

Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health

Minutes of March 25, 2014 regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on March 25, 2014 in the Wheeling City Council room in the City/County Building.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Cheryl Wonderly, Wilkes Kinney, Gloria Delbrugge, and Tom Tuttle. Staff present included Dr. William Mercer, Health Officer/Secretary and Howard Gamble, Administrator of the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department (WOCHD or department). Several individuals were present as a representative from the Wheeling News Register, WTOV-9 and WTRF.

The meeting was called to order. The minutes from the January 14, 2014 were mailed to member prior to the meeting for review. Minutes were accepted by the Board.

Board Chairman, Dr. Holloway, did not have a report. Dr. Mercer gave the Health Officer's Report. Dr. Mercer updated the Board the flu and Norovirus in the community. Several of the county's healthcare facilities have been affected by both diseases recently. Dr. Mercer mentioned that on the TV show David Letterman, the board of health/health department was noted during the show. Dr. Mercer mentioned that he will be taking his "Snoopy in the Schools" program to two schools in Ohio County in May. Dr. Mercer requested from the Board a \$1,000.00 donation for this program to help with costs associated with taking the program to Woodsdale and Steenrod Elementary Schools. The Board approved this request. Dr. Mercer also discussed clean indoor air regulation news from around the state, PA and casinos.

Howard Gamble presented the administrators report. The administrator discussed the recent legislative session. Senate Bill 15, which would have removed the prohibition on billing persons for HIV testing or testing for sexually transmitted diseases, conducted by the state Bureau for Public Health or county or local health departments. The bill would have allowed public health agencies to charge patients or their medical insurance providers for the reasonable costs for testing. It also would have clarified the procedures for testing persons accused of sexual offenses for HIV or STDs. The Senate approved the bill on a 34-0 vote, and it got through the House Health and Human Resources Committee but died in the House Judiciary Committee. Senate Bill 12, which would allow for expedited partner therapy treatment for a sexually transmitted disease. It would permit prescribing antibiotics for the partner of a patient without first examining the partner under certain circumstances. The bill requires counseling by the physician. The bill also requires the Department of Health and Human Resources to develop outreach materials. The bill has limited liability for physician, physician assistants and advance nurse practitioners who prescribe in an expedited partner therapy setting. The bill provides that health care professionals and pharmacists are not liable for not providing expedited partner therapy or filling certain prescriptions. The bill makes changes to the licensing portions of the code to make it permissible for the various disciplines to provide expedited partner therapy without disciplinary actions from their respective licensing boards. The legislature finished work on the bill on Saturday and sent it to the governor. HB 4237 Prohibiting the sale, distribution

and use of electronic cigarettes, vapor products and other alternative nicotine products to persons under the age of eighteen

The Board was presented with a comparison of health department PEIA insurance costs for fiscal years 13 and 14. In FY 14-15 the department will see an increase in employer responsible costs in the range of \$1,350.00 per month. The department is estimating that cost will increase from \$61,661.00 to \$76,948.00 for the year.

The Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department has launched an on-line Natural Gas Health Effects Survey. The survey is part of the department's ongoing research of Marcellus (Shale) gas drilling and its impact on air quality and public health. The on-line health effects survey was developed by the health department to allow individuals to report non-identifiable data on specific health concerns and problems they may have due to drilling activity in their area. One of the goals of the on line survey is to provide an avenue for voluntarily sharing of environmental health concerns, both real and perceived. The program also empowers the community with resources where individuals can maintain a health diary to keep track of their personal and family's health. The survey takes about 15-20 minutes to complete and all data is kept confidential and will be used for research purposes only. A financial donation from the Elysian Fields Farm and Penny Miller of Wheeling assisted in the funding of the on line survey tool. The on-line reporting tool was developed locally by Beyond Marketing of Wheeling, West Virginia. The Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department and West Virginia University, School of Public Health, have been working together on a research project to find out if Marcellus gas drilling is affecting the air quality in the region. Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department's Regional Epidemiologist, Somu Chatterjee, M.D., MPH and Michael McCawley, Ph.D., West Virginia University School of Public Health have been monitoring air quality and other risk factors around gas drilling sites in Ohio County and other parts of West Virginia. Data on the health effects of Marcellus gas drilling in West Virginia is very limited. The health department hopes that this survey, along with other research data, will be helpful in developing long term public health guidelines in regards to natural gas drilling in the state. The survey can be found on the health department's website at www.ohiocountyhealth.com.

