

# ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

## MINUTES

MAY 9, 2017

PRESENT: James Hoddick, D.D.S., President BOH  
Legislator Lynne Dixon  
Maureen Montgomery, M.D.  
Robert Free, Director, Food Operations, Buffalo Bison's Baseball  
Matthew Dunaif, DVM via teleconference

EXCUSED: Dennis Galluzzo, RPh.  
Dianne Loomis, DNP, FNP  
Jonathan Daniels, M.D.

### ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Gale Burstein, M.D., Commissioner, Erie County Dept. of Health  
Kelly Asher, Coordinator, Community Wellness

The meeting was called to order.

#### I. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM JANUARY 17, 2017 MEETING

The minutes from the January 17, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Dr. Hoddick asked if anyone had any addendums, additions or amendments to the minutes. There were none, the minutes were approved as written.

#### II. FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

Rob Free presented a set of operating principles of the Food Policy Council of Buffalo and Erie County to the BOH members. He then called upon Kelly Asher to introduce herself to the BOH. Kelly Asher told the members that she and Kelly Fletcher of the ECDOH are board members on the Food Policy Council. They started working with the council last June and assisted in putting together the operating principles and an MOU to be formalized so that there would be some structure within the council. Mr. Free mentioned that he has been involved with the Council since its inception. He said that bringing Kelly Asher and Kelly Fletcher onboard has been very helpful in keeping the council on point and getting a unified vision. Also to create guidelines moving forward so that when people transition off the council and new members come on there is a blueprint for what needs to be done and what has been done. The policy will be sent out to

and vegetables to the stores. They are trying to creatively make these things sustainable. Dr. Hoddick asked if they were picking up the food from farmer's markets or wholesalers. Kelly said that the African American Food Co-op has a farm with farm shares. The store owners will get together and purchase farm shares and take turns picking up and distributing to the stores. They will each take a turn so that it is sustainable and they are getting fresh foods at a good value so that they can re-sell it. Kelly said that an issue with the Healthy Corner store is they are focused with bringing fresh fruits and vegetables in, and then people were not eating the food. This is a big problem. They looked at how foods are being marketed and with SNAP requirements there are 84 foods increased from 24 that need to be in the store. They are being supplied with literature racks and instructed on food placement instead of just having refrigerators with fresh fruits and vegetables. Dr. Hoddick asked if anything can be done on educating the clientele of the corner stores. Kelly said they need an Ag and Markets representative on the council to help understand requirements on food demonstrations. Rob Free said that there is a grey area between Ag and Markets and EC Environmental Health. It is not really a caterer's license where you have food prepared and then you take it and demonstrate it. It is more of a farmer or local market getting product and sampling it to their customers. If there is a deli in the store the demonstrations can be done under their license. However a lot of the corner stores do not have their own deli's. It has been difficult trying to discern what the regulations are, so that the corner stores are not hindered with red tape on providing samples to customers.

Kelly Asher said that one of the working groups on the council is Education. They are working on ideas on how to reach out to people and to do some food and cooking demonstrations. They will also conduct trainings for store owners such as how to apply for SNAP, how to market products, food safety such as fruits and vegetables placement in relation to one another, etc. There is also a policy group that monitors policy. They look at policy that may affect the growers, the local producers, i.e. anything that will affect the food distribution system is looked at. For example their urban growers are looking for a letter of support to take to the Buffalo City Council. Dr. Hoddick thanked Kelly for all the information she passed onto the BOH.

### III. NEW/OLD BUSINESS

There was some discussion on how to resolve the Board vacancies for representatives from the Cities of Buffalo and Lackawanna. Lynne Dixon will look into this matter.

### IV. OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Dr. Burstein said that our Medical Examiner reported that in 2016 there are 293 confirmed fatal overdose cases and 9 that are still pending. So far for this year there are 100 pending and 40 confirmed deaths. They are getting in one case

BOH members that were not present for the meeting. Mr. Free also had an MOU for Dr. Hoddick to sign for the Board of Health members. Dr. Burstein signed the document as well as Cheryl Thayer who is the chair of the Food Policy Council. This will also be forwarded to members.

