

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

September 2, 2015

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

Absent: Kotayya Kondaveeti, MD
Caroline Mitchell

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was held at the ACHD Administrative Office, 542 Fourth Avenue.
Dr. Harrison called the meeting to order and announced that an executive session had been held to discuss personnel and litigation matters.

2. **Approval of Minutes from July 8, 2015**

Dr. Harrison asked if there were any comments on the minutes. There were none.
Dr. Harrison then asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Action: Mr. Ferraro moved to approve the minutes, Dr. Shapira seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Youngblood abstained.

At this time, Dr. Harrison thanked Council Member Sue Means for attending the Board meeting.

3. **Public Comments on Agenda Items**

There were no public comments no agenda items.

4. **Old Business**

A. Update on Plan for a Healthier Allegheny – Community Open Houses and Work Groups

Dr. Hacker reported that ACHD has held four community meetings since the last Board meeting. They were well received. Dr. Hacker thanked ACHD's community partners and felt that the meetings were a good way to provide information to the public.

She stated that the next step will be to start workgroups for each of the PHA's five areas. This will happen over the next month. Dr. Hacker felt that the PHA is being used, and there will be an annual report of progress available for the public.

B. Live Well Update – new communities

Dr. Hacker reported that a number of new communities have become Live Well communities. She reported that existing Live Well communities have been hosting Live Well events, such as an event for South Fayette that she attended at the Pittsburgh Botanic Gardens. Live Well will also focus on tobacco cessation during the national tobacco cessation week.

C. Update on naloxone in pharmacies

Dr. Hacker reminded the Board that she issued a standing order for Naloxone several months ago. She reported that nineteen pharmacies are currently participating. ACHD is also working with pharmacy students from Pitt and Duquesne to target areas with high areas of overdoses. Dr. Hacker reported interest in ACHD's order from other counties and from Gary Tennis, Pennsylvania Secretary of Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP). ACHD has also met with the state-wide pharmacist association to discuss naloxone.

Dr. Burke asked Dr. Hacker to review how an individual goes to a pharmacy under the standing order. Dr. Hacker stated that under the standing order, she becomes the health care provider who provides the prescription for naloxone for the patient. Dr. Hacker reported that the price of naloxone is increasing, which is a challenge. She stated that most insurers in Western Pennsylvania are agreeing to cover naloxone.

Dr. Burke asked Dr. Hacker to estimate the population size at risk of an overdose. Dr. Hacker acknowledged that this was a good question. She stated that over 300 people died last year from overdoses, but that it was difficult to estimate the total number of addicts. She stated that the state will be publishing data regarding how many overdose victims are saved by police officers.

Dr. Burke asked how Dr. Hacker how to increase the number of people using the standing order for naloxone. Dr. Hacker stated ACHD will plan on partnering with more pharmacies, and will be talking to other communities, such as Baltimore, to compare experiences about distributing naloxone. She also reported that Allegheny County Police will begin carrying naloxone. She reminded the Board that naloxone is good for preventing mortality, but does nothing for addiction. She stated that ACHD is working closely with the Department of Human Services regarding addiction treatment.

Mr. Ferraro asked if there was any published data from elsewhere, with populations similar to Allegheny County to be able to compare. He expressed his belief in the benefits of increasing public awareness. Dr. Hacker stated that questions regarding substance abuse were added to the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey.

Dr. Hacker also reported that there is interest at the State level in prescription monitoring.

Dr. Burke asked if the number of slots for rehab were potentially limited. Dr. Hacker stated that was hard to comment on, as ACHD is not contracting for that. She did state one of the biggest challenges is if it is possible to have slots available on demand. She thought it may be an interesting question, and could potentially ask a specialist from the Department of Human Services to come in the future. Mr. Ferraro and Dr. Harrison thought that is a good idea.

5. **New Business**

A. Air Quality

1. Clean Air Fund Request

a. \$400,000 CCAC Solar Project

Jayne Graham reported that ACHD has been working for this project for quite a while. In approximately 2000, the EPA brought a court action against an Ohio power plant. ACHD became a party to the suit due to sulfur dioxide emissions from the plant coming into Allegheny County. When the settlement was reached in 2005, \$400,000 of the settlement was set aside for the purchase, through the Clean Air Fund, for the purchase of solar panels at CCAC. The consent decree was modified, and during the time it was modified the solar panels originally specified were no longer manufactured. Thus, ACHD had to modify the consent order again to incorporate more efficient solar panels.

