



Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health



Tuesday, November 16, 2023

108 Lee Street East
Charleston, WV 25301
2nd Floor Board Room

MEETING MINUTES

1. Call to Order—President Mr. Jeremy Nelson

The meeting was called to order with the President, Mr. Jeremy Nelson, presiding.

2. Roll Call—Kandy Forsythe

Ms. Forsythe called the roll.

Dr. Dara Aliff-Lao	Present
Ms. Jessica Hudson	Present
Ms. Lillian Morris	Present
Ms. Danita Nellhaus	Present
Mr. Jeremy Nelson, President	Present
Dr. Arthur Rubin	Present

The President noted the presence of a quorum.

3. Moment of Silence

The President called for a moment of silence for those who have died from COVID-19 and first responders who have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. Report of the President - Mr. Jeremy Nelson

- a. **Approval of minutes** – With no further discussion, approval of minutes for the September 21, 2023, Board of Health meeting Upon motion by Dr. Aliff-Lao seconded by Dr. Rubin the question was put: Shall the minutes of the September 21, 2023, Board of Health meeting be approved? Motion carried.

5. Report of the Health Officer - Dr. Steven C. Eshenaur, DO, MBA

- a. **Flu Season** – Dr. Eshenaur thanked the board for coming to the dedication of the new mobile unit. Dr. Eshenaur further stated it was well attended, and Mr. Nelson agreed. Dr. Eshenaur stated this fall has been a productive flu vaccination season, and he stated Ms. Snaman will talk in more detail regarding her flu clinics. It has been nice to see positivity regarding the flu vaccinations and no shunning. No questions asked.

- b. **COVID** – Dr. Eshenaur stated that COVID continues to circulate in our community, and we are immunizing adults and children with the latest vaccine, however, the demand is considerably less than expected compared to prior mass COVID vaccination events. Dr. Tolbert will comment on our numbers later in the meeting.

Ms. Morris asked if the vaccines are being tracked any longer? Dr. Tolbert stated on SIS, and stated they changed the COVID dashboard showing completing up to date is still low, assuming that is the most recent information. No further questions asked.

- c. **Vaxcare** – Dr. Eshenaur stated he looks forward to going live with Vaxcare on November 28th. There are lower inventory risks with this and no going out of date or damage due to warming with Vaxcare. Dr. Eshenaur stated that they hope to realize improved profitability and lower inventory risk in our clinical department. No questions asked.
- d. **Epic** – Dr. Eshenaur stated that Epic is still on track for a go live in February 2024, collaborating with our partners using the mobile unit and expanding our serving community. No questions asked.

Dr. Rubin asked if we were doing any more campaigns on the flu vaccine or the COVID vaccine? Dr. Eshenaur stated that we continue to be vocal on social media.

Ms. Morris asked Dr. Eshenaur if he was going to talk on the anti vax. Dr. Eshenaur stated that they were spinning up with different health partners creating good messages. Dr. Eshenaur stated that a draft bill, not made public yet, would provide an outlet for those who wish to appeal a waiver decline. It creates a three-person board, consisting of one representative from WVU Medicine, one representative from Marshall Medicine and one from Vandalia Health. This will help appease some of the concerns.

Ms. Hudson stated she was at a function in September and this topic came up and the speaker stated not to back down. It is an uphill battle. Dr. Eshenaur stated Idaho is well below for vaccines which puts kids at risk for measles. People have forgotten what it is like to have no immunizations. Prevention works. Dr. Rubin stated that people do not trust science. Dr. Eshenaur stated when he was in Afghanistan, people would carry their children for miles trying to get vaccinations for them, there would literally be 100 people in line, and he would just keep seeing patients, and they continued to come because they know the consequences, their children will die, are dying out there due to no access to vaccines. No further questions.

6. Report of the Division of Administrative/Operations – Mr. Doug Beasley

- a. **Financial Update** – Mr. Beasley informed the board that the first quarter spreadsheet was in their folder, and the current bank balance was approximately \$2.7 million. Mr. Beasley stated we are doing well at this juncture. No questions asked.

Mr. Beasley stated they are still waiting on two DHHR grants to be finalized and approved. I last checked on the Threat Prep grant and the Regional Epi grant in late October. Mr. Beasley stated he was advised that the Threat Prep grant was pushed back and is still in the process and the Regional Epi grant was in the finance review process. No questions asked.

- b. Personnel Update** – Mr. Beasley stated they are still looking for a Chief Sanitarian and have put the position out several times through DOP, they've done their public service ads and are now using social media. Mr. Beasley stated it is a very difficult position to fill and very defined. Mr. Beasley stated they'll continue to push through. No questions asked.

Mr. Beasley stated the Nurse 3 clinic position that Kim Bird had occupied and left back in July, was recently put through DOP. The position was left vacant for a while because we had the contract nurses and we were doing well, but we are going to try and get it filled hopefully in the next couple of months because it is known how hard it is to get a nurse on board, especially in competing with private pay, which we cannot do. No questions asked.