Health Department staff has created a data base of animal encounters, starting with 2012 to 2014 (current). These are animal encounters, usually bites, which have generated a report from the ER, doctor's office or urgent care center to the health department. This report includes 204 encounters including three positive rabies cases. Other data from the report that is notable:

- 159 are from Wheeling
- Multiple repeat owners & those who are bitten
- 34 of the encounters resulted in rabies vaccinations
- Of the animals tested:
 - 26 bats
 - 28 cats
 - 24 dogs
 - 2 deer

- 15 raccoons
- 2 rats
- 1 goat, mole, mouse, and squirrel.

The Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department will host the annual Public Health Conference on June 6, 2013, both Oglebay Resort. The conference focuses on Public Health Surveillance/Threat Preparedness and the different agencies involved and their roles. The workshop will present information beneficial to Physicians, nurses, public health nurses, school nurses, staff of long term care facilities, sanitarians, veterinarians, administrators of long term care facilities, laboratory staff, pharmacists and individuals involved in agriculture and the general public. The annual Public Health conference will feature:

- Letitia Tierney, M.D., J.D. Commissioner and State Health Officer for West Virginia.
- Dr. Michael McCawley, PhD from WVU will be on hand to discuss air quality and our ongoing natural gas studies.
- Jeff Necuzzi from the West Virginia Immunization Program will discuss immunizations, school issues and medical exemptions related to required immunizations.
- Sherif Ibrahim, MD, MPH & Shannon McBee discussing outbreaks in schools.
- Eric Dotseth, PhD, WV State Entomologist will discuss emerging tick-borne diseases.
- Dr. Rahul Gupta, Health Officer and Executive Director at Kanawha-Charleston Health Department discussing local public health response to the recent water crisis event in the Charleston area.
- Speaker on Medical Reserve Corps and MRCs response to the Boston bombing.
- STD education in Schools.

The conference is open to the public and free of charge. More information on the conference will be coming in the next month. Conference registration space is limited. For more information or to register contact Somu Chatterjee, MD, MPH, Regional Epidemiologist or Wayland Harris, Threat Preparedness Director, Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department at (304)234-3682.

For Old Business the Administrator reminded the Board that the proposed changes to the 2005 Ohio County Clean Indoor Air Regulation is still a tabled item.

In New Business the Administration announced that no Bids for clinic room construction were received. The administrator discussed with the Board the FY 13 annual audit. The audit was conducted by Teed & Associates of Charleston. The Board was sent copies of the independent auditors report and no findings or corrective action plan was need. The Board voted to accept the Annual Audit. The administrator discussed with the Board to allow the health department to collect “fees for service” for some environmental services. In order to collect these fees a formal process needs to be followed. First the department needs the approval for the proposed fees by Board of Health. The fees will then be advertised (newspaper, website, post in health department) for 30 day comment period. At the next meeting the Administrator will request from the Board to approve the new fees for service schedule. The Fees are:

- Re-inspection fee: Routine or complaint based inspections do not apply to this fee. A criteria for the fee is defined in the Food Code (8-405.11, 8-405.20 and 8-405.11) and are billed to the facility.

- All permitted services \$20.00
- Plan Review fee: conducted as part of the permitting process of a food establishment and is based on seating of the proposed establishment. Fee is required prior to conducting the plan review and is separate from the Fee for Permit.
 - Small food establishment (0-20) \$100.00
 - Medium food establishment (21-50) \$200.00
 - Large food establishment (51 & over) \$300.00
 - Other facilities \$100.00
- Permit re-issue fee
 - All permits, including sewage \$10.00
- Food Handler Cards
 - 2 Year \$10.00
 - Volunteer Free (1 year)
 - Replacement Card \$5.00
 - On Line Food Cards \$20.00(StateFood) / \$19.95(TAP Series)
 - \$10.00 comes back to the health department
- Homeowners Sewage Installation Test: for health department administered septic installer tests to homeowners only.
 - Fee \$50.00 (same as Food Handlers class)
- Animal Sample/Rabies Testing: Non exposure request only
 - Fee \$ cost of shipping specimen
- Home Loan Evaluations
 - Individual Water Wells \$50.00 (old fee \$35.00)
 - An additional \$15.00 fee maybe necessary, payable to the City of Wheeling/Water Department)
 - Sewage \$100.00 (old fee \$35.00)
 - Water & Sewage \$150.00
 - Additional visits \$50.00

For the Financial Presentation the Board was presented with the January & February bills and payroll, aged receivables and the year to day financials. The board discussed each document and the reported was accepted.

Following New/Old Business the Board set the next meeting for May 13, 2014. The Board then adjourned.

SUBMITTED BY

William C. Mercer, MD, Health Officer
May 13, 2014

APPROVED BY

John Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
May 13, 2014