

Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health
Minutes of March 23, 2010 regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at the conference room of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department (WOCHD).

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Wilkes Kinney, Gloria Delbrugge and Mike Caruso. Others present included Dr. William Mercer, Health Officer/Secretary; Howard Gamble, Administrator WOCHD; representative of the Wheeling News Register. Guest were Mr. & Mrs. Jacobs.

Dr. Holloway called the meeting to order at 12:00pm, lunch was provided. The minutes from the January 19, 2009 meeting were approved.

Jerry Jacobs was present to make a presentation to the Board. Mr. Jacobs spoke about his concern over not being able to be reimbursed for his seasonal flu shot from Medicare. He requested that his \$20 fee be reimbursed by the Health Department. Dr. Holloway asked for an explanation concerning the fee. Howard Gamble informed the Board that the health department lost its Medicare number several years ago and a new number was not able to be secured before the seasonal flu shot clinics in the fall of 2009. After speaking with a representative from Medicare the health department was informed to provide Medicare customers with a reimbursement sheet that would then be sent in by the patient in order to be reimbursed. The private contractor for Medicare has denied all claims made using this form. Howard recommended to the Board to approve a reimbursement to all denied Medicare clients who received a flu shot from the health department and attempted to make a claim. A motion was made and approved.

Dr. Holloway opened the meeting with the Health Officer's Report. Dr. Mercer updated the Board on the H1N1 outbreak. No new cases have been identified and now second or third wave has shown up; however, new cases of either H1N1 or the seasonal flu virus could start appearing in the new future. Dr. Mercer updated the Board on the TB Symposium. Dr. Mercer informed the Board that in the future he will like to attend a national public health conference in the Summer. He also updated the Board on an ongoing effort to do a study on a shingles vaccine.

Dr. Holloway asked for the Administrator's Report. Howard updated the Board on the WIC Program. The WIC Program recently received additional funding which will allow the department to hire 6 new temporary staff. The staff includes 5 Health and Human Resource Aides (Two of the HHRA positions will do clerical, lab, nutrition education and other duties under the Nutrition OAF program. The other three HHRA positions will act as breast feeding peer counselors for local WIC offices) and one Nutritionist 1 position (The Nutritionist 1 position will assist

in evaluation and certification of eligible applicants for participation in the WIC Program and be assigned to two local offices). The new staff are:

- **Deidre Mitchell, HHSA (\$8.92 hr.)**
- **Brandi M. Fletcher, HHSA (\$8.92 hr.)**
- **Beverly A. Zwolensky, Nut. 1 (\$12.58 hr.)**
- **Kera J. Smith, HHSA (\$8.92 hr.)**
- **Tammy J. Wayman, HHSA (\$8.92 hr.)**
- **Tonya K. Wilds (\$8.92 hr.)**

The department will also adjust two staff from exempt status to permanent “civil service” status. This change has been approved by the WV Division of Personnel

- **Jodi Swiger, HHSA**
- **Carol Patterson, HHSA**

Howard asked the Board for approval on these new hires. The Board was also presented with other data on the WIC Program, including WIC updates and December 2009 and January 2010 caseload

The West Virginia Consolidated Public Retirement Board increased the employer contribution rate for public employees’ retirement system in 2009 from 10.5% to 11%. At the beginning of 2010 they again increase this rate to 17%. This increase could have resulted in an additional \$50,000.00 cost to the health department. It is our understanding that the Retirement Board has rescinded this order to 12.5%. Retirement Change

The State Immunization Program is proposing a 7th grade vaccination project to increase the vaccination rates of tetanus, diphtheria, pertussis (Tdap) and meningococcal disease (MCV) beginning in the fall of 2010. The program will increase the awareness of the need for these vaccinations among parents and adolescents. The health department could play a role in this program, by providing vaccinations to the general public similar to our H1N1 efforts.

Following the recent H1N1 clinics the health department has arranged for the donation of temporal scanners to all area schools. The health department has and will be given our 27 Exergen Temporal Scanners. Health department staff determined that there was a need for uniformed temperature taking in the event of a local or wide spread outbreak. The largest donation, 13 scanners, went to Ohio County Schools. All public, private, parochial, Easter Seals and WJU and WLU will receive a scanner.

On March 24th the TB Association to host annual Symposium “Current Respiratory Health Issues” at the White Palace Ballroom at Wheeling Park. Three speakers are on the agenda for the symposium. Michael Blatt, MD, Fida Khan, MD, FACP, and Catherine C. Slemp, MD, MPH. Dr. William C. Mercer, Health Officer for the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department, will open the symposium.

The Internal Revenue Service increased travel reimbursement rates on January 1, 2010. The health department in turn adjusted the mileage reimbursement rate effective February 1, 2010 to match the IRS at \$.50. Last year the Board of Health approved our mileage rate adjustments using rates set by the Internal Revenue Service. Howard requested approval of this increase.

The West Virginia Bureau for Public Health released “West Virginia County Health Profiles, Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health”. This document was collaboration between the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute gives a numerical view of the county’s health. The top five counties in **clinical care** in order are Cabell, Kanawha, Ohio, Monongalia, and Harrison. Over all Ohio County faired well in the publication. The County Health Rankings provides a measure of the overall health in West Virginia. The profiles get a snapshot of their overall health and the factors (i.e., determinants) that influence health in a county. The community will be able to see how its county’s health compares to that of other counties in their state. The rankings allow public health and the community to raise awareness about the multiple determinants of health via the media and other outlets. The data also assists in initiating community health assessment and planning efforts and can be use in celebrating successes and reinvigorating existing community health improvement efforts. The data can help inform policy makers and community leaders about the multiple determinants of health and community health improvement planning.

The client encounters or nursing hours for core functions and expanded services for February 2010/2009 was presented to the Board. The health department has about 210 doses of seasonal flu vaccine on hand. West Virginia is reporting influenza activity as “Sporadic” for MMWR week 10 (ending Saturday, March 13th, 2010). There were 1658 cases of influenza-like illness (ILI) reported during MMWR week 10. Sentinel providers reported 2.1 % of visits were ILI. This is slightly less than the baseline of 2.4%. There were 2 positive tests for influenza A and no positive tests for influenza B reported by hospital and referral laboratories. Only PCR, immunofluorescence and culture results are counted in these totals. At the Office of Laboratory Services 1 (100%) of 1 positive tests for influenza A were influenza A 2009 (H1N1). A total of 21 hospitals reported 2 influenza-related hospitalizations and no deaths during MMWR week 10. A total of 926 hospitalizations and 22 deaths have been reported since week 35. There was NO active influenza outbreaks.

The health department recently issued several new food service/retail permits in Ohio County. These include:

- Tilly’s Country Kitchen in Warwood
- Annie’s Cafe at the Highlands
- Ruble United Methodist Church, Wheeling
- Dicarolo’s Pizza, Wheeling
- Dickie’s Dogs, mobile cart

- Dollar General, Warwood
- Higher Grounds Coffee Café, Elm Grove
- McDonald's, Warwood
- Save-A-Lot, Warwood
- Stone Church Road VFD
- Wild, Wild West Sports Bar, Strafford Springs
- St. Vincent's Church
- Garden Park (FSUOV)

The Ohio County Solid Waste Authority has posted their 2010 Spring Clean Up days. Locations begin April 1st and run through May 8th.

Currently the health department is issuing several new well permits. As of this month we have issued 1 new permit for a potable water well and 9 new permits for Geo-Thermal wells. The Geo-Thermal wells is a new trend that many rural customers are turning to.

As of March 22nd the health department has expended roughly \$100,500 on H1N1 efforts. A large part of the departments planned expenditures were put on hold until state funding could be provided to the department. As a result we will adjust the budget and future expenditures. The total award for the H1N1 program was \$222,208.

The health department has about 650 doses of H1N1 (90 PF, 180 nasal, 370 injection) on hand. As we go longer into the year, the vaccine will begin to expire. The health department continues to give out vaccinations.

The Board was presented with Health Department purchase journal for the period from January 19 – March 23, 2010. The Board also approved the additional hires and the new travel reimbursement rate for the health department.

Following the New/Old Business report, the Board adjourned into Executive session. Following the executive session the Board moved back in to the regular meeting with no action taken. The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday May 18, 2010 at 12:00 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY

APPROVED BY

William C. Mercer, MD, Health Officer
May 25, 2010

John Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
May 25, 2010