Ms. Graham reported that the plan calls for two arrays, which will be used to light the parking lot and to charge electric cars. The panels will be installed at CCAC's West Hills campus. CCAC will use the panels as an educational tool as part of an energy class. The money is restricted and can only be used for this purpose, but ACHD still needs the Board's approval to spend the money.

Dr. Harrison asked what the size of the panels was. Ms. Graham stated that they will cover approximately 60% of the roof of a fieldhouse building. She stated that the chosen building is good, and is structurally sound.

Dr. Burke asked why this project took ten years. Ms. Graham stated this was because of Federal involvement, modification of the consent decrees, and ACHD staff turnover. Dr. Burke then asked if the amount was for \$400,000 in 2004-value dollars, or 2015-value dollars. Ms. Graham responded that there was no provision for a change in dollar value during those years. Dr. Burke felt it would be reasonable to see a timeline plan for the project at the next meeting.

Action: Mr. Youngblood moved to authorize funding from the Clean Air Fund to support the CCAC Solar Project with \$400,000. Dr. Portlock seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

2. Review of changes to Environmental Health Fund & Clean Air Fund grant application

Alayna Connor presented the Board with updated applications for grants from the Environmental Health Fund and Clean Air Fund. The updated applications added more detail, to make it easier for the Board to understand and evaluate the requests. Supplemental applications were added for each eligible category under the Clean Air Fund. ACHD intends for every applicant to complete these applications. Ms. Connor stated that she would appreciate the Board's feedback and comments regarding the updated applications. Dr. Hacker stated that the applications were very complete.

Dr. Portlock suggested that in Category 6, Diesel Reduction Strategy, that that Improving Air Quality section on page 20 should have questions like on Page 5. She said this addition would be for clarity for the Board. Ms. Connor stated this was a good point and will be added.

Dr. Burke thanked ACHD for including quantifiable results on the application.

Dr. Portlock stated that the applications were very responsive to the Board's concerns.

B. Submission of accreditation application to Public Health Accreditation Board

Dr. Hacker reported that ACHD submitted its application for accreditation to the PHAB. ACHD now has one year to collect and submit the required documentation to PHAB. PHAB will review the documentation and conduct a site visit.

Dr. Hacker reported that an internal team, the A-Team, is working hard on the topic of accreditation. The team is led by Casey Monroe, who feels that one year is adequate time to complete the process.

Dr. Hacker reported that she was recently at a meeting in Harrisburg with other local health departments. She stated that Philadelphia and Bethlehem are awaiting their site visit from PHAB, and Erie is already accredited. Allegheny County is next in line. Others are beginning the accreditation process, and some do not want to become accredited.

Dr. Harrison thanked Dr. Hacker for this update.

C. HATS Survey

Dr. Hacker stated that a public forum was held at the Allegheny Intermediate Unit to discuss the Health Allegheny Teen Survey. She reported that Dr. Liz Miller of UPMC and Dr. Todd Bayer from Pitt's Graduate School of Public Health were involved in the survey.

She stated that 75% of adolescent morbidity and mortality was due to behaviors, such as violence, substance abuse, unprotected sex, unhealthy eating, and lack of exercise.

She stated that Allegheny County had data on adolescents, but it was related to homicide, suicides, and teen birth. A population based assessment was needed for County-wide data on adolescents to enable ACHD to intelligently develop initiatives.

The survey was a random, digit-dial survey. It was totally anonymous and conducted with IVR technology to increase privacy. The goal was for 1,600 participants and there was a gift card incentive for participation. Most questions were taken from the National Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

Dr. Hacker reported that the results of the survey showed that adolescents in Allegheny County had a rate of substance abuse lower than the national average, but were closer to the national average regarding violence. She found it concerning that 13% of participants had experienced someone close to them being murdered. Allegheny County adolescents also had rates of depression and suicide lower than the national average.

