

CABELL-HUNTINGTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Board of Health Regular Meeting –October 23, 2013

Board Members Present:

Harriette Cyrus
Thomas Gilpin, Atty.
Greg Howard, Atty.
Omayma T. Touma, MD

Board Members Absent:

Sally Oxley, PT
Kevin Yingling, MD

Staff Members Present:

Harry K. Tweel, MD, FCCP
Tim Hazelett, Administrator
Stanley Mills, HHR Program Manager I
Kathleen Napier, DON
Jack Mease, Accountant
Elizabeth Ayers, PIO
Kay Dick, Secretary I
Jenny Erwin, RN
Chris Edwards, RN
Karen Hall-Dundas, Sanitarian Supervisor
Rodney Melton, Sanitarian Supervisor

Called to order at 5:00 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes for September 25, 2013 was made by Dr. Touma, seconded by Mr. Howard and passed. Mr. Gilpin asked for the minutes to be amended to include “and it would be considered” to the statement regarding the Sherills sending a letter to ask to attend a board meeting. A motion to approve the amendment was made by Mr. Howard, seconded by Dr. Touma and passed.

Environmental Health/Threat Preparedness:

Threat Preparedness: Mr. Mills stated two sanitarians attended the threat preparedness orientation to learn about the State’s threat preparedness plan. Two more sanitarians will attend next month. Fairs and festivals are winding down; there are only a few more this month and November. The HealthSpace computer program is still a learning process, but keeps getting better. Mr. Mills said a public health intern is working with Mr. Melton to try to establish risk based inspections. We will do more or less inspections depending on the history of the establishment and how much/what type food they serve and the populations that are being served. These will be more in-depth inspections. The goal is to eventually become paperless and be able to do all inspections electronically.

Environmental Health:

Mr. Mills gave a Power Point presentation on Mosquito Surveillance that was done by Dustin Mills this summer. There were 9,009 mosquitos collected for testing this year, compared to 5,026 in 2012. Only 11 out of 355 pools of water tested positive for West Nile Virus. There were no human cases of West Nile Virus in Cabell County in 2012 or 2013. Dr. Touma asked how many in West Virginia? Mr. Mills said

only 2 or 3 cases. Testing sites were based on citizen complaints and prior knowledge of mosquito activity. LaCrosse Encephalitis was found in 4 pools this year, but again, there were no human cases in Cabell County in 2012 or 2013. Positive outcomes from this surveillance project are: The property owner at Ferguson Tires removed the tires from the property; 9 ½ alley was cleaned by the City of Huntington, but will likely need to be cleaned again in 2014. PO Boys Tires will continue to be monitored for mosquito activity. A proposal governing mosquito control, based on what North Carolina uses, is being considered for use in our area. The question is, do we want it to be a Board of Health regulation, or try to get the City or County to pass it? There does need to be some way to help the health department enforce tire storage procedures. Mr. Gilpin asked if there was a trend in areas of mosquito concentration other than tire places? Mr. Mills said yes, behind Cox and Barbara Lanes in Cox Landing area there were some overgrown, clogged drainage ditches. The School Board cleaned up the vegetation and the mosquito numbers dropped. Mr. Gilpin asked if the Canine paralysis that is caused by ticks is reported to us by vets? Mr. Mills said yes, and as far as he knows, there was none reported this year.

Mr. Gilpin asked a follow up question regarding receiving grant funds; have we now received the other 9 months' funding, and what is happening with Putnam County? Mr. Mills said we received the extended grant today, and it has been signed and mailed back. Mr. Mills spoke with Jerry Rhodes, the director of the Center for Threat Preparedness, who asked him if there was an issue in Putnam County could we temporarily help cover it. Mr. Mills advised him yes, that will not be a problem. Mr. Mills said eventually Kanawha County Health Department will be taking over that program, but they told Mr. Rhodes they cannot do anything until they receive funding for it.

Mr. Mills said the e-cigarettes have been pushed hard in our area. Dr. Tweel said advertising has reported it is an effective method of smoking cessation, but studies have shown it is a supplement to smoking when in a non-smoking environment. By the end of this month the FDA is supposed to look at setting some type of regulation regarding quality control on the e-cigarettes. Dr. Touma asked if our City Council could be approached about making a non-smoking ordinance like Point Pleasant did regarding no smoking in public parks around childrens' playground areas. Dr. Tweel said he does not think our City Council will take on that project at this point in time.

Nursing:

Ms. Napier reported 3,703 flu shots have been given since September 27th, which is about 50% of our private stock ordered for this year. We participated in St. Mary's flu clinic and gave 500 flu vaccinations there. We have done several outreach flu clinics, a media flu clinic, and one is scheduled at a local church for the homeless population in our area. We will also be at the Huntington Mall 9am-4pm on November 11th, and we will be giving flu shots in our clinic Monday through Friday during the month of November.

