

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

November 4, 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
Kotayya Kondaveeti, MD
Caroline Mitchell (via phone)

Absent: None

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 matters.

2. **Approval of Minutes from September 2, 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: Dr. Portlock moved to approve the minutes, Dr. Stewart seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously. Mr. Youngblood abstained.

At this time, Dr. Burke requested that he be provided more information at the next Board meeting regarding the CCAC Solar Project's timeline.

3. **Public Comments on Agenda Items**

A. John Detwiler – Plan for a Healthier Allegheny

Mr. Detwiler informed the Board that he is opposed to ACHD receiving accreditation. He stated that the County government can not protect residents from the risks of fracking, if the County government itself is involved in fracking. He stated that every area that is fracked has an increased public health risk. He felt that the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny essentially endorsed fracking, and contrasted that with New York State's ban on fracking. He concluded that ACHD is

unable to function due to the local political environment and hopes that ACHD will be able to speak up against fracking. Mr. Detwiler will be asking PHAB to deny ACHD's application for accreditation.

Dr. Harrison thanked Mr. Detwiler for his comments.

4. **Old Business**

A. Update on Plan for a Healthier Allegheny – Work Groups

Dr. Hacker reported that five work groups have met. All work group meetings were well attended. The work groups have been further identifying strategies and providing ACHD with data for metrics. She reported that the next workgroup meeting will be in January.

B. Update on Live Well

Dr. Hacker reported that Live Well continues to move forward, and that another two communities have signed up. She noted that many of these communities face challenges with disparities. She stated that the restaurant industry is supportive of the planned Live Well Restaurants initiative. Abby Wilson reported that Live Well was partnering with Tobacco Free Allegheny for tobacco cessation week on November 15th-21st.

C. Update on Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey

Dr. Hacker informed the Board that over one thousand responses have been received for the BRFSS, and that it is on target for completion by the end of June. She expressed appreciation for the assistance of colleagues from Pitt in this endeavor.

At this time, Dr. Burke asked for information about the CCAC Solar Project. Jim Thompson reported that a contract has been executed with CCAC. Mr. Thompson stated that a project schedule will be completed by the next Board meeting and can be presented. He explained that the lead time for equipment delivery is driving the schedule. Dr. Burke requested written information at the next Board meeting.

5. **New Business**

A. Board votes on 2016 meeting dates

The Board voted on proposed meeting dates for 2016.

Action: Mr. Youngblood moved to accept the proposed dates for 2016 Board of Health meetings, Dr. Shapira seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

B. Prevention Point Pittsburgh – Perry Hilltop new location

Aaron Arnold, Director of Operations of Prevention Point Pittsburgh, requested the Board's approval for a new needle exchange location. Mr. Arnold stated that Prevention Point currently operates two exchange locations, in Oakland and in the Hill District. The proposed new location would be from a truck located at 294 North Charles Avenue, in the Perry Hilltop

neighborhood. This neighborhood was identified as a neighborhood in need. Due to the increasing use of heroin and the increase in Hepatitis C rates, Prevention Point felt there was a need for another location for needle exchange. Mr. Arnold expected the Perry Hilltop location would serve twelve clients per week.

Mr. Youngblood asked if City Council has approved this request yet. Mr. Arnold stated that City Council has not yet approved this request and that Prevention Point has been in contact with community organizations in the neighborhood. Mr. Youngblood asked if it was possible to collect the ages of the clients that Prevention Point would serve. Dr. Hacker stated that Prevention Point is a good source of data for ACHD. Dr. Harrison requested that Prevention Point provide the Board with a data summary and a brief presentation regarding Prevention Point. Mr. Arnold stated that Prevention Point would provide any information that the Board would like.

Dr. Burke requested that more data be provided to drive the decision-making process. He would like to see data regarding how many clients would be expected to use the site, and how large of a reduction in cases of Hepatitis C could be expected. Dr. Kondaveeti stated that he sees one case of Hepatitis C per day and suggested that the County purchase Hepatitis C medication directly from manufacturers at low rates and provide the medication to disadvantaged County residents.

Action: Mr. Youngblood moved to approve Prevention Point Pittsburgh's request for a new needle exchange site in the Perry Hilltop neighborhood, within the terms of the existing agreement that Prevention Point Pittsburgh has signed with the Allegheny County Health Department, Dr. Shapira seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

C. Food Safety Certification Course Fee Schedule

Jim Thompson informed the Board that ACHD is not covering its costs for the Food Safety Certification program. ACHD has not increased its fees for over ten years, and is charging fees less than outside providers. Mr. Thompson proposed a 67% increase in fees. The fees would take the Certification program from a loss of \$56,000 in 2015 to a projected gain of \$4,000 in 2016. Dr. Hacker reiterated that ACHD's fees are well under the market price and that ACHD would like to be able to meet its costs.