Dr. Hacker stated that the data from the HATS survey is currently available on ACHD's website. The data is county-level, not school or neighborhood data. She acknowledged that the survey would have missed anyone without a phone, in jail, or marginally housed. She stated that ACHD intends to use the data to develop specific reports. She also stated that the survey will need to be repeated with some regularity.

Dr. Harrison stated the data were great and thanked Dr. Hacker.

D. Report by Public Drinking Water, Solid Waste, Water Pollution Control, and Recycling Programs

Geoff Butia, Program Chief, introduced his program's management team to the Board. He stated that his program has four sections, and has eighteen positions with two vacancies.

The Public Drinking Water section is responsible for inspections of 78 public water systems in Allegheny County, which provide water to 99% of the County's residents. Planned inspections occur in accordance with federal and state regulations. Complaint inspections also take place in response to Legionella, water main breaks, and spills or other incidents involving the rivers.

The Water Pollution Control section is responsible for inspecting 63 sewage treatment plants, and sewage collection and conveyance systems. All sewage plants receive yearly inspections. Complaint-based inspections are also conducted following reports of events such as basement sewage back-ups and sanitary sewage overflows. Michelle Buys commented on the ALCOSAN consent decree. She stated that ALCOSAN serves 83 communities. Dr. Burke asked what percentage of the County that would be. Mr. Butia stated that was approximately 60-70% of the County. Ms. Buys stated that ACHD is a plaintiff, along with the EPA and DEP, against ALCOSAN for violating the Clean Water Act. ACHD was the lead technical agency to review

consent orders with municipalities. She reported that feasibility studies have been submitted and reviewed. Communities are being asked to examine flow reduction and green infrastructure. Ms. Buys stated that the EPA has been very patient with this region, and that affordability is what has driven this plan.

At this time, Mr. Ferraro excused himself.

Mr. Butia reported that the Solid Waste section oversees 40 solid waste facilities in the County and also conducts complaint-based inspections regarding illegal dumping.

Joy Smallwood stated that the Recycling section does not conduct inspections or enforcement actions. The section instead provides information and assistance, works with municipalities, and conducts special recycling programs. Ms. Smallwood reported that 85 municipalities in Allegheny County have a curbside recycling program and that 471,000 tons of material was recycled in 2014.

Dr. Hacker stated that each environmental health program had revised their enforcement reports and encouraged the Board to review the changes. Mr. Youngblood and Dr. Portlock stated that the reports were wonderful compared to before. Dr. Hacker also pointed out new recycling canisters through the ACHD Administrative building at 542 Fourth Avenue, and she informed the Board that there were no longer any trash cans in individual offices.

Dr. Burke expressed interest in seeing more data about the costs and profitability of recycling programs. He also pointed out that the Board's consumption of bottled water was wasteful and requested that pitchers be acquired.

6. **Director's Report**

Dr. Hacker stated that the Allegheny County 2014 immunization rates will soon be released. Allegheny County is higher than the average state rate, however a few schools are below average. ACHD would like to approach those schools and work with them over the next year. She stated that the report will be on ACHD's website when it is released.

7. **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

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

A. Wanda Guthrie – Shenango Coke Works

Wanda Guthrie stated that she was a member of the Environmental Justice Committee. She is concerned about the locations of the worst environmental locations in Allegheny County. She visited the Shenango area and had her eyes burnt. She invited the Board to a talk at the Church of the Redeemer in Squirrel Hill to work together to pray, and advocate for the

environment. She thanked the Board for the work that they do. Dr. Harrison thanked her for her comments.

B. Ted Popovich – Shenango Coke Works

Mr. Popovich lives in Ben Avon, a half of a mile from Shenango Coke Works. He stated that DTE operates the Shenango Coke Works haphazardly. He spoke of an instance when the plant lost power for one hour and emitted raw coke gas. He also spoke of four other incidents, within a four week period, requiring emergency flaring of cake gas. He encouraged the Board to support stronger efforts to help resolve community health problem. He urged the Board to help shut down Shenango.

9. **Adjournment**

Dr. Shapira noted that Dr. Hacker has been the Director for two years and thanked her for her efforts. Dr. Burke shared these sentiments.

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