

Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health

Minutes of October 18, 2011 regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on October 18, 2011 in the City Council Chambers, 2nd floor of the City/County Building.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Gloria Delbrugge, Tom Tuttle, Wilkes Kinney, Michael Caruso and Cheryl Wonderly. Staff present included Dr. William Mercer, Health Officer/Secretary and Howard Gamble, Administrator of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department (WOCHD or department).

The meeting was called to order. The minutes from the September 13, 2011 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Dr. Holloway recognized several individuals who were on the agenda to present to the Board. Lorie McClung presented to the Board concerning e-cigarettes. Christina Mickey presented to the Board on general clean indoor air issues. Tilda Briggs presented to the Board concerning smoking at the Wheeling Island Casino. Bill Godshall presented to the Board on e-cigarettes and outdoor smoking.

Dr. Holloway then opened up the meeting to anyone else who wished to comment to the Board. A letter was read by the Administrator from Wheeling Mayor Andy McKenzie. Additional comments concerning the letter were made by Mayor McKenzie, Wheeling City Council members Adkins, Fahey and Seals. Herk Sparchane and Jims Sims also presented to the Board during this period.

Dr. Mercer gave the Health Officer's Report. Dr. Mercer updated the Board on the September 27th program on Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling, which was held at Ohio Valley Medical Center (OVMC). Dr. Mercer along with Alan Ducatman, M.D. from WVU School of Medicine; Lou Vargo from the Wheeling-Ohio County EMA; Denise Pentino and Christopher Riley from Dinsmore & Shohl presented. The program was sponsored by both the Chamber of Commerce and the Ohio County Medical Society.

Howard Gamble presented the Administrator's Report. The Administrator informed the Board that the health department was informed by the State Immunization Program on changes with the requirements for vaccinating non-VFC eligible children (VFC eligible: has Medicaid, no insurance, American Indian, Alaskan native or underinsured). Starting October 1, children with insurance, who cannot access vaccine in their medical home, will be required to present a patient referral from their private provider in order to receive vaccinations at the local health department. If a child visits their private physician and has health insurance that covers vaccine administration, the child should get those vaccines at the private physician's office. If the private physician does not have childhood vaccines at their office, paperwork will be faxed from the health department to the doctor's office to verify that information. The health department can then, vaccinate the child. If the child has insurance, but it does not cover vaccines, the department will be permitted to vaccinate the child, after faxing paperwork to

the child's physician verifying that information. If the co-pay causes a financial hardship and beyond the patients financial means, the department is permitted to vaccinate. Individuals should always check with their insurance company prior to coming to the health department. The requirement for a written referral applies only to two categories of children:

1. Children who have insurance that fully covers vaccines but whose provider does not stock and provide vaccine.
2. Children who are underinsured (child whose health insurance benefit does not cover a particular vaccine or vaccines, or whose vaccine benefits are limited).

Beginning in the 2012-2013 School year new West Virginia Immunization Requirements for 7th & 12th Graders will go into effect. Children entering school in West Virginia in grades 7 and 12 must show proof of immunization against diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus, and meningococcal disease unless properly medically exempted.

Since September 1 the health department has been very active in giving out seasonal flu vaccinations at both the department and in the community. The department has visited 36 off site organizations or business to give flu shots, including YWCA, Homeless Coalition, area senior high rises, schools, and more.

The 2012 West Virginia Public Health Association annual conference will be held at Oglebay Resort in September of 2012.

The County Commission notified the department and several other departments that the Robinson building had been sold and departments would need to find an alternative location to store response equipment. The department is currently looking for other locations.

A draft copy of the Community Health Needs Assessment that was done in conjunction with OVMC was presented to the Board. This assessment will be used by the health department and OVMC, which are both required to perform assessments of the community.

The WV Office of Technology informed the department that all of our computers will need to have new software installed, meeting the Office of Technology's current standard, Office 2010 ProPlus. This will affect 18 of the department's computers, costing between \$6000 and \$7000. The department has begun to seek out local estimates for doing this upgrade.

The administrator presented a seasonal flu vaccination resolution to the Board. The resolution strongly recommends annual influenza vaccination for all HCWs to prevent transmission of influenza; and encourages all health care organizations to adopt policies that require annual seasonal influenza vaccination for employees and appropriate exemptions for those not eligible for vaccination. The Board approved the resolution and was signed by each member.

The Cancer Information Specialist's region has been expanded to include Monongalia and Marion Counties. There have been several events in regards to the month of October. The Northern Panhandle had wreath hangings, Think Pink Luncheon and, held four Breast Cancer Walks out of the 21 walks in entire state. The new Quilt of Hope was displayed at Janie's Walk at HLWC. Wetzel County also made a Quilt. WVU held a Health Expo at Morgantown Mall; Fairmont General held a Women's Health Awareness Day at hospital & planning Expo at Fairmont Mall Oct. 28th. Bonnie's Bus was at Hancock Senior Center & is scheduled for Brooke

Co Library end of October plus Burton for 2 days. The Wheeling Walk, Janie's Walk was held last weekend. Wheeling Fire Dept. sold & wore pink Tee-shirts & presented BCC with a check for \$5000 at Janie's Walk and they are still taking orders.

The administrator presented to the Board the final version of the new lease for the Hancock County WIC office location. The lease is for three years at \$1000 per month. The administrator presented May-September WIC caseload numbers to the Board. WIC's over all numbers were lower at the end of 2011 compared to 2010 from May to September. WIC served about 100 to 150 more clients per month from May to September in FY year 2010, but WIC served more at the beginning of FY 2011 than they did in the beginning of FY 2010. In the long run, WIC's caseload was about the same each year.

In New/Old Business the Administrator presented to the Board Year to Date financials and Aged Receivables. It was noted that the financials would be resent to Board members because of a mistake on the sheet.

The Board discussed the proposal of changes to the Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health Clean Indoor Air Regulation. The Board discussed the most recent corrections and changes and made additional changes and asked that the draft be re-sent to Board members.

The Board did not hold an Executive session. The Board set a public hearing date on the proposed changes to the Clean Indoor Air Regulation for November 8, 2011. The Board then adjourned.

SUBMITTED BY

William C. Mercer, MD, Health Officer
December 13, 2011

APPROVED BY

John Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
December 13, 2011