Mr. Youngblood suggested a three year review window for fees.

Dr. Harrison stated that the Board supports this fee increase.

D. Updated Food Safety Facility Placards

Mr. Thompson stated that placards for Food Facilities have been updated. He stated that they have been updated with ACHD's new logo and also with a QR code. The QR code can be scanned by consumer's smartphones with a link to ACHD's Food Facility Inspection Reports

webpage. Mr. Youngblood and Dr. Harrison scanned the QR code with their phones and liked this feature.

At this time, Dr. Harrison acknowledged Cindy Kirk and congratulated her on her recent election to County Council.

E. Appointment of Maura Kennedy to Plumbing Advisory Board

Mr. Thompson asked for the Board's approval of Maura Kennedy to serve in the City of Pittsburgh's slot on the Plumbing Advisory Board.

Action: Dr. Shapira moved to approve Maura Kennedy's appointment to the Plumbing Advisory Board, Mr. Youngblood seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

F. Data Across Sectors for Health (DASH) grant proposal to Robert Wood Johnson

Dr. Hacker stated that ACHD submitted a grant request to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The request was to enable ACHD to work with partners such as Pitt, RAND, Traffic 21, JHF, Department of Human Services, UPMC, and others to merge data sets and use predictive modelling to predict cardiovascular disease risks. Dr. Harrison wished Dr. Hacker luck with this request. Dr. Burke stated that he endorses this as an important initiative that is off to a great start.

G. Quit for Life Week

Dr. Hacker stated that this was discussed previously.

H. Health In All Policies approach and work with planning

Dr. Hacker stated that Health in All Policies is an approach that is done nationwide. Areas suffering from poverty bear a disproportionate burden of poor health outcomes. She stated that Allegheny County has 130 municipalities and 42 school districts. Only so much can be done as a County, she reminded the Board that it is necessary to work with municipalities to see improvements.

She further stated that much money earmarked for Public Health is limited to specific areas. Money from the EPA is only to be used for Air Quality issues for example, and the same is true for much of the funding for Maternal & Child Health issues.

Dr. Hacker stated she sees Live Well as an umbrella that can be expanded beyond its focus on Chronic Diseases. She stated that ACHD intends to work over time with Live Well communities to maintain the gains those communities have been making and to engage in data-sharing.

She stated that other Boards are making statements about using the Health In All Policies approach. She informed the Board that ACHD has been partnering with Economic Development to work for active transportation in disadvantaged communities. ACHD has also been partnering with the food sector to eliminate food deserts, working with Just Harvest in the Healthy Corner Store Initiative, and working with the food bank. ACHD has also been working with the Department of Human Services to improve data sharing. She stated that such agencies must row in the same direction.

Dr. Burke stated that he completely supports this approach. He mentioned the areas of law enforcement and transportation being untraditional public health areas, but noting their effect on health through early deaths caused by overdoses, homicides, suicides, and accidents. He noted that data exchange may be difficult with those areas. Dr. Hacker replied that she is confident with traffic-related data-sharing and noted that ACHD has been working with the Port Authority and Traffic 21. She reported that ACHD has been working with the police, but that there is a challenge of how much information the police feel comfortable sharing in order not to jeopardize any cases. Dr. Burke asked if Pittsburgh Mayor Peduto's emphasis on data sharing has been helpful. Dr. Hacker stated that it was, and was an important piece of what government is supposed to be doing.

Dr. Portlock asked if there would be specific updates on what Live Well communities are doing. Dr. Hacker answered that ACHD is planning to do an end of year report, and that she's hoping to have a learning collaborative for Live Well communities.

I. Policy Committee

Dr. Hacker stated that since Abby Wilson was hired as ACHD's Deputy Director of Policy, that it would be helpful if a Policy Subcommittee of the Board was created. Dr. Harrison asked if any particular experience would be helpful. Ms. Wilson stated that a diversity of experience would be valuable. Dr. Portlock, Mr. Youngblood, Dr. Shapira, and Dr. Stewart expressed an interest in serving on the Policy Subcommittee.

6. Director's Report

Dr. Hacker had nothing additional to comment on.

7. Announcements

There were no announcements.

8. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

A. Ted Popovich – Shenango Coke Works

Mr. Popovich stated that he has lived in Ben Avon for eight years. He stated that he spoke at the last Board meeting about power outages at Shenango. He stated that since then he had learned that the plant requires \$2.5 million of repairs. Yet he stated that the public has not heard Duquesne Light's side of the story in regards to the power outages. He accused DTE of

using Shenango as a cash cow and of being stingy in paying for repairs. He invited the Board to attend a documentary screening and a meeting with the EPA. Dr. Harrison thanked him for his comments.

9. **Adjournment**

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