most were, but that mumps can occur even after vaccination. Dr. Burke stated that this confined outbreak doesn't make a lot of epidemiological sense and asked why it was so confined. Dr. Mertz reported that hockey is a contact sport, and that the CDC has been involved with all NHL teams.

Dr. Hacker reported that ACHD is working closely with the Penguins team physicians. She stated that it is safe to attend hockey games, and that she would be attending one this evening.

Dr. Hacker also stated that it was a challenging flu season nationally. Dr. Hacker encouraged vaccinations as the worst period of the flu season is being entered. Mr. Ferraro asked if it was too late to obtain a flu shot. Dr. Hacker and Dr. Harrison answered emphatically that it was not too late.

## **B. Submission of grants**

Dr. Hacker reported on the submission of several grants. A grant was submitted to the Richard King Mellon Foundation to support work that ACHD is partnering with Allegheny County Economic Development. Grants were submitted to the Pittsburgh Foundation to support the Community Health Improvement Plan and workforce development. ACHD is hoping to submit a grant to a Robert Wood Johnson collaborative called The Build to support violence prevention efforts. Lastly, Dr. Hacker reported that ACHD submitted a grant to NACCHO to support ACHD's interest in health impact assessments.

## **C. Air Quality**

### **1. New Air Quality Efforts**

Jayne Graham stated that ACHD's Air Quality Program had a meeting today to discuss the top eighty projects that their forty-eight staff members are doing. Such projects include developing a plan for Liberty to achieve sulfur dioxide attainment, determining whether there is a problem in Cheswick, planning for all of the monitoring stations to achieve attainment of PM 2.5 standards. ACHD will also be conducting a required five year monitoring review to determine whether monitors need to be moved, added, or subtracted. ACHD is also investigating sites to position cameras to focus on Shenango and Clairton.

Per. Ms. Graham, ACHD has been conducting community risk assessments. The three areas that are being investigated are the Neville Island area, the Liberty/Clairton area, and Downtown. As part of the assessments, ACHD is conducting more monitoring in these areas and also examining health risks, such as cancer.

ACHD is also engaged in a number of diesel improvement projects and in monitoring of Marcellus Shale wells. Dr. Hacker reminded the Board that Marcellus monitoring information was available on ACHD's website. Jim Thompson stated that there have been no readings yet above the initial baseline measurements. Dr. Portlock stated that the information on the website seemed dense and asked if would be possible to simplify it. Mr. Thompson stated that ACHD is planning on summarizing the data.

### **2. Clean Air Funds Projects Planned for 2015**

Ms. Graham presented the Board with a budget for planning purposes for the Clean Air Fund for 2015. Dr. Portlock and Mr. Ferraro thanked Ms. Graham for presenting the budget. Ms. Graham's total estimated expenditures for 2015 were up to approximately three million dollars. Mr. Ferraro asked how much was spent last year. Ms. Graham stated it was less than two million dollars. Dr. Harrison stated that the current balance of the Fund was twelve million dollars. Ms. Graham stated that was correct, that the Fund usually collects two million dollars per year and that ACHD does not want to sit on twelve million dollars. Dr. Harrison asked if the funds were kept in an interest-earning

account, and Ms. Graham stated that they were. Dr. Burke asked if there was a Request For Proposal mechanism, Ms. Graham stated this was being considered.

**D. Environmental Health Fund Request - Household Hazardous Waste and Hard to Recycle Collections**

Joy Smallwood requested that the Board approve \$30,000 to conduct three Household Hazardous Waste collection events and \$20,000 to conduct five Hard To Recycle collection events. Ms. Smallwood noted this was an increase from last year. Dr. Hacker stated that the increases were in a direct response to requests by the Board. Mr. Youngblood asked if the police were collecting unused medications. Ms. Smallwood stated that three police departments in Allegheny County do, the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police, Moon Township police, and Mt Lebanon police. Dr. Burke asked how these events were advertised, and Ms. Smallwood answered through municipal newsletters and websites.

**Action:** Mr. Youngblood moved to approve the expenditures from the Environmental Health Fund for the requested Household Hazardous Waste and Hard to Recycle Collections. Dr. Steward seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

6. **Director's Report**

**A. Introduction of New Employees**

Dr. Hacker and Dr. Rod Harris introduced Dannai Harriel, who will head the Maternal and Child Health Program; and Kwesi Willacy, who will head the Infectious Diseases Program.

**B. All-Staff Meeting**

Dr. Hacker informed the Board that a meeting was held with all ACHD staff members to enable them to contribute to, and comment on, the Community Health Assessment. ACHD will plan to hold at least bi-annual staff meetings in the future.

Dr. Portlock expressed concern about the program enforcement reports that Board members receive. She felt that the current amount of information provided was not valuable, and that either more information should be provided or the reports should be eliminated.

7. **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

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

There were no public comments on non-agenda items.

9. **Adjournment**

Dr. Shapira moved to adjourn the meeting, and Mr. Youngblood seconded the motion.