

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

PUBLIC HEARING/MEETING

MINUTES

JANUARY 15, 2019

PRESENT: James Hoddick, D.D.S.
Rob Free, Vice President, Food & Beverage, Buffalo Bisons
Baseball/Canalside/Outer Harbor
Dennis Galluzzo, RPh.
Maureen Montgomery, M.D.
Jonathan Daniels, M.D.
Legislator John Brusio

Via Teleconference:
Dianne Loomis, DNP, FNP

EXCUSED: Dr. Dunaif

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Gale Burstein, M.D. – Commissioner of Health
Jennifer Delaney, P.E. – Director, Environmental Health
Melanie Desiderio, Deputy Director, Environmental Health
Tom Muscarella, Senior Public Health Sanitarian, Environmental
Health

There was time allotted prior to the Erie County Board of Health meeting for a Public Hearing regarding revisions to the Erie County Sanitary Code. There were no interested parties present.

I. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 11, 2018 MEETING

The minutes from the September 11, 2018 meeting were reviewed and accepted as written.

II. APPROVAL OF SANITARY CODE REVISIONS

Dr. Hoddick asked for a motion to approve the revisions to the Erie County Sanitary Code as written. Dr. Daniels made the motion it was then seconded by Dr. Montgomery, the revisions were accepted as written. The revisions will be sent to the New York State Department of Health for their approval.

III. FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Rob Free told the Board that an RFP was sent out for a professional consultant. Amy Baskes Consulting from Ohio was selected. Jonathan McNeice at the Niagara Medical campus is her local partner who has worked with the FPC in the past. This group was at the top of the list because there was more than one person, has a broader national component, and is known throughout the FPC arena in the United States. It came down to two different groups out of nine total proposals that were made. The contract is in the legal department, but there have been some discussions with the consultant, and they look forward to finalizing the contract and moving forward. This firm has done work with FPC's in Columbus, Toledo, Ohio and Michigan as well.

The consultant asked the FPC to instate an Executive Committee, which they did, there now is a chair, a vice chair, and a recording secretary this now opens the lines of communication. They have already seen some streamlining and steps moving forward. There are also new members that will be joining the council in January. This is all possible through a \$30,000 grant from the United Way with a fifteen month contract

IV. COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

Dr. Burstein introduced Legislator Brusio to the BOH members. Everyone around the table introduced themselves to him.

Dr. Burstein spoke on opioids. She went on to say that there is anticipation as there is going to be under 200 opioid related overdose deaths in 2018. This is a decrease from 251 in 2017, and 301 in 2016. She felt there is significant headway being made. The ECDOH has received some federal awards to expand their response to an overdose project in Erie County from the CARA DOJ funding and one to expand in the eight surrounding counties from SAMHSA. The response overdose occurs when law enforcement responds to an overdose call before the EMT's, they resuscitate with Narcan. They then enter data into a program called High Impact Drug Trafficking area that works with the FBI to do a drug trafficking investigation. When law enforcement enters their report it goes into a program called OD map. Information is entered regarding the victim, demographics and location, and if Narcan was used and whether the person survived or not. This will show up in real time as a point in where the overdose response occurred. Someone from the ECDOH will be able to see this information and contact the police department that responded and obtain information about the victim. This is not HIPPA protected information because it is a police report. We will then give this information to a trained peer counselor who will contact the victim a day or two later to ask if they can talk to them regarding harm reduction and medication assisted treatment. This has been highlighted in the Cheektowaga area for about a little over a year with a great response. About 50% of the people contacted agreed to start medication assisted treatment, not all continued with it, there were some relapses. Upon observation in Cheektowaga their overdoses have plummeted. A lot of the "frequent fliers" were identified and placed into treatment. This program will be expanded to other police departments in Erie County. We will offer training to them beginning next month to get them onboard with OD maps.

An opioid mortality review board is also going to be started up to try and better understand the circumstances around a victim's overdose to see if there are any systems changes that we can make to prevent future overdoses. Dr. Hoddick mentioned that a few weeks ago there was an uptick in overdoses to which Dr. Burstein responded that there were five deaths over three days on a weekend, and until recently that was what we usually saw. She said that this was attributed to some bad product on the street, and that by Monday it was over.

Dr. Daniels said that the amount of deaths have decreased, but asked about the actual number of overdoses. To which Dr. Burstein replied that

our data is not as good on this, as the police departments vary in terms of their reporting; Buffalo and Cheektowaga Police have been the most consistent reporters and have seen decreasing trends. They are hoping that everyone gets onboard with the OD mapping we will have a stronger surveillance system with overdoses. 911 is not always called because individuals may have Narcan available in their homes.

Dr. Hoddick asked Dr. Burstein about flu vaccine matching up better this year. She replied that the CDC has not yet published their data as there has not been enough flu until recently to be able to look at that information. Across NYS the flu numbers have been high downstate for at least a month. There are smaller numbers to the west of the state. Dr. Burstein said that she checked in with ECDOH Epidemiology and the numbers are increasing. Pediatricians who are infectious disease vectors are saying they have not seen a lot of flu yet.

Dennis Galluzzo told the BOH that Cheryl Moore and Dr. Burstein brought to the Pharmacist's Association Board a proposal to help people that are transitioning from the ER that do not have insurance that they are able to receive a prescription from the Emergency Departments to start Suboxone . All the Emergency Depts. in Erie County are now able to do this. People that do not have insurance sometimes have to wait to get into recovery, so that suboxone is needed. The Pharmacists Association is working to obtain funding so that a program is created whereby we would give the patient a list of different pharmacies where they could go for suboxone that would be paid for through a grant. This program will be the first of its kind nationwide. Dr. Burstein said that this is actually a research project. A lower dose would be given to patients so that they do not experience withdrawal symptoms until they can make it into their long term prescriber.

Dr. Burstein also said that since 2018 we have been seeing an increasing number of Hepatitis A cases in the community. This has been occurring in the drug user and homeless community. We have attempted to target the homeless shelters, soup kitchens, bus station, methadone clinics etc. offering hep a vaccine. Some individuals are suspicious regarding government agencies or are already engaged into care and are not really interested. Many are diagnosed at drug treatment agencies, acute cases are being identified but there are some old cases where no pre or post exposure prophylaxis can be done on their contacts. In other areas of the US this has been out of control. To prevent this from happening in Erie County we are

working with methadone clinics to offer hepatitis A vaccine clinics for pre exposure prophylaxis. Two of the clinics said that they see about 800 patients per day, one of them has a total of 500 patients and see maybe 300 to 400 per day. The ECDOH will educate their staff and provide information and ask staff to provide us with peers to help sell it.

Dr. Hoddick asked if one dose provided indefinite coverage, to which Dr. Burstein responded that for life long coverage two doses should be given, 93-95% of people convert after one dose, but since this is a pre-exposure prophylaxis we are really just trying to get the first dose out.

V. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Dennis Galluzzo said that Dr. Burstein had e-mailed information regarding pharmacists' ability to do HIV testing and/or CLIA testing. He has discussed this with the NYS Pharmacists' Society, and they are asking the ECDOH to provide a memorandum of support. Dr. Daniels asked what would happen with follow up for a positive test. Dr. Hoddick responded that dentists have been doing these tests and that there is a set form and a referral basis in place for a definitive diagnosis. Dr. Montgomery had concerns on the CLIA testing parameters. Dennis said that he could develop a memorandum of support for the BOH. There was ensuing discussion on this matter.

There was also discussion regarding the shortages of the Shingrix vaccine.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 7, 2019 at 3:30 P.M. There was no additional business and the meeting was adjourned.

