



KANAWHA CHARLESTON
BOARD OF HEALTH

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Meeting Minutes

March 19, 2009

Board Members Present

Ms. Brenda Isaac
Mr. Robert Reishman
Dr. Arthur Rubin
Mr. James Strawn

Presenting Guests

Dr. Rahul Gupta
Ms. Lolita Kirk
Ms. Janet Briscoe
Ms. Lois Deal
Ms. Marcie Myers
Ms. Anita Ray

Board Members Excused

Ms. Shannon Snodgrass
Mr. Stephen Weber

1. Call to Order – President

Ms. Isaac called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

a. Moving the Board meeting to the 1st floor Multi-Media Center – motion needed

As required by the Board's by-laws, Ms. Isaac requested a motion to hold the meeting in the 1st floor Multi-Media Center. The motion to move the meeting was made by Dr. Rubin and seconded by Mr. Strawn. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Report of the President – Ms. Isaac

a. Introduction and welcome of the new health officer Dr. Rahul Gupta

Ms. Isaac stated that she wanted to welcome Dr. Gupta as the new Health Officer.

b. Approval of the Minutes of the January 15, 2009 meeting

Ms. Isaac requested a motion to accept the minutes of the January 15, 2009 Board of Health meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Strawn to accept the minutes and seconded by Dr. Rubin. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Report of the Health Officer – Dr. Gupta

Dr. Gupta stated he was glad to be here.

Dr. Gupta informed the Board that the Department had received a verbal notification on morning of March 17, 2009 that a 15-year old girl had died on March 5, 2009 from influenza. Dr. Gupta stated that the girl had been sick approximately 5 days prior to her death. At 9:00

a.m. on March 17, 2009, Dr. Gupta stated he instructed Ms. Briscoe to obtain an official report from the State Laboratory to confirm the information prior to notifying the girl's family physician and the family. In the next 48 hours, he verified and confirmed this information which included the fact that the girl's blood was also growing Staphylococcus and subsequently issued a press release on March 19th to this effect. Dr. Gupta added that statistics show that this is the first pediatric influenza death in West Virginia in at least the past 5 years. He also stated that so far this season there have been 26 pediatric influenza deaths nationwide; there were 88 such deaths in the past season. Dr. Gupta further added that specimens will be sent to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for additional testing; however it will be next week at the earliest before any reports are returned. State lab reports it is believed to be type AH1, which is a fairly resistant strain to oseltamivir. Out of 24 pediatric deaths checked for coinfections this year, 18 were positive for bacteria, 12 also had staph, of which 6 were MRSA. Dr. Gupta also added that the Department's website has been update with the most recent influenza information.

4. Report of the Administrative Director – Ms. Lolita Kirk

Ms. Kirk informed the Board that a copy of the deed to the Department's building was in their packets. The Board discussed the deed and it was noted that the deed is in the name of the Department.

Ms. Kirk also noted that the Board would find a copy of the Audit Report for fiscal year 2008 in their packets.

a. Discussion regarding the Department remaining in the State's computer network

Ms. Kirk discussed her recommendation with the Board to remain on the State's computer network. Dr. Rubin stated he had looked at the information and it appeared that it would be less expensive for the Department to remain on the State's network. Dr. Rubin also added that there is definitely an advantage of the hardware provided by the State. Dr. Rubin asked if the State was still trying to find ways to offset this expense and Ms. Kirk replied that they are. Dr. Rubin made a motion to remain in the State's computer network, with the stipulation that the Board review the costs annually. The motion was seconded by Mr. Strawn and passed unanimously.

5. Report of the Director of Business Support Services – Ms. Marcie Myers

Ms. Myers informed the Board that the Clinic totals and flu shot update was in their packets.

Ms. Isaac asked if the money was still being received for flu shots. Ms. Myers replied yes. Dr. Rubin asked if last year's shot totals are in the packet and Marcie said yes.

6. Report of the Director of Environmental Health – Ms. Anita Ray

Ms. Ray informed the Board that the Environmental activity report was in their packets. Ms. Ray stated that she had also included two additional items in their packets. The first item Ms. Ray stated was a very nice letter from a citizen in support of the Clean Indoor Air Regulation. The second item was correspondence to the Kanawha County Legislative delegation in conjunction with lobbying that Ms. Ray and Ms. Kirk had done regarding funding for local health. Ms. Ray added that she had received a letter back from Senator McCabe supporting proposed legislation dealing with local health funding. Ms. Isaac stated that given the economy, now is not a good time to be cutting public health services or funding.

7. Report of the Director of Epidemiology – Ms. Janet Briscoe

Ms. Briscoe informed the Board that the Department, the City Readiness Initiative counties and Cabell-Huntington Health Department will be conducting simultaneous threat preparedness exercises on June 12, 2009. Ms. Briscoe added that KCHD will hold a training session for volunteers on June 11, 2009. Ms. Briscoe also added that exercise is to improve the Department's ability to provide prophylaxis to the residents of Kanawha County within a specified period of time. Ms. Briscoe stated that the Department hopes to recruit 400 individuals to volunteer as "patients" during the exercise.

8. Report of the Director of Health Promotion – Ms. Krista Farley

Ms. Farley reported that the Department is working with Cabin Creek Health Center on the Take Your Best Shot campaign. Ms. Farley also reported that the Kellogg Action for Healthy Kids grant with the Sissonville area schools is wrapping up.

Ms. Farley stated that she is working with Ms. Briscoe on volunteer recruitment for the June exercise. Ms. Farley added that an effort will be made to recruit nursing students, and other community groups to volunteer. Mr. Reishman asked if City organizations are participating in the June exercise. Ms. Briscoe replied that they were.

9. Report of the Director of Home Health Services – Ms. Lois Deal

The Board discussed the research into the sale of the Home Health Agency. Ms. Isaac added that the Board should proceed with action as soon as possible.

However, the Board in general feels that we do need to move on the sale as soon as possible. It was stated that with the anticipation of closing, employees would be looking for other jobs, and if any leave, there would be no backup.

Ms. Deal informed the Board that her report was in their packets. Ms. Deal stated that numbers continue to decrease due to staffing.

10. Old Business

11. New Business

a. Public Comment Period

Mr. Richard Tesler with Tri-State Racing requested to address the Board concerning two issues; one professional and one personal. Mr. Tesler addressed the Board regarding Clean Indoor Air Regulation and provided the Board with a copy of his comments. The second issue Mr. Tesler addressed was the difficulties he experienced obtaining a doctor in the area to treat him after an automobile accident.

Mr. Omar Hawkins, of JR's Pub, stated that he has remained in compliance with the Clean Indoor Air Regulation while the Blackhawk, which is one mile from his business, continues to violate the Regulations. Mr. Hawkins also commented on his lost revenue since the Regulation went into effect and asked why the Blackhawk has not been closed.

Ms. Ray explained that as long as an establishment is in compliance with the Food Code, she can not shut them down. The Clean Indoor Regulation is not part of that Code and is enforced separately. Ms. Ray added that sanitarians are going out in the evenings and weekends. Ms. Ray also added that of the 13 inspections last weekend, there was only

one in violation of the Regulation, the Black Hawk. Ms. Isaac stated that unfortunately all the publicity has been good advertisement for those bars that refuse to follow the rules.

12. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Strawn and seconded by Dr. Rubin. The Board voted to adjourn unanimously at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Rahul Gupta, MD, MPH
Health Officer

RG/lk