Mr. Beasley stated the CRI Coordinator position that was occupied by Chris Ferguson, who left to accept a new position with University of Charleston, was a contract worker. This position was funded through the Threat-Prep Grant and was assigned to the WV Center for Threat Prep four days a week and with us one day a week. Mr. Beasley further stated he informed WV Center for Threat Prep that they could fill the position themselves instead of us filling it for them. With that said, this eliminated the contract workers with United Talent. Mr. Beasley stated we do not want to use contractors if that is what occurs. No questions asked.

- c. Facility and Equipment Update** – Mr. Beasley stated nothing to report regarding the facility and equipment update other than thanking all for coming to the unveiling of the mobile clinic. Mr. Beasley stated KCHD looks forward to putting the unit to work. No questions asked.

7. Report of the Division of Clinic Services – Deborah Snaman

- a. Clinic Update** – Ms. Snaman told the board the recent clinic numbers were in their packet and that after revamping the entire sheet, COVID changed, and they added two additional vaccines, so it had to be scrapped and revamped once again. Ms. Snaman stated no one can see the templates at the moment, but blank templates are being built in so the new vaccines can be added when they come along. All that would have to be done is to just plug in the new vaccines rather than redoing the entire sheet. Ms. Snaman stated in September, the clinic saw 1,200 patients and in October, the clinic saw over 2,600 patients. The numbers reflect the procedures or the total products that we've given whether it is a STD test or a shot. In October alone, we gave well over 1,000 COVID vaccines and about 1,600 flu vaccines. Ms. Snaman stated they were winding down on the school and business flu clinics that had started in September. There have been 67 clinics done with 19 of those being businesses. Ms. Snaman stated they had one clinic left, which is on Monday.

Ms. Snaman further stated that it was a struggle to have three of the clinic staff out every day, but she was extremely happy with the outcome.

Ms. Snaman stated that one thing that made things easier with regards to the school flu clinics was grouping the schools that have the same nurses so that when we finished one school, it was easier to go to the next school which in the end, made it easier to keep up with the data entry which has always been a problem. When the staff returns, the forms get laid to the side due to clients needing to be seen. But this year, the staff has really been on top of things to include a few staying late to enter information in, so we are keeping up! No questions asked.

Ms. Snaman stated they are still having their staff meetings and thanked Ms. Forsythe for coming down and handling the phones and any clients that may come in, though no clients are scheduled, we do still have walk ins. No questions asked.

Ms. Morris asked if we have any volunteer options. Ms. Snaman stated that we have never gone that route, so volunteer options are unknown. I do not handle insurance, and there are two or three people that handle that part of the business, so it would be difficult to use volunteers for something like that.

Dr. Aliff-Lao asked if Ms. Snaman saw an increase in pregnant women requesting the COVID vaccine. Ms. Snaman stated she has not and further stated that she has only had one phone call regarding a vaccine for a 13-pound infant. Dr. Aliff-Lao stated they are encouraging pregnant women and newborns to get, 32 and 36 weeks to get vaccine.

Ms. Morris asked if Ms. Snaman if they were giving multiple vaccines at once, like the flu and COVID vaccine. Ms. Snaman stated there are a few that want to split it, but most want to combine.

Ms. Nellhaus asked if an appointment must be made for the RSV? Ms. Snaman stated that you do need to have an appointment and it does have to be approved by their insurance company, otherwise the cost is \$325.00 for what we have now. No further questions asked.

- b. **United Presbyterian Church Soup Kitchen** – Ms. Snaman stated when they participated in October, they did approximately 45 flu vaccines. Last night, we did approximately 22 flu vaccines. No questions asked.
- c. **World Aids Day** – Ms. Snaman stated they plan to participate in World Aids Day at the Methodist Church on the corner of Washington and Dickinson on December 1, 2023. Ms. Snaman stated they will offer flu and COVID vaccines and will be set up inside the church. No questions asked.
- d. **Boo Bash** – Ms. Snaman stated they did participate in the Boo Bash at the end of October which was at the Renaissance Circle. This event was not well attended, and we were all disappointed. Ms. Snaman stated the event was scheduled from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and by 2:30 p.m., her staff was calling that many others had already left, and we called it a day. No questions asked.

- e. **Vaxcare Update** – Ms. Snaman stated Dusty, with Vaxcare, will be here Monday to complete the buyback of our current vaccine stock. There will be one on one training and going live Tuesday morning so wish us luck with that! Hopefully it'll work as well as they are advertising. No questions asked.

8. Report of the Division of Environmental Services – Doug Beasley

- a. **Environmental Overall Update** - Mr. Beasley stated the three newest sanitarian employees are still going through various levels of training and they are all working out well so far. No questions asked.

