

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

July 12, 2017

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

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was held at ACHD's office at 542 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh.  
Dr. Burke called the meeting to order. Dr. Burke announced that an executive session was held to discuss personnel matters.

2. **Approval of Minutes from May 3, 2017**

Dr. Burke asked if there were any questions or comments about the minutes. There were none.

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

3. **Public Comments on Agenda Items**

There were no public comments on agenda items.

4. **Old Business**

**A. Proposed Changes to Article XI: Hearings and Appeals**

Dr. Hacker informed the Board that no additional public comments were received regarding Article XI.

Max Slater, ACHD's Hearing Officer, reminded the Board of what the proposed changes to the Article were. Changes included deleting provisions regarding out-of-state lawyers and a requirement for corporations to be represented by counsel. An additional change involved revising the section of the Article regarding discovery, to allow a more flexible discovery plan.

**Action:** Dr. Shapira moved to approve the proposed changes to Article XI. Dr. Stewart seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

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

Dr. Hacker gave kudos to Hannah Hardy for her continued work on Live Well Allegheny, particularly in the Mon Valley. Dr. Hacker noted that Deer Lakes School District and North Versailles Township were among the newest members of Live Well Allegheny. She stated that two learning collaboratives, each with approximately 40 participants, were held as part of Live Well Allegheny. She noted that Live Well Allegheny's website continues to be active.

*At this time, Mr. Youngblood informed the Board that he had joined the meeting via teleconference.*

## **5. New Business**

### **A. Infectious Disease Report**

Dr. Hacker discussed the findings of the Infectious Disease report. Dr. Hacker noted an increase in Lyme disease cases over the past 10 years. She said that Lyme cases were minimal until 2012-13, but that individuals now need to protect themselves from Lyme accordingly. Regarding Hepatitis C, she stated that ACHD's increased surveillance efforts lead to an increase in the number of acute Hepatitis C cases identified. Regarding Legionnaire's disease, Allegheny County has a higher incidence rate than the national average. Dr. Hacker noted ACHD's aggressive surveillance system regarding Legionnaire's disease. She also noted a 2015 outbreak of Shigellosis, a diarrheal disease. She stated that ACHD worked with the pediatricians to protect children in daycare centers during the Shigellosis outbreak. Dr. Hacker also noted a decrease in chickenpox cases and a tuberculosis rate that was below the national average.

Dr. Burke asked for information regarding other tick-borne diseases. Dr. Hacker stated that she can't answer that question right now, but that she can get information about it. Dr. Burke asked a follow-up question regarding monitoring of ticks, which Dr. Hacker stated she can get information to answer Dr. Burke's question.

Dr. Burke stated that the information in the report was good to have.

### **B. Final SO<sub>2</sub> Attainment Demonstration SIP**

Jayne Graham, ACHD's Air Quality Program Manager, informed the Board that although SO<sub>2</sub> levels were improving over time, the area around the Liberty monitor was still high. The Non-Attainment Area, for SO<sub>2</sub> levels, is located in the south-eastern corner of Allegheny County.

Dr. Burke asked how many air monitors were in that area of the County. Ms. Graham stated that the Clairton, Liberty, and Braddock monitors were there.

Ms. Graham stated that the control strategy includes lower allowable limits for sources including US Steel – Clairton, US Steel – Irwin, and US Steel – Edgar Thomson. The strategy also includes a new combined, taller stack for US Steel – Edgar Thomson. A lower stack leads to wind being caught between buildings which drag emissions downward. A taller stack will minimize this. Ms. Graham stated that US Steel is in the process of designing this stack. Emissions limits will be enforceable via permits and consent orders.

Ms. Graham stated that during public comment periods, ACHD received 1,698 pages of comments, many from letters. ACHD identified, and responded to, 68 individual comments.

