

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2019

PRESENT: James Hoddick, D.D.S., President BOH
Rob Free, Vice President, Food & Beverage, Buffalo Bisons
Baseball/Canalside/Outer Harbor
Dennis Galluzzo, RPh.
Legislator John Brusco
Diane Loomis, DNP, FNP
Maureen Montgomery, M.D.

Via Teleconference:
Jonathan Daniels, M.D.
Matthew Dunaif, D.V.M.

ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Gale Burstein, M.D., Commissioner of Health

I. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM MAY 7, 2019 MEETING

Dr. Hoddick called the meeting to order. He asked if anyone had any corrections/revisions to the May 7, 2019 meeting minutes. There were none. The minutes were approved as presented.

II. FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Rob Free told the group that the FPC has hired a consultant. He distributed a Planning Project Updates document to the BOH members on the status of where they stand with the new consultant and re-tooling of the FPC. The consultant has given the FPC direction and the leadership that is needed. The document shows where we stand; in the plan there are measurables, and we are meeting the goals that have been set forth for the consultant which we will have for a little more than a year going into next spring. The goal is to have a FPC 3 to 5 year plan set by early next year. They have given themselves an extra couple of

months with the consultant in case we need to redefine what the goal is after the next BOH meeting in 2020, where Rob will bring the plan to the BOH for its approval. All in all they are ahead of where we were at this time last year or in the past. We have people that are committed now and have guidance.

They are also looking for new people to sit on the FPC, they have some stake holder seats that are open and are in the process of actively trying to find people to fill them. Dr. Hoddick asked what the plan was for leadership on the council in the future. Mr. Free said that after the consultant is gone the goal, and this is already in process, is to have a leadership structure. The FPC always had a chair, but never a vice chair, recording secretary, or treasurer. Now the foundation is set and people in those positions will facilitate the move from having a consultant to being on their own. He reiterated that all the positions are volunteers with terms. They are currently revamping the policies and procedures which includes the terms that were 2 years for stakeholders (those that are volunteers and not appointed), this has been changed to 4 years because we feel that if someone is up to volunteering and feels strongly 2 years is not quite enough to accomplish goals and if they are willing to do 4 years it shows that they are really committed. The response to this has been positive and some people have showed an interest already without having to go out and find more people. The FPC has been meeting every month to try and move things forward. There is a positive energy now and they seem to be going in a good direction.

After the consultant is gone there will be a leadership structure, The FPC has been meeting on a monthly basis to attempt to move things forward. There is now a positive energy going in a good direction. Mr. Free also had a listing of the urban farms in the area for the BOH members; they are all certified by the City of Buffalo.

III. LEAD LEGISLATION/COUNTY PARKS

Dr. Hoddick commented that lead legislation has been done and the county parks are being cleaned up. Legislator Brusco said that there was a special meeting of the EC Legislature where an action plan and an executive summary was asked for, it was accomplished and sent out to the Legislature. There was an issue at Ellicott Creek Park that was

looked into and the plan was revamped. Dr. Hoddick asked if there was a plan to look into all county properties for lead issues, he asked Legislator Brusco of give the BOH another update in January.

Dr. Burstein said that pre 1978 buildings were probably painted with lead-based paint, and that if there is any peeling or chipping involved it should be repaired.

IV. OLD/NEW BUSINESS

Dennis Galluzzo has retained his position on the immunization committee so that he would be close to what would be going on with standing orders etc. He has a home in Rushford now, there is a proposal to construct two six hundred foot tall wind turbines twelve hundred feet east, and twelve hundred feet west of his property. He is attempting to fight the turbines. He said that he is not against green energy, but is against them intruding on the health, safety and welfare of the people affected by them. NYS is a home ruled state, so that the small towns can enact laws and the state will not supersede them, so that the big wind company goes to the town board and asks them to enact legislation and in turn gives the town \$300,000 per year. He feels they are infringing on the people's property rights. He is non-participating as he did not sign a lease but his neighbors are putting two turbines that are going to upset his property value. The blades are over 300 feet long, and when the sun goes down they would create a shadow flicker. Mr. Galluzzo has given several speeches to the siting board as well as the town boards. All the county boards of health within western New York have recommended that baseline studies be done for wind turbines. Dr. Burstein said that the Western New York Public Health Alliance is involved. Mr. Galluzzo said that certain health studies were recommended, but none of this has been done.

Dr. Hoddick stated that perhaps constructing the turbines along established roads instead of private properties would be a more favorable approach. Mr. Galluzzo said that the NYS Electric Board has asked the commission to grant a 20% increase in electric bills. The reason being is vegetation management. All of the electric bills will increase by 20%. Mr. Galluzzo wanted to bring this matter to the attention of the BOH. He went on to say that other BOH's are totally aware of the health repercussions regarding this matter. Dr. Hoddick mentioned that the well

for the concrete that must be poured goes almost twice as deep as the turbine to keep the turbine stable, and that the vibration is equivalent of fracking. Mr. Galluzzo said that he spoke to the Chautauqua BOH documented that a woman committed suicide over the turbines. The goal is good for green energy, however there is a downside with getting rid of forest vegetation. Dr. Hoddick asked Mr. Galluzzo to put something together for the BOH to look at during the January meeting.

Dr. Dunaif asked what the language was that gave the BOH's any kind of input into this, and where it was available to see. Mr. Galluzzo said that they were getting information from the World Health Organization guidelines recommendations on infrasound. Mr. Galluzzo said that he had written articles that were published in various papers, he will present them to the BOH. He will e-mail information to BOH members regarding health and welfare of the people affected .

There was discussion initiated by Dr. Hoddick on the reappointment of five BOH members whose tenure will be up on December 31, 2019. They are James Hoddick, D.D.S., Matthew Dunaif, DVM, Robert Free, Maureen Montgomery, M.D. and Jonathan Daniels, M.D. All members agreed to reappointment for six years.

V. COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE

Dr. Burstein spoke of the vaping related pulmonary illnesses that have become prevalent in our communities. There have been over 450 cases reported nationally with 41 in New York State, and 14 in WNY. O'Shei Children's hospital has seen many of these cases where they are very ill and in the ICU and require oxygen. The NYSDOH has been a leader in the investigation and cause of this issue. They have been interviewing the cases and obtaining the vaping devices and juices used before they were ill; and they have tested them and what they have found is a common theme of cannabinoid products that contained THC that were purchased on the black market. When the NYS Public Health Lab tested it they found a high content of vitamin E acetate which is a known nutritional supplement that can also be used in skin cream. The problem is that it is fat soluble, so that it is probably causing a lot of inflammation when it is inhaled in the airway. When the cases that were admitted were worked up, there has been no infectious disease etiology related . Severe inflammatory reaction to the vitamin E or something inhaled is indicated.

The treatment being given is high dose steroids. People usually present with non-specific respiratory symptoms such as a cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, they could be hypoxic. They can also have GI symptoms such as diarrhea, vomiting, weight loss, also general malaise, tiredness and fever. So the CDC is recommending some high dose steroids to treat them. A health advisory will be released to health care providers and a press release to the community, also all of the school districts will be contacted to alert them and give them informational resources for their schools. The FDA is calling out Jewel and is demanding an investigation and information regarding their products as well as marketing techniques.

The NYSDOH and CDC have informational posters. Dennis Galluzzo asked about lymphoid pneumonia, Dr. Burstein said that they are talking about this also, however it is an inflammatory reaction not an infectious disease.

There was no other new business, The next meeting was scheduled for January 14 at 3:30 P.M. The meeting was then adjourned.

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