

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

September 13, 2017

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

Absent: William Youngblood, Vice Chair
Edith Shapira, MD

1. **Call to Order**

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

2. **Approval of Minutes from July 12, 2017**

Dr. Harrison asked if there were any questions or comments about the minutes. Dr. Portlock pointed out that she was not listed as present or absent, and noted that she had been absent. Mr. Bogdanovich stated that he would make this change.

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

3. **Public Comments on Agenda Items**

There were no public comments on agenda items.
At this time, Dr. Harrison thanked Allegheny County Councilmembers Cindy Kirk and Sue Means for attending the BOH meeting.

4. **Old Business**

A. Update on Plan for a Healthier Allegheny

Dr. Hacker informed the Board that the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny was still moving forward, and that ongoing work-groups were being held. In addition, a group from Glasgow visited Pittsburgh, and ACHD, the previous week. The Glaswegian group discussed comparable problems between their city and Pittsburgh in achieving health equity. A major challenge faced

by Glasgow was the economic situation, following a period of deindustrialization. This collaboration is being funded by a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Dr. Hacker also informed the Board that the work with the Georgia Health Policy Center was still moving as well. A report, highlighting challenges to health equity, is expected to be released this fall.

B. Update on Live Well Allegheny

Dr. Hacker stated that 49 municipalities, 13 school districts, 43 restaurants, and 13 workplaces had joined the Live Well Allegheny campaign. She also informed the Board that a grant had recently been received from the State for Safe and Healthy Communities. Live Well Allegheny will also be co-hosting a Complete Streets meeting and providing technical assistance to communities regarding multiple modes of transit. She stated that Live Well Allegheny continues to place a particular focus on the Mon Valley.

C. Update on Opioid Naloxone Outreach and Training

Abby Wilson, ACHD Deputy Director for Public Policy & Community Relations, stated that ACHD was using one of its unique competencies, its pharmacy, in the fight against opioids. She stated that many Health Departments don't have their own pharmacies. Ms. Wilson introduced Nancy Caracciolo, ACHD's pharmacist.

Ms. Caracciolo informed the Board that there is a unified naloxone procurement strategy, through ACHD's pharmacy. This unified strategy allows County agencies with funding for naloxone a streamlined ordering process and pharmacy support, allows for monitoring distribution efforts, allows for identification of duplicated efforts, and allows for identification of areas of need. More than 8,000 naloxone kits have been distributed to drug and alcohol treatment providers, law enforcement, community organizations, ACHD clinics, and the Allegheny County Jail. ACHD is working with the Department of Human Services, the District Attorney, and others to identify target organizations. A Public Health Improvement Fund grant is specifically designed to get naloxone to vulnerable County residents through community organizations.

Ms. Caracciolo also stated that naloxone is provided through ACHD's pharmacy to 32 school districts in Allegheny County. Dr. Harrison asked if these kits were provided to school nurses. Ms. Caracciolo stated that they were. Dr. Kondaveeti asked if ACHD's pharmacy was providing naloxone to EMS organizations. Ms. Caracciolo stated that ACHD was not, as EMS organizations were not having issues procuring naloxone.

Ms. Caracciolo stated that in response to being inundated with requests from community organizations, ACHD developed training titled: "Opioids, Overdoes, and Narcan/naloxone: What You Need to Know". She stated that ACHD has trained more than 35 organizations, and more than 1,000 individuals. She further stated that train-the-trainer models

would be rolling out in Carnegie Libraries and YMCA's, and that all ACHD staff would be trained by the end of 2017.

Ms. Caracciolo stated that ACHD's key strategies for naloxone were collaboration across Allegheny County agencies and municipal government; communication with the public about risks, prevention, and how to seek help; and cooperation between public health and public safety, between public health and the delivery system, and between physical and behavioral health. Ms. Caracciolo then displayed a demonstration kit of naloxone and allowed the Board members to examine it.

Dr. Harrison said that naloxone was an amazing drug, and asked about how data is acquired regarding its use. Dr. Hacker stated that Prevention Point Pittsburgh receives data from its users. ACHD also receives EMS reports, however Dr. Hacker noted that naloxone is not administered only for confirmed overdoses. She also noted that many victims of fentanyl overdoses were likely to be dead-on-arrival. Ms. Wilson stated that police departments track naloxone usage, but don't report that data to ACHD. She stated that Allegheny County Police have saved multiple lives with naloxone distributed by ACHD.