**Action:** Mr. Ferraro moved to approve the Final SO<sub>2</sub> Attainment Demonstration SIP. Dr. Stewart seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **C. Receiving Delegation of the Solid Waste Incinerator Federal Plan – Request to go to Public Comment**

Ms. Graham stated that the EPA finalized a Federal Implementation Plan to control sewage sludge incinerators. She stated that Allegheny County has one, at ALCOSAN. She requested that the Board authorize a public comment period regarding ACHD receiving delegation.

Dr. Burke asked what kind of sludge gets incinerated. Ms. Graham stated that she does not know the source well enough to comment on what ALCOSAN's process is.

**Action:** Dr. Shapira moved to approve the public comment period regarding receiving delegation of the solid waste incinerator federal plan. Dr. Stewart seconded the motion.

**The motion carried 5-1. Mr. Youngblood voted against the motion.**

#### **D. Environmental Health Fund Request: Plumbing Equipment**

Ron Sugar, ACHD Deputy Director for Administration, stated that this request was a forward-thinking idea from Andy Grese, ACHD Plumbing Program Manager. Mr. Sugar stated that this request was to be used to purchase iPads for plumbers to use in the field. The iPads will replace a paper-based system, increasing efficiency and decreasing duplication.

Dr. Stewart stated that this idea was wonderful. Dr. Hacker stated that the plumbers were pleased with the idea.

**Action:** Dr. Shapira moved to approve the Environmental Health Fund request for the plumbing equipment. Dr. Stewart seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**E. Environmental Health Fund Request: Residential Fire Sprinkler Workshop**

Mr. Sugar stated that this request was for a training course to certify more ACHD inspectors for residential fire sprinklers. Mr. Sugar stated that, at present, only a few inspectors had this certification. More certified inspectors will create more flexibility in scheduling.

**Action:** Dr. Shapira moved to approve the Environmental Health Fund request for the Residential Fire Sprinkler Workshop. Dr. Stewart seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**F. Environmental Health Fund Request: Comprehensive Book for County Plumbing Code**

Mr. Sugar stated that this request was an excellent idea to create one consolidated book containing the International Plumbing Code and Allegheny County's plumbing revisions. Mr. Sugar explained that at present the International Plumbing Code and Allegheny County's revisions were two separate documents.

Dr. Stewart asked if non-potable water systems were addressed yet. Michael Parker, ACHD's Solicitor, stated that they will be addressed in future updates. Dr. Burke asked how large the manual was. Mr. Parker stated that it was hundreds of pages.

**Action:** Dr. Shapira moved to approve the Environmental Health Fund request for the Comprehensive Book for County Plumbing Code. Dr. Stewart seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**6. Director's Report**

Dr. Hacker informed the Board that County Council passed the lead screening regulation on Wednesday, and that it will go into effect in January. She stated that ACHD is already reaching out to families.

She also stated that ACHD has received more grant money from Heinz for violence prevention. Efforts include street outreach and a trauma response team. ACHD is also working with DHS on a dashboard of up-to-date information regarding gun violence and homicides. Dr. Burke asked about the specific goals and metrics of the dashboard. Dr. Hacker stated that the dashboard could inform universities and grass-roots organizations that are involved in violence prevention.

Dr. Hacker also discussed uncertainty regarding State and Federal budgets. She said that if the State-level Act 12 funding was cut, it could have implications for ACHD. She said that the EPA budget was stable for now, but there is uncertainty regarding what September could bring. Additionally, the CDC's Public Health Trust Fund could be cut, which could also impact ACHD. Dr. Hacker informed the Board that there could be hard decisions in the future.

At this time, Dr. Burke recognized his colleague Dr. Wendy Braund. Dr. Braund was recently hired as the Director for the Center for Public Health Practice and Associate Dean for Public Health Practice at the Graduate School of Public Health at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Shapira thanked Dr. Hacker and ACHD staff for their work regarding lead regulations, and noted it was a big accomplishment.

7. **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

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

**A. Thaddeus Popovich, re: North Borough's Environment**

Mr. Popovich was not present to offer his comment.

9. **Adjournment**

Dr. Stewart moved to adjourn the meeting, Dr. Shapira seconded the adjournment.