



**Delaware County Health Department
Board of Health Meeting
September 7, 2023**

ATTENDEES

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

Meeting Minutes

- I. There being a duly convened quorum, Chair Rosemarie Halt called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.
- II. Chair Announcements
 1. Announcement there was a Board of Health Executive Session held August 24, 2023.
 2. Announcement of the Maternal and Child Health program will be published.
- III. Public comment on the agenda items: None
- IV. Approval of minutes: Rosemarie Halt made the motion to accept the July 1, 2023 meeting minutes, including Divisional Reports. Approved by Annemarie Hirsch, seconded by Lily Higgins. Motion pass unanimously.
- V. Director Updates – Lora Werner, Deputy Director
 1. Brief update Department of Labor – Abstract
 - i. Two congressionally directed projects being administered by DCHD:
 - a. Delaware County Doula/Birth Companion Training and Mentorship Program, funded through the U.S. Department of Labor (\$954,000, 3-year project). Through partnerships with community-based organizations, this program will increase the number of doulas/birth companions serving birthing people. Doulas who receive doula training/mentoring will also work towards certification through the Pennsylvania Certification Board. Increasing PCB certification will increase the long-term sustainability of the provision of doula professional services in Delaware County, which will in turn improve maternal and child health outcomes. Initial abstract submitted on 7/12/23; DOL requested revisions. Worked with partners and updated abstract submitted on 8/18/23; approved by DOL on 8/21/23.
 - b. Delaware County Health Department Health Equity Resource Improvement Initiative, funded through US HHS HRSA (\$1,750,000, 1 year project). This project will support initiatives by DCHD to provide direct, equitable public health service across the County, with a focus on the areas of greatest need. The project will have three components, including information technology, support for our mobile health unit, and enhanced lead testing and outreach (including expanding point of care lead testing in healthcare provider offices and building capacity in the county for in home environmental lead screening with an XRF via a partnership with DES). Full grants.gov application submitted on 7/27/23, and NOA provided on 8/30/23. We now have until

9/30/23 to submit additional documentation to HRSA and are working on gaining access to HHS' payment management system to access the funding.

2. Opioid Settlement

- i. DCHD is administering two Delco Opioid Settlement Projects
 - i. Delco Revive (\$137,000 through 12/31/23)
 1. Increasing Access to Naloxone via the Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND)
 2. Increasing skill set of Delco residents to respond in the even to a life threatening emergency through the provision of Hands Only CPR & Stop the Bleed training
 - ii. Deterra Drug Disposal (\$1 million through 12/31/23)
 1. Contracting with Deterra to distribute drug disposal pouches in Delaware County in 2023. The pouches allow for safe medication disposal at home and will include a customized postcard with a greeting from the county and health education information about medication safety and opioid harm reduction.

3. Fall Immunization Plans

- i. Wednesday 8/23 and Saturday 8/26, DCHD partnered with Springfield Pharmacy to conduct two very successful Back-to School Immunization clinics in Yeadon - vaccinating 30 children on Wednesday night and 40 children on Saturday
- ii. Planning 3 community drive through flu vaccination clinics for mid/late October
 - i. Tuesday 10/17 10:00 AM- 2:00 PM: Broomall Fire Company
 - ii. Thursday 10/19 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM: Tinicum Fire Company
 - iii. Sunday 10/22 12:00 PM- 4:00 PM: Yeadon
- iii. Tuesday 10/10, at 10-1: DCHD/Keystone First Special Seniors-Focused Vaccination Event (Keystone First Wellness & Opportunity Center, 1929 W 9th St, Chester, PA 19013). Special event offering not only flu but additional vaccines for the older population such as pneumococcal and shingles
- iv. Continuing to offer our routine adult and child immunization clinics in Yeadon and Chester for uninsured/underinsured adults and children; for fall will also allow for anyone from Delco to get a flu shot (COVID booster TBD)
 - i. Select Mondays in Chester
 - ii. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in Yeadon; afterhours on select Wednesdays and Saturdays in Yeadon

Questions: Will Covid boosters be given? Planning on using for the underinsured and uninsured. Private pharmacies will receive vaccine first. DCHD won't be able to offer all of the community free of charge. Messaging to go out to reminding residents insurance, including Medicaid and CHIP will cover the cost.

Question: Regarding Delco Revive, Philadelphia had training for school nurses. Will DCHD be doing that for Delco? The DCHD School Nurse Liaison is talking with some school nurses; not all school districts are interest in having Narcan available.

Questions: Does DCHD get a break on the cost of vaccines? We do not. We have some discounts on medications, but we pay full price on vaccines. DCHD is not set up to process claims for reimbursement.

Question: Is the county offering support for the lead program?

VI. New Business

i. Environmental Health Presentation

Question: Any plan to do tick-borne illness tracking? Haven't heard any movement toward that. Tick season ended a few weeks ago, but still classifying through the fall.

Question: Are food inspections a surprise or announced? Unannounced, but new facilities are scheduled.

Question: Does DCHD do any wastewater testing for Covid or other contaminants? The County or DCHD does not currently test wastewater for Covid. Ongoing testing is conducted by the state at one location in Delaware County, and through an academic partnership at the Chester wastewater site.

Question: Food inspection reports by DCHD are public now? Residents didn't have access to the reports prior to DCHD; now the public is informed.

ii. Community Health Assessment Update – Bree Agett

a. Presentation

b. Moving forward with a Community Health Plan in November/December

c. BOH members were asked if interested in participating in a focus group. They agree and will receive information on the focus group.

d. Questