

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
February 25, 2008
5:00 P.M.
ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PRESENT:

Paul F. Burroughs, Esq., Chair
Sant Ram, MD

IN ATTENDANCE:

Andy Glass
Charlotte Berringer
Karen Tobin
Rich Knecht
Janet Vogt
Darlene Wawrejko

Carol Loll
Pam Brunner

GUEST: Nettie Smith

I. Call To Order: Chairman, Paul Burroughs, welcomed board and guests. Minutes for December 17, 2007 were not approved due a lack of quorum.

- Guest Nettie Smith, Executive Director of the PartnerSHIP for a Healthy Community was introduced by Director Andrew J. Glass. Nettie presented an overview of the organization, whose three main funding partners are the Erie County Dept. of Health, the Erie Community Foundation, and the Northwest PA Area Health Education Center. Additionally, support from community partners exceeds 150 Erie County agencies. A Strategic Plan is in the development stages and should be finalized in July 2008.

II. Director's Report:

- Department Organization – Review of the powers and duties of the Board of Health, Department, and the Director according to the “Local Health Administration Law Act 315” and the “General Provisions”:

Board of Health: Five county residents appointed by Co. Executive, two must be licensed physicians; Chairperson elected annually; Director is secretary; Board appoints Director; Board advises Director; Board formulates rules and regulations.

Dept. of Health: Execute powers (of the state); Employ personnel; Prevent or remove conditions detrimental to health; Cooperate with hospitals and community; Make and enforce rules of Co. Health Dept.; Receive state grants; Supply environmental services to county.

Health Director: Administer department; Employ personnel; Enter and inspect, enforce rules and regulations; Abate nuisances.

There are only 10 local health departments within Pennsylvania; six county and four city.

- Duties and Responsibilities of the Board – Board is an advisory Board to the Director. Board adopted Regulations/Resolutions are presented to County Council and acted upon by a Council approved Ordinance.
- Board will assist Director with Tires-To-Energy Plant review of the feasibility and impact on community health by enlisting advice and counsel from area health experts. Contact will be made to area representatives for comments and research results in relation to the proposed Tire Plant.
- Board will provide assistance with marketing strategies to support the recognition of the performance and outreach of services provided by ECDH to the residents of Erie County.
- Bylaws of the EC Health Board will be reviewed and updated if necessary.

III. Board Updates:

A. Administration:

- Strategic Plan: ECDH managers will work with staff to address the ten Essential Public Health Services which reflect departmental goals and objectives.

B. Public Health Preparedness:

- MRSA: ECDH staff is disseminating information to the public via: 1) Public forums at Blasco Library – each session was filmed and videos are available; 2) ECDH website updated regularly with the latest information, www.ecdh.org; 3) Collaboration with Association for Professionals in Infection Control (APIC); 4) Purchase of 5,000 handwashing signs distributed to area hospitals, organizations, and schools; 5) Speakers available; and 6) ECDH in-take nurse relays information.

C. Environmental:

- Tire to Energy: Brief discussion noting potential health effects of the proposed plant and the proposed location. The Board agreed to form an ad-hoc committee to research the issues and prepare comment.
- Tattoo Regulations: ECDH environmental staff have inspected and licensed eleven (11) establishments in Erie County with Certificates of Compliance posted at each. ECDH is considering the possibility of a need for temporary guidelines for *temporary* tattoo vendors who will provide tattooing services to the public at Erie area community events.

D. Fiscal/Information Technology (IT):

- Sources and Uses of Funds: Proposed budget to County Council for 2008 reflected that 86% revenue for ECDH is received from grants, reimbursements thru Acts 315, 537 & 12, fees and donations; with only 14% of the overall budget from Erie County tax-payers dollars. Of the Act 315 funds received, 74% are non-general fund monies. For every \$1 County dollar spent, \$6 is returned in services. ECDH employs 85.5 full-time staff.

ECDH website stats reflect that 22,820 hits were received at www.ecdh.org in 2007. Over the past 3 years, visits to the ECDH website have quadrupled.

IV. Election of Officers:

- Paul Burroughs, Esq., was voted Chairperson and Richard A. Ortoski, DO was voted Vice-Chairperson. Election process: Reza Nassiri, D.Sc., nominations by proxy – P. Burroughs as Chair and R. Ortoski, as Vice-Chair; Richard A. Ortoski, DO nominations by proxy – P. Burroughs as Chair and R. Ortoski as Vice-Chair; Johnie M. Atkinson nominations by proxy – P. Burroughs as Chair and J. Atkinson as Vice-Chair; Paul Burroughs, Esq., present at meeting nominated P. Burroughs as Chair and R. Ortoski as Vice-Chair; Sant Ram, MD present at meeting abstained from voting.

V. New Business:

- Beef Recall: Environmental staff are working directly with USDA to destroy the recalled beef from local schools. Staff physically denatured the beef with bleach if there is less than 50 cases. For 50 or more cases, staff watch as the beef is disposed of at the landfill. Seven area schools were in possession of the recalled beef.
- Computerized Inspections: ECDH environmental staff will soon begin completing their restaurant inspection reports online using portable laptop computers. The online reporting program was developed by Garrison Enterprises who has also been contracted to develop online inspection programs for swimming pools, mobile home parks, and camp grounds. In the near future, these inspections results will be viewable live on the ECDH website at www.ecdh.org

VI. Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela K. Brunner, Recording Secretary

The next Health Board meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.