Ms. Napier stated the clinic also has a public health intern who is working on updating STD statistics, which hasn't been done since 2009. Mr. Gilpin asked if there is an update regarding billing for immunizations? Ms. Napier said not really; but, we are being pushed by the state immunization program to bill for reimbursement, as all the insurance companies in WV are working with the public health partners to get set up to bill for immunizations. Dr. Tweel said he received notice from the State today asking if we want to become certified to do lab work that they have supported in the past. This is another instance of "our funding is being cut, so why can't you do it". Ms. Napier also said the State no longer covers Hepatitis C screening unless the person meets certain risk criteria, so we now have to charge \$17 for this screening, and we send the tests to Cabell Huntington Hospital's lab for processing. Dr. Tweel said hopefully there will soon be more than one treatment for Hepatitis C, which until recently had no treatment options.

Epidemiology:

Dr. Tweel reported there are currently 8 epidemiology regions in the state. Our region covers 9 counties. There is a 10 county region in the Eastern Central part of the state where there is no funding and the State wants the other regional epidemiologists to cover that area. Funding has been cut to the overall program so that there are barely enough funds to cover salaries.

Change The Future (CTF):

Mr. Hazelett said the program is beginning its 3rd year. Most of year two activities were centered on getting the healthy checkout initiatives up and running, which are doing well. The past 4 to 6 months have focused on community care and prevention services. This is not a quick process. Mr. Gilpin asked if year end expenditures were within budget? Mr. Hazelett said yes, the program is well under budget at this point.

Tobacco:

The tobacco report was accepted as submitted.

Public Information Officer:

Ms. Ayers reported she also has a public health intern working with her. His focus is an HIV grant that will be submitted in December. She showed the board members a Hepatitis B sign that will be distributed to physicians' offices and Marshall's campus. She also showed a video on Hepatitis B that we had produced. The video and signs will hopefully raise awareness of Hepatitis B. The other counties in our 9 county bundle team region want to adapt this video for their use also. We also hope the hospitals will utilize this video in their facilities. Dr. Touma said it was a very good video.

Financial Report:

Mr. Mease reported that for the month of September receipts exceeded expenditures by 92%, the majority of this came from the county levy. YTD receipts have exceeded expenditures by 16.7%. Mr. Gilpin asked for an explanation of the cost of flu vaccine paid to Sanofi, as well as a charge to our credit card for vaccine purchase. Ms. Napier explained that the credit card is used to purchase other vaccines, not flu.

Approval of Expenditures:

A motion to approve the invoices for September 2013 was made by Ms. Cyrus, seconded by Dr. Touma and passed.

Administration:

Dr. Tweel asked Tim Hazelett to give an updated report on the Board of Risk Insurance issues. Mr. Hazelett advised the report was submitted after last month's board meeting, but we have heard nothing in reply yet. We hope to have the 9 issues resolved by the first of the year. The one critical issue was installing the CO monitors, which has been done. Mr. Hazelett also said the installation of the clinic cameras is completed. The paging system still has a few issues to be worked out, such as the page going throughout the building, instead of just the 1st floor.

Mr. Hazelett also stated the repairs to the west wall of our building should start soon. Mr. Gilpin asked if the scope of the repairs has been resolved. Mr. Hazelett said yes, the figure quoted earlier includes all repairs.

The problem we had with losing funding from Federal grants has been resolved. He commended those involved with completing the required paperwork in a timely manner

Dr. Tweel spoke about legislative changes that are coming up. One such instance is if anything regarding a grant brings up a question, such as a signature in the wrong place, then funding is immediately stopped to that agency. Another issue is funding for local health. Studies done in 2007 show public health funding in WV is in crisis, with WV being ranked at the bottom of the 7 lowest states in the United States. Over 1/3 of the health departments in WV are in crisis, and a few are in danger of closing. The State is not going to include us in the 7.5% across-the-board cut that other agencies are facing.

Dr. Tweel also mentioned the new HIPAA law that covers confidentiality of electronic medical records and electronic transfer of records. We are looking at ways to address these new regulations.

Dr. Tweel stated we are looking at applications for a nurse practitioner and the open positions with the Change the Future program. Hopefully these positions will be filled before the next board meeting.

Mr. Gilpin asked about the report that Carl Hadsell was to present to the board this month. Ms. Ayers said the planning team is working to get our organizational chart structure and our strategic goals finalized. These are to be presented by the planning team and Mr. Hadsell to the Board at the November meeting.

Mr. Hazelett had 3 more issues to report on: 1.) the generator has an oil leak which renders it non-functional. The cost to correct this will be quite large, whether for repairs or replacement. Hopefully there will be more information by the November Board meeting; 2.) He said we have established a great rapport with the Marshall School of Public Health. This will be a continuing program; 3.) He commended Ms. Napier and Ms. Ayers with making necessary changes regarding the flu clinics, as we received some comments from the public stating there was insufficient advertising done to promote flu clinic information.

Mr. Gilpin asked if there was any more business. There being none, the Board convened to executive session at 6:10 p.m.

The Board reconvened to regular session at 6:17 p.m. and adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry K. Tweel, MD, FCCP
Secretary

Approved:

Thomas H. Gilpin, Chairman
Cabell-Huntington Board of Health