Ms. Caracciolo stated that public libraries are experiencing a problem with opioid overdoses, and that ACHD has been providing training to them. Dr. Hacker stated that other private businesses with publicly-accessible bathrooms are also having problems. She stated that it must now be assumed that any bag of heroin contains fentanyl. She does not foresee this trend slowing down, and noted that fentanyl is cheaper than heroin and is also unbelievably lethal.

Dr. Portlock asked about tracking usage of naloxone. Ms. Wilson stated that partner organizations are asked for data about the lives they save.

Dr. Hacker stated that she had heard that there is funding for naloxone in the state budget. She also noted that there is concern in the first responder community, regarding the risk of breathing in fentanyl. Staff in the Medical Examiner's Office also have similar concerns. She noted that Allegheny County is lucky to have fantastic partners such as the Department of Human Services, the District Attorney, Prevention Point Pittsburgh, the Medical Examiner, and the treatment community.

Dr. Harrison asked Dr. Burke to confirm if he was going to speak about this topic. Dr. Burke stated that was planning a talk at the Graduate School of Public Health on this topic. He noted the huge economic impact of the epidemic, which the CDC estimated to have been \$78 billion in 2013. He noted the need to respond to the epidemic and stated that naloxone doesn't address the overall epidemic.

Dr. Portlock asked about prevention and treatment regarding the epidemic. Dr. Hacker stated that there is an effort regarding warm hand-offs into treatment. She noted that Marc Cherna is doing a lot of work regarding treatment. ACHD is working with the Department of Human Services and the Allegheny County Jail, as discharge from jail is a high-risk timeframe for overdoses. Unfortunately, with the nature of addiction, a person has to decide to get into treatment. Addiction is a chronic condition, and intervention is challenging. Treatment on demand is not available either, as there is a wait-list for beds.

Dr. Portlock stated that she would be interested in hearing from the Department of Human Services about their work. Dr. Hacker stated that she would be happy to invite DHS to give a presentation to the Board.

Dr. Burke asked if there was a common Allegheny County opioid epidemic plan. Dr. Hacker stated that each report has one, but noted that the epidemic changes. Dr. Burke stated that the epidemic was growing exponentially, and will continue to grow. He noted that we're losing and that we're not doing enough of the right thing. He predicted another 300,000 deaths and \$500 billion lost in the next five years. Dr. Hacker invited Dr. Burke to do an opioids summit with her.

D. Preparation for Universal Lead Testing

Dr. Hacker noted that the Universal Lead Testing regulation goes into effect on January 1st. She noted that ACHD is providing education on all lead sources and prevention, is engaged in surveillance and monitoring, and is working with the medical community regarding interventions and follow-ups. Grants have been received from the Hillman Foundation, the Public Health Improvement Fund, and Allegheny County Economic Development to assist with lead-related efforts.

She stated that an audit had been conducted of existing communication materials regarding lead, and a communication plan has been created. She noted that different target audiences need different approaches. Dr. Harrison asked if the pediatric community was disseminating information to their own. Dr. Hacker stated that they were, and that they were being given toolkits. Dr. Hacker stated that ACHD is trying to identify the areas with the highest lead risk, and is planning outreach activities. A lead-topics page is also under development for ACHD's website.

Regarding lead data, Dr. Hacker informed the Board that ACHD has hired a lead epidemiologist. ACHD is also working with County Stats regarding predictive modelling. ACHD hopes for baseline data by the end of the year. Dr. Harrison stated this was fabulous.

Regarding next steps, Dr. Hacker stated that testing at ACHD clinics will occur by the end of the year, investigation processes will be improved, protocols for physician follow-up to blood-lead-level test results will be improved, community organizations will be partnered with to

provide education, and the Lead Task Force will issue its recommendations. Dr. Harrison thanked Dr. Hacker for this information.

E. Update on SO₂ 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. Article X update to comply with new PA school immunization requirements

Dr. Hacker stated that this update was in response to the State updating their immunization requirements. She stated that historically, Allegheny County had stricter immunization requirements than the State did – but that this was now flipped. Dr. Hacker stated that this request was to update ACHD's immunization to adopt the State's changes.