Dr. Burstein asked Mr. Free if all appointments had been made. To which he replied that are a few spots that they do not have candidates for. Kelly Asher said that a search is being conducted to fill those vacancies. One of which is attempting to get someone from the NYS Dept. of Ag and Markets. Lynne Dixon asked if anyone from Cornell Cooperative Extension was on board, to which Kelly Asher replied, Cheryl Thayer and Sara Jablonski are on the Council. Julie Barry from the EC Dept. of Environment and Planning is presently on the Council; and is very adept at helping direct things and pointing out issues that could affect environmental concerns. Mr. Free said there is good cross section of people presently on the Council. Kelly Asher said that there are no members from municipalities so they are looking for urban and suburban as well as food assistants. Dr. Burstein suggested reaching out to council members. Kelly Asher said that they are in the process of recruiting members as some of the current members are transitioning off this year. Ms. Asher is the chair of the recruiting committee and said that the makeup of the group was not well represented and was heavy in the stake holder seats and communities. Appointed seats are not elected they will be there for continuity. Everything else is elected.

Dr. Burstein asked for examples of projects that the Council is taking on. Mr. Free replied that there are three main issues that are happening now. He is the chair on how to obtain locally sourced fresh, healthy foods into schools. They created a survey that was sent out to school nutritionists, cafeteria people etc. to get feedback on what some of the challenges are. They will get user names and a data base will be created to find out what some of the problems are as well as the issues with schools not doing it. Those schools involved in obtaining healthy foods and using them will become case studies. We will get information from them and use them as a best practice plan on how to accomplish healthy foods in schools. There will be working groups under the standing committees so that someone who is not on the council would be able to come in and speak to this issue as a volunteer. They do not have the funds for staffing, but would have volunteers go from school to school and explain how it is working for them.

Kelly Asher said that the Council is also working with the Healthy Corner Stores initiative. One of their working groups is working with them trying to help iron out some of the problems and giving them direction. She went on to say that they also help them establish some operating principles and templates to figure out how they can move forward. They attended the Peoples Food Movement and observed that there are a lot of things being done in the community. Such as the African American Food Co-op; they are uniting them with the Healthy Corner Stores to get the food store owners to form a co-op (to buy a share in the co-op) and then they would take turns picking up the food and delivering the fresh fruits

a day at the Medical Examiner's office. They are seeing a lot of fentanyl and fentanyl derivatives. She went on to say that they are attempting to get people into medication assisted treatment. Last Saturday and Sunday a train the trainer program for Pediatricians in screening for substance abuse and brief intervention. This would include ECHO Clinic Model with motivational interviewing in helping the patient understand that they have a problem and then developing a plan, i.e. harm reduction to reduce or eliminate their use of drugs. Determining what the triggers are, what the environment is; and then if nothing else is done giving them positive reinforcement for not using drugs. For the screening part there are a lot of validated tools that can be used for a brief screening and questionnaire so that the provider can let the patient complete the questionnaire by themselves. The referral and treatment is someone who is identified that has severe substance abuse disorder or has not responded to behavioral intervention. If they want to get into care you can refer them into treatment, and then there is the opioid hotline. On Friday last week there was training for pediatric providers so that they could get certified to prescribe buprenorphine. We are now working on how to rule out those two initiatives and the SBIRT (Screening Brief Intervention Referral to Treatment) will be done through Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Primary Care. The Project Investigator is David Kay who is head of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at UB. This is a statewide initiative to help pediatric primary care providers integrate behavioral health into primary care. Pediatricians already look at them as a valued educational resource for behavioral health. This is how we are going to roll this out in Western New York and throughout the state. Your Care Health Plan has a grant to also implement SBIRT so we will be working with them to help roll it out here. They will be training Amherst and Tonawanda Pediatrics first. The training will probably be put into operation at the beginning of September. There will also be a role out with SBIRT for the adult health care providers. We are working with the Erie County Medical Society so we will be having a one hour dinner informational session in September to educate physicians regarding SBIRT so that it can be implemented in physician offices and then a 4 hour training to get certified in October. A licensed provider i.e., Nurse Practitioner, Physician Assistant or a mental health counselor can do the SBIRT, screening and a brief intervention under the supervision of a physician.

Dr. Hoddick asked Dr. Burstein how the hotline was coming along. She replied that it is getting busier. The hotline was implemented in August and they have had 2,000 calls so the numbers of calls have increased. We are working with the hotline, as they did not have the software to get other clinics aside from the major ones, so we are helping to get more clinics in as referral resources. Lynne Dixon told the group that there is a Health and Human Services Committee meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> where a person from Crisis Services who is running the hotline will be present. Tomorrow on the Education subcommittee of the task force we are meeting with the drug courts and the EC District Attorney. Dr. Burstein said that in the drug courts there are no standardized operating procedures. They are attempting to all be on the same page.

V.     FLU UPDATE

Dr. Burstein said the peak prevalence period for flu is over.

There was no other business. The next meeting was scheduled for September 12, 2017. A motion was made a motion to adjourn, Dr. Dunaif seconded the motion and the meeting was adjourned.

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