

Wheeling-Ohio County Board of Health

Minutes of May 13, 2014 regular meeting

The Wheeling - Ohio County Board of Health met on May 13, 2014 in the Wheeling City Council room in the City/County Building.

Board members present were Dr. John Holloway, Wilkes Kinney, Gloria Delbrugge, and Michael Caruso. 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, Linda Holmstrand Regional Tobacco Prevention Coordinator and several community members.

The meeting was called to order. The minutes from the March 25, 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. Holloway, in order to meet a room time constraint (Ohio County Commission needed the room for vote counting), changed some of the agenda items and asked the health department administrator to give his report.

Howard Gamble presented the administrators report. The Board was presented with the 2014-2015 FY State Program Plan. The administrator noted that several items need to be signed for this document, which will be submitted electronically. The department's program plan is due in Charleston by June 1, 2014. The administrator asked for approval from the Board for the plan. The Board approved the plan, but wanted hard copies of the plan mailed out to all Board members. The 2014-2015 Program Plan was approved.

The Administrator informed the Board that Ohio County had its first case of Rabies for 2014. A raccoon in the Triadelphia area of Ohio County tested positive. The raccoon had interaction with a county resident who is now receiving post exposure vaccinations. Positive cases have also been reported in Mercer & Jefferson County (WV).

The health department has put together a New Food School Training Video for use in the food schools. The video was provided to the department by the Central District Health Department in Idaho. The department is making food school more assessable to the public by offering the class in the morning and evenings, at Oglebay, on site by request and on line through two national training programs.

This Monday CDC confirmed a second case of MERS-CoV in the United States. First case was reported in Indiana and the second was confirmed in Florida. The virus is associated with respiratory illness and high death rates, although mild and asymptomatic infections have been reported. The Board was presented with documentation on this issue as well as a notice on mosquito diseases in West Virginia.

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 several speakers including; 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 and several other speakers. 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.

The West Virginia WIC program recently revised its income guidelines. These gross incomes became effective April 1, 2014. The WVDHHR, Office of Nutrition Services have announced new U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) income eligibility guidelines for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). The new guidelines indicate a family of four can earn \$44,123 and still qualify for WIC program benefits. This amounts to a \$555 increase from last year and will allow more West Virginia families to enroll in the program. Currently, West Virginia WIC serves nearly 46,000 mothers and young children monthly. West Virginia WIC serves 70% of all babies born in West Virginia. Families enrolled in the program receive nutrition education, breastfeeding education, nutritious foods, and access to maternal, prenatal and pediatric healthcare services that may otherwise be unavailable. The Office of Nutrition Services reports an additional 5,000 West Virginians could be served under the expanded WIC guidelines. Eligibility projections indicate as many as 50,733 residents qualify for the program. Fathers, mothers, grandparents, foster parents or any legal guardian of a child under five may apply.

D. Mercer gave his Health Officer's report. An update was given on the upcoming school tobacco education program "Joe Too Cool Too Smoke" on May 23 at Woodsdale and May 27 at Steenrod. Dr. Mercer updated the board on several clean indoor air topics including a signed petition from Lisa's Hair-Um in Elm Grove who were requesting that all exemptions be discontinued under the county's current no smoking rule. Dr. Mercer also gave a brief update on the flu and norovirus in the community.

The Board Chairman recognized Mr. Mark Eddy, who wanted to make a presentation to the Board. Mr. Eddy discussed the issues he is having with the oil and gas industry, including the increased truck traffic near his home. He provided photos (using the overhead projector) to the board of the issue. He offered to the members of the Board to come to his home to see the

issues that he was discussing. Dr. Holloway thanked him for his presentation. Both Dr. Holloway and Dr. Mercer discussed the issue with him during the meeting.

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 Financials were presented to the Board for the months of March & April. This included bills and payroll, aged receivables and the year to date financials. The board discussed the documents and the report was accepted.

The department did receive a bid for the clinic room remodeling. A clinic room remodel bid from Walters Construction was received last week. Total bid is \$52,880.00. The health department had budgeted \$40,000 for the project, including clinical equipment. The administrator recommended proceeding with the project and accepting this bid. More discussion with the County Commission will be needed for certain parts of the project and funding to cover some of the bid. The City of Wheeling funds, through CDBG, are time limited, can only be used for equipment purchases. It was discussed that there is asbestos in the wall tile in one of the clinic rooms and supply pipes, which will need to be abated by a certified firm. The County Commission will assist with these costs. The Board approved the bid and to proceed with the project.

In other business, following the Board's direction to put the new "Fees for Service" out for public comment during the March 25, 2014 Board of Health meeting, it was noted that no comments were received at the health department during the 30 day period starting March 31, 2014. The administrator discussed some of the new fees for service with the board and outlined the other steps that are necessary for the approval of the fees. The Board approved the new Fees for Service schedule, which is tentatively scheduled to be effective July 1, 2014. The new fee schedule will now be sent to the State Health Department for review and approval.

Following New/Old Business the Board set the next meeting for July 15, 2014. The Board then adjourned.

SUBMITTED BY

William C. Mercer, MD, Health Officer
July 15, 2014

APPROVED BY

John Holloway, MD, Board Chairman
July 15, 2014