

Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health
Minutes of May 25, 2010 regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on Tuesday, May 25, 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 Christine Carder, Cheryl Wonderly. Others present included Dr. William Mercer, Health Officer/Secretary; Howard Gamble, Administrator WOCHD; representative of WTOV-9, Chuck Fisher and Mike Makowski of WOCHD.

Christine Carder was appointed temporary chair of the board. The meeting was called to order at 12:00pm, lunch was provided. The minutes from the March 23, 2010 meeting were approved.

Christine Carder opened the meeting with the Health Officer's Report. Dr. Mercer updated the Board on a recent local meningitis case. Dr. Mercer also updated the Board on seasonal and H1N1 flu activity. At this point no report of a third wave of flu and seasonal flu really did not make much of a presence in our area. Public health is gearing up for fall 2010 and H1N1 will be incorporated in the 2010 fall flu shot. Dr. Mercer also discussed several other diseases that have been occurring in our area.

Howard Gamble presented the Administrator's Report. The State Immunization Program, WV Department of Education and local health departments will participate in 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 will play a role in this program, by providing vaccinations to the general public similar to our H1N1 efforts.

The Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department has received funding from the WVBPH/American Lung Association to assist with additional clean indoor air regulation inspections. The grant in the amount of \$5000 will help cover salary costs with these additional inspections.

The Travel Vaccination clinic is up and running. The department has purchased a supply of vaccine and have received several inquiries into vaccination. The following vaccines are available to travelers at the health department: Tetanus/Diphtheria (Td), Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis (Tdap), Typhoid, Yellow Fever, Meningococcal, Hepatitis A, Hepatitis B, Measles-Mumps-Rubella (MMR), Japanese Encephalitis and Polio. The health department is a designated CDC Yellow Fever Vaccination Center.

The Annual Program Plan was presented to the Board. Several areas of the plan were discussed including areas that need approved, commitment letters from the City and County and a discussion of the budget portion of the plan. Howard asked for Board approval of the plan and the necessary signatures for Board Chairman and the Health Officer.

The Board was presented with the Monthly Report for client encounters/nursing hours for March 2009-2010 and April 2009-2010.

The Board was updated on 2010 rabies data. Current surveillance in WV has netted 10 positive raccoon strain rabies animals. Ohio County has submitted 10 animals for testing. Currently we have two positive raccoon cases. One resulted in post exposure vaccinations of an individual. One of these cases was submitted by our public health partner, USDA (USDA collected it on 4/19/10. The coordinates are: 40.07142 / -80.60007) The northern panhandle has an unusually high rate of raccoon population. We work with the USDA to bait the county in the fall. Currently we are not able to secure additional vaccine bait. The USDA is testing a new vaccine. We will be working with the USDA and WVDNR to put together a plan to address future positive cases.

The Board was updated on the May 3rd environmental sweep of the Warwood community. Over all the department found about 70 city public health violations. This event assists the department in getting a head start in dealing with complaints throughout the summer. Most were high weeds or trash. The department did have one violation that needed special attention by our environmental staff.

Chuck Fisher, RS gave a special presentation to the Board on bed bugs.

Bedbug Infestations in Multifamily Housing Units in Wheeling		
Facility	2008 – 2009	2009 - 2010
Booker T. Washington Plaza	2 apts	Approx. 8 apts
Brookpark Place	None	None
Garden Park Terrace	None	Approx. 2 apts
Hil-dar Apartments	None	None
Luau Manor	None	Approx. 2 apts
Montani Towers	Approx. 8 apts	0 apts. (Treating 1 Unit as follow-up)
North Park Apartments	None	2 apts
Petropolis Apartments	None	1 apt (abated)
Providence Green Apts.	None	Approx. 10 apts
Riverview Towers	None	Approx. 10 apts.
Welty Apartments	None	Unknown
Windsor Manner	12 to 15 apts	Approx. 34 apts (31%)

Bedbug complaints are on an increase for a wide range of issues. Complaints that are coming into the health department vary from tenants, friends, family members, and healthcare workers. This increase in caused by many problems or combinations of problems like:

- a. The bug is developing an increased resistance to the pyrethroid group of pesticides (the only group of pesticides permitted to be used inside of the homes).
- b. The ability of the bug to migrate by using object to human, human to object, and human to human contact. This is greatly enhanced by the bug going virtually undetected because of their size, color, stage of growth and ability to hide.
- c. The bedbug's ability to feed on approximately 35% of the population while going undetected because of the lack of any reaction to the bug bites.
- d. Complications created with the question of responsibility (landlord verses tenant). Defined with Landlord/Tenant Handbook provided by the City of Wheeling Human Rights Commission.
- e. The inability of the landlord / owner / tenant to pay for treatment and the persistence needed to abate the infestation.

Current public nuisance requirements requested by the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department to maintain compliance is to determine the magnitude and the location of all the bedbug infestations treat and abate all bedbug infestations, develop a bedbug management plan, and provide the health department with periodic progress reports. Based on current trends, the near future holds a continued increase of the problem if left unchecked and spreading throughout our environment which will include daycare (adult and child), schools, and public health facilities like hospitals and offices. The department is seeing an increase in complaints from smaller multifamily housing units, homeless shelters, and the inability of people to receive the help they need to correct the problem.

The Board was updated on an "intent to file a lawsuit and FOIA request" from a law firm in Atlanta Georgia. This action is the result of a developer who couldn't get water and sewage permits for an upscale housing development and is planning to sue West Virginia over information that 160,000 households across the state are piping raw sewage into waterways, and government has done nothing to stop it. Atlanta attorney William E. "Bo" Gray II has filed notices of his intention to sue West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau for Public Health and all 55 county governments under the federal Clean Water Act. In all, the notices went to 118 people, including the president of each county commission and sanitarians in the 53 counties that have them. The department responded that the information he is requesting, was not available in our offices.

The health department will again conduct a county wide West Nile surveillance program that will actively trap mosquitoes that will be tested for West Nile, La Crosse Encephalitis, Eastern Equine Encephalitis and Saint Louis Encephalitis. Traps will be set in several locations in Ohio County. Ohio County is only one of a few counties that actively trap and test mosquitoes.

Bonnie's Bus, a state of the art mobile mammography unit, will visit Brooke

County on Wednesday June 23rd at the Brooke County Public Library. A physician's order is required for screening or one may be obtained at the clinic.

WIC February, March and 2007-2010 Client Figures were presented to the Board. The figures show a caseload increase from February to March and an over all yearly increases in WIC caseload for our program.

The Board was presented with Health Department Financial Report. The new report included an overview of each department financial report and the WOCHD "all department report". The board was presented with Budgets for each program, areas of revenue (relationship to each budget), and changes to financial reporting process to the Board of Health.

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.

The terms of office for Board of Health members John Holloway and Christine Carder will end June 30, 2010. Both members made it known to the Board that they would like to continue to serve on the Board of Health.

Pursuant to the bylaws of the Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health and West Virginia State Code, Chapter 16, the Board of Health voted to recommend to the City of Wheeling the re-appointment of Dr. Holloway to another five year term on the Board of Health and to the Ohio County Commission to re-appoint Christine Carder to another five year term on the Board of Health. If approved by the appointing bodies the new terms would expire on June 30, 2015. The Board asked that Howard submit an official communication to both agencies.

The next regular meeting will be held on Tuesday July 13, 2010 at 12:00 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY

William C. Mercer, MD, Health Officer
July 13, 2010

APPROVED BY

John Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
July 13, 2010