Mr. Beasley stated they are still working out a few bugs with the new Environmental Software that was introduced to us a few months back. Mr. Beasley stated they are working with the state and the next step is using an App that will be on the iPad that all sanitarians will be issued and utilize while doing inspections which will streamline the process. These are the iPads that were used during the COVID pandemic. Mr. Beasley stated they have had one or two of the sanitarians working on this process and working on all the issues that are coming up, working them out so that when this all goes live, they will all be ready to move forward. They are going to do training next week and hopefully, the week after Thanksgiving, they are going to try and do some inspections just using the iPads and we'll hopefully see a speedier process.

Ms. Morris asked if it would be different postings in each business. Mr. Beasley stated they are going to use different colored paper to replace what they were doing before. Each color would represent their inspection rating.

Dr. Rubin asked if KCHD has had any role in the natural gas issue that is going on in the west side. Mr. Beasley stated that we have not been contacted. The gas companies have really stepped up and are handling everything. Mr. Beasley further stated that the only closures have been Tutors and Ginos who have no hot water and have no electric back up. All others have electric backups for their hot water. No further questions asked.

9. Report of the Division of Epidemiology – Dr. J. Tolbert

- a. **Epidemiology Update** – Dr. Tolbert stated that nationally, ED visits and hospitalizations for COVID appear elevated but stable. Reported 10 COVID outbreaks and 3 non-COVID outbreaks monitored over the past two months. No questions asked.

Dr. Tolbert stated that for Influenza test positivity, ED visits, and hospitalizations for flu are increasing. Dr. Tolbert further stated that cases are increasing in the southeastern US, especially Florida. Public health labs in the US report 78% of positive samples are influenza A, and 91% are (H1N1) pdm09 strain which is susceptible to the current Influenza vaccine. Influenza-like illnesses (ILI) have reached 3% of ED visits nationally, which is near the typical "epidemic" level. Kanawha County reports for those ages 65 and over, 39% were vaccinated for flu as of November 7th (15118/39298 residents). No questions asked.

Dr. Tolbert stated for RSV, it is beginning to increase in southern states, especially Georgia / Florida. In Kanawha County approximately 8% of eligible persons aged 60 and over (5121/52305 residents) have received the new RSV vaccine as of November 7th. No questions asked.

10. Report of the Executive Assistant to the ED/HO –Julie Blackwood

- a. **PHAB** – Ms. Blackwood stated there was nothing new to report on PHAB. Ms. Blackwood stated she reached out the third week of October and the accreditation specialist said he anticipated finishing our review by the end of the following week, which would have been November 3. There has been no communication from the accreditation specialist since that contact. Ms. Blackwood stated that when she does hear anything new, she'll get the word out to the board. No questions asked.
- b. **FEMA** – Ms. Blackwood stated that she found out last week that the project has been obligated at the federal level, so it is approved for payment. She followed up with the state emergency management earlier this week, they said that it is not showing in their system yet. They explained there is always a lag from when the project gets obligated to when they see it in their system. They said they would let her know as soon as it showed up and provide an estimate as to when we might see a check. No questions asked.
- c. **Strategic Plan** – Ms. Blackwood stated she has a draft from the consultant, and she is reviewing that presently. Other than the plan itself, there are two outstanding items remaining: the community partner survey and a customer satisfaction survey for clinic patients and environmental services clients. The consultant staff members are in the process of reaching out to and interviewing community partners. They have also developed a customer satisfaction survey and are working with our IT department to make it "live." No questions asked.

11. Report of the Public Information Officer (PIO) – Lalena Price

- a. **Educational Advertising** – Ms. Price stated they would be doing some educational advertising ahead of the session in anticipation of proposed changes to the states vaccine immunization back to school, immunization law. Ms. Price stated they are going to do some strategic advertising just ahead of the session and during the session to try and make an impact. We want to make sure everybody understands the consequences. Ms. Price stated they don't want to lobby but to educate. No questions asked.
- b. **Christmas Parades** – Ms. Price stated they have 12 or 13 Christmas parades lined up in various towns in the surrounding area. Ms. Price stated they will have the new mobile unit in some of the parades, which will give everybody an opportunity to see the new mobile unit. We will dress up and hand out healthy snacks, hand sanitizers and other items to show our support and holiday cheer to the towns nearby. Ms. Price stated they want to continue to market our mission of being neighborly and being positive. If anybody would like to help, let me know after the meeting and we will be sure to get you involved! The parades will begin December 1st and continue through December 16th. There are a couple parades that run on the same day, so we will be sure to participate

in the parades we miss this year, next year! Ms. Price stated the town of Clendenin has a Jeep theme, so we will decorate it and try to win the prize! Ms. Price stated they are looking forward to getting out there and meeting people and spreading holiday cheer. No questions asked.

12. Unfinished Business

No unfinished business

13. Public Comment

No public comment

14. Old Business

No old business.

15. Adjournment

Upon motion by Dr. Aliff-Lao, seconded by Dr. Rubin the question was put, "Shall the meeting be adjourned?" Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Steven C. Eshenaur, DO, MBA
Board Secretary