Action: Dr. Portlock moved to approve the update to Article X to comply with new PA school immunization requirements. Dr. Stewart seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously. Dr. Harrison abstained from voting on the motion.

B. BUILD Grant

Dr. Hacker informed the Board that ACHD applied for this grant, along with a coalition of North Side partners that included Allegheny General Hospital. The grant comes from a combination of funders, and required the Hospital to contribute \$250,000. Dr. Hacker stated that we have been awarded the grant, and that more information will follow. Dr. Harrison stated that this was fabulous news.

C. Food Safety Committee

Jim Kelly informed the Board that ACHD reached out to 11 representatives to join the Food Safety Committee, and 8 have accepted thus far. He stated that representatives were coming from residential care facilities, food processors, mobile vendors, large venues, restaurants, and school districts. Mr. Kelly stated that the goal is to have an odd-number of members, for voting purposes. The first meeting should be held before mid-October.

Dr. Hacker stated that there was a Food Safety Committee before, under Dr. Dixon's leadership of ACHD. She said that Mr. Ferraro brought the idea of reconvening this Committee to the Board, and has assisted with reconvening the Committee and ensuring its mission was correct. Donna Scharding, ACHD Food Safety Program Manager, stated that a committee has been establishing guidelines, soliciting candidates, and is in the process of confirming members.

Dr. Harrison asked Mr. Ferraro for his thoughts regarding the Committee. Mr. Ferraro stated that he went to the first meeting as a guest, but felt that it would be better if a Board member were not a Committee member. Dr. Harrison asked if there are any pressing issues. Mr. Ferraro stated that there were none to his knowledge, but did point out that the food industry was changing. He noted the popularity of mobile vendors and farm-to-table establishments as changes in the industry. He stated that issues will arise in the next few years, and it will be good to have the perspectives of the Committee's members. Mr. Ferraro thanked Mr. Kelly and Ms. Scharding for their work with the Committee.

Ms. Scharding informed the Board that the Federal Food Code is being updated, and Mr. Kelly stated this means that ACHD can expect to deal with those changes in the future.

6. **Director's Report**

Dr. Hacker informed the Board that a fair amount of stakeholders have asked ACHD to look at the provisions in Article IX regarding lifeguards, specifically at small swimming pools located in apartment complexes. She said that ACHD will convene stakeholders and facilitate discussions to achieve a consensus.

7. **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

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

A. Laura Guralnick, re: Castlegate Development Demolition

Ms. Guralnick stated that she is a resident of Castlegate Avenue, in Brookline. Ms. Guralnick stated that for more than 8 months, Continental Construction has been engaging in demolition work without taking appropriate precautions to mitigate dust, prevent other large particulate from leaving the site, or preventing excessive diesel emissions. Ms. Guralnick requested that ACHD provide the residents of Castlegate Avenue with assistance to preserve their health.

B. Suzanne Seppi – GASP, re: Hydrogen Sulfide

Ms. Seppi, of the Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP) stated that waking up to "rotten egg odors" is not uncommon in Allegheny County. Ms. Seppi stated that this smell is very likely to be hydrogen sulfide. Ms. Seppi stated that 396 specific "rotten egg" odor complaints were made via the *Smell PGH* app between September 29, 2016 and September 5, 2017. Ms.

Seppi stated that GASP urges the Board to require the County Air Program to do better, to develop and implement a plan to eliminate violations of the hydrogen sulfide standards and to be held accountable for improvement.

C. Cassi Steenblok – Clean Water Action, re: McConway & Torley Permit

Ms. Steenblok stated that she was a Program Organizer with Clean Water Action, an organization with 20,000 members in Allegheny County. She stated that McConway & Torley has been operating without a permit. Ms. Steenblok urged ACHD to protect the community by issuing a strong operating permit, without delay, that ensures the air all of us are breathing is as safe as possible.

D. Bethani Cameron – Pittsburgh City Council District 4, re: Castlegate Development Demolition

Ms. Cameron stated that she was the Community Relations Manager for Pittsburgh City Council District 4's representative, Natalia Rudiak. She noted that she supported the request of neighbors like Laura Guralnick. Ms. Cameron further noted that the impacted residents live in the City of Pittsburgh, but the site being demolished is in Mt. Lebanon Township. Ms. Cameron requested the County Board of Health's support to address the air quality issues to the satisfaction of the residents.

9. **Adjournment**

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