



**Delaware County Health Department  
Board of Health Meeting  
January 5, 2023**

**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 December 5, 2022.
- II. Public comment on the agenda items: None
- III. Approval of minutes: Rosemarie Halt made the motion to accept the November 3, 2022 meeting minutes. Approved by; P.J. Brennan; seconded by Lily Higgins. Motion passed unanimously.
- IV. Board Updates
  - a. Director Lyon provided an operational update on DCHD. Proud to announce that DCHD has received positive press about one-year update reaching high-level successes throughout the year.
    - i. Covid surge post-holiday; have not seen surges, possibly because of public health preventions in collaboration with health systems, creating natural immunity, behavior changes (wearing masks), free testing has improved and not exceeding demand. Moving into a more manageable place.
    - ii. Prior to the establishment of the DCHD the Community Health (Needs) Assessments (CHA) were done regionally or topic specific as needed. The DCHD will develop a comprehensive community health assessment that will include primary and secondary data, a community partner assessment, and community survey. The Epidemiology team is the lead. Accountability is in place and an internal workgroup and steering committee with stakeholders and partners will be part to be apart of the execution and implementation of the process. The CHA is one of the pillar documents for the public health department. DCHD will use the CHA to function as a Chief Health Strategist for the community based upon data-driven prioritization and decision making.
    - iii. Division Goals
      1. **Environmental Health:** Continue to collaborate with PA Department of Environmental Protection to build the on lot sewage program in conjunction with the Environmental Health Sewage Enforcement Officer (SEO). Collaborating with epidemiology on a more refined GIS mapping with the goal of developing more efficient regions to increase workflow, minimize vehicle travel and establish the ability to rotate Environmental Health Specialists throughout several regions.
      2. **Personal Health:** Working to start immunization video production to promote vaccination in the county as part of the immunization grant workplan. Planning a doula training program; DCHD will participate in newly forming county Maternal Child Health Committee.

3. **Epi:** Looking forward to being in the community and completing the Community Health Assessment (CHA).
4. **Population Health:** Continue to work with community partners, agencies and healthcare institutions to address COVID 19 response and broader community health concerns. Build out PHEP (Public Health Emergency Preparedness) with counter measures and MRC (Medical Reserve Counterparts).
5. **Administration:** Continue creating policies and procedures to implement management framework.

V. New Business

- i. Each Administrator will present at a Board of Health Meeting. Stephanie Reese, Personal Health Administrator, presented to the Board.

**Questions from the presentation:**

**What is the Covid eligibility criteria?** There is a different set of criteria that is offered free of cost. Flu vaccine is administered through VFC or 317 if qualify; if not, comes from private purchase stock.

**What will happen when federal government decides not to provide Covid vaccine, as they have indicated?** We will follow the state on what they will do; sometimes they pick up the cost or request minimal fee payments. We would have to explore private stock but have not done a deep dive on that yet.

**Lead: How are we getting the lead results?** Levels are reported from a laboratory. **What about home inspection/remediation?** Done through the Department of Human Services; receive lead funding through the state. **How do we follow up with the family affected?** Reported to PADOH on perinatal Hep B reports are managed through the state. **Should education be provided to providers to DCHD or PADOH?** DCHD is providing education while building relationships. Making strides in reporting and identifying; providers are now reaching out to DCHD. DCHD nurse is making connections with the providers.

**Is DCHD hiring their own doula services?** Not now. Program still in development.

**Communicable disease: How are outbreaks, surveillance, and management handled?** DCHD monitors and surveil the affected/identified person. **How many Ebola Endemic Area travelers have you had to follow?** Five have completed monitoring; 1 active monitoring.

**Do you separate infection from TB?** Yes, we separate them; state does not require treat or report for Latent Tuberculosis infections (LBTI). **What do the numbers look like in Delco?** Active Tuberculosis is 9. **How does DCHD do in-person therapy for first 2 weeks?** Nurse goes out for the first two weeks then transitions to telemed. **Is there any time you might transition someone from telemed (V-DOT)?** Would need to go to the home until we get compliance from them.

**How do you communicated to people who are experiencing language barriers?** Currently, DCHD uses Language Line services or nonformal translators. DCHD is looking to expand services. **Are we given data to find out where these community pockets are?** BOH will be briefed regularly so there is qualitative and quantitative data. **What are we using to collect the data.?** Will have Epi team at the next BOH meeting to discuss. **Is there a plan for country of birth, data,**

**language, demographic data?** Can be pulled by PA NEDS. When EHR is implemented, DCHD will have better capacity to pull that information.

ii. Questions about Division Reports

1. Request from Epi for breakdown; helpful to have information on the populations and what the numbers mean. Epi is working on it and will provide additional context.
2. Call Center has taken 7,000+ calls for Environmental Health; making excellent work in inspections. All necessary inspections have been completed for this year.
3. Division reports become public record and are part of the minutes.

VI. Public Comments

**Bill McIntire, 205 Cherry Hill Lane, Broomall:** commented on presentation slide regarding rabies and would like education for the public that it is not just dogs that carry rabies.

Board remarks, comments:

- Public has lost sight of the significance of vaccines. There was a significant outbreak of measles in Ohio. The programs we have in place here are wonderful; push public education on import of vaccinations.
- The Administrators have done a great job for the first year of the Health Department existence. Really good work has been done in a short period of time.

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 March 3, 2023

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa C. Lyon, MPH, CPH  
Board Secretary