



**Delaware County Health Department
Board of Health Meeting
November 3, 2022**

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

Rosemarie Halt, Chair
Lily Higgins, MD, Vice Chair
Oni Richards
Annemarie Hirsch
P.J. Brennan, MD - virtual

- I. There being a duly convened quorum, Chair Rosemarie Halt called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Made announcement there was a Board of Health Executive Session held October 20, 2022 to discuss personnel issues.

- II. Public comment on the agenda items:
 - a. Angela Walker, Hamilton Rd. – Quarantine and isolation. I bring your attention to NY State vs. the Governor where isolation was struck down. No proof in the regulation. Do not infringe on our rights in the name of public safety. Quarantine & Isolation are illegal and unconstitutional; please choose something else to focus on.
 - b. Kristy Perry, West Wayne Ave. – Quarantine and isolation is illegal; it is also what the Nazi's did – does anyone need to say more? It's been over 2 years since all the Covid measures were imposed on us, nothing worked, the virus went ahead and infected many. Pfizer admitted it would not stop transmission. Why are we focusing on quarantining and isolation? Not only did vaccinations not work, it caused harm. Please do not infringe on our rights in the name of public safety.

- III. Approval of minutes: Rosemarie Halt made the motion to accept the September 1, 2022 meeting minutes. Approved by; Lily Higgins; seconded by Annemarie Hirsch. Motion passed unanimously.

- IV. Board Updates
 - a. Director Lyon provided an operational update on DCHD:
 - i. My report on Isolation and Quarantining is driven to be educational; hoping this will be informational. It is not specific to Covid; how it's been utilized in public health historically and how it's used now. TB, Whooping cough, and approximately 70 other reportable diseases. Need to have isolation so they are not infectious to others. Public Health is responsible to assist infected or exposed persons to prevent the spread of communicable/infectious disease.
 - ii. BOH 2023 meeting schedule for January, March, June, September, December approved by Lily Higgins, seconded by Oni Richards.

 - b. **Question: How to catch the diseases early to get them to treated early; provide education.** Talking about a way to quarantine and isolate. Example – world outbreaks of Ebola in West African countries; if a traveler from an endemic area returns to the U.S., there is screening process and the returned travelers are put on a monitoring list. Health department is responsible for monitoring and use a robust questionnaire to determine exposure risk and ask if they'll

monitor their symptoms for 21 days. Quarantine and isolation is always done in collaboration with individuals exposed or identified with a communicable disease.

V. New Business

- a. Board has received Division reports, any questions from the Board? One question had been asked via email regarding EMR. We are in the process of evaluating EMR systems; not well-priced for public health depts, mostly health systems. Investigating and doing due diligence for efficacy and price.
- b. No further questions on Divisional reports.

Questions from Dr. Brennan:

- ***STI report represents case counts through August?*** It is only for the month of August.
- ***There were 50 cases of syphilis in the month of August, are we making progress on this?*** These are the counts of closed cases; 28 are still open; closer to 78 cases. Progress will be looked at over time; just gained access to the data. Nationally, syphilis is on the rise.
- ***Are we capturing TB in Delco on reporting to the Health Department?*** Every provider reporting appropriate; yes, DCHD is capturing TB, we have a lot of options to provide treatment.

Question from Chair Halt: PA has issued HANS; looking at STD in general, are we doing work in the community to educate? Currently, DCHD is spending the most effort on diagnosing than treatment; try to identify partners and reach out. Prevention side: all funding sources require us to do prevention. We're just starting to be able to get into the community. The free condoms mailed will start soon. Do not have to come into a site to pick them up. DCHD is still in development; we're in our 7th month of doing this work.

Educating medical providers. Trying to find providers in the community; they are busy. Asking them how they're screening, taking preventative measures, etc. Also offering pregnancy testing and STI screenings.

Reply from Stephanie Reese, Administrator Personal Health; syphilis recently has come up. State seeing congenital syphilis; one had no prenatal care; one found in 3rd trimester. Maternal and Child Health team is making sure they're staying in touch with the community.

How are we tracking testing STDs? Once tested, eligible for treatment there on site. If test positive, we call them back in for treatment and hopefully they know who their partners are to come in for testing.

Rate of return to get treatment? High rate, about 98-99 percent come in for treatment; partners are hesitant. Keeping track of this data.

Question from Dr. Brennan: Have we had cases of mosquito born, West Nile viruses this year? Yes, West Nile. Director Lyon can get the numbers to Dr. Brennan. There is a grant for mosquito control, Program Manager on leave; will we be able to resume in the spring. Grant dollars are available, just submitted grant proposal for approval. Part of Environmental Health Division will have multiple individuals trained for the Mosquito Control Program.

What areas of county most susceptible to West Nile? Areas where mosquito pools are identified are most susceptible. There are 49 municipalities in the county; the website has notification of where and when spraying is taking place and reschedule if rain in forecast.

Monkeypox – not seeing much, is it stable? Numbers are through laboratory reporting. Anyone with monkeypox symptoms would be going for treatment; monkeypox is still present in the community.

RSV, influenza season starting early; RSV looks like will be hitting hard. Will find out the numbers on RSV and pneumonia. Important to consider infectious, communicable spread; children and adults can die from RSV, vaccinations are important. Flu shots available at the Health Department; no charge for flu vaccine.

Have we considered charging people with insurance to cover it? DCHD has been operational for 7 months. DCHD will consider all billing options in the future.

Are you comfortable with the way grants are being tracked? All reported grants are ones offered to DCHD, beginning July 1. We have been billing and money will be flowing. Will be pursuing additional grants but need to build more administrative support.

VI. Public Comments

Bill McIntire, 205 Cherry Hill Lane, Broomall: Stay home if sick. Remind employees of benefits of sick employees staying home. Employees shouldn't fear they'll be fired. If the DCHD can provide Public Announcement on common sense things, that would be helpful.

Patti McIntire, 205 Cherry Hill Lane, Broomall: Vaccines, like any other drug, has risks associated with them; need to think about them. Thank you for discussing isolation and quarantine, talked about tests and early treatment. During pandemic, went to a forum where doctors were begging to use hydroxy chloroquine and ivermectin. Told not to prescribe it, feels it wrong. Mosquito control - is it sprayed over our homes? Director Lyon replied "No, many areas being sprayed are remote or hard to reach access area. Notifications go out to the communities 72 hrs. in advance. Information on the website. It is not our go-to strategy; it's eliminating standing water, high risk areas. Prefer to do larvicide, not hazardous".

VII. Board of Health Chair, Rosemarie Halt, thanked everyone for their comments. Board of Health members and Director Lyon had no comments. Motion was made to adjourn; seconded by Annemarie Hirsch and was approved by Oni Richards.

Next Meeting January 5, 2022

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa C. Lyon, MPH, CPH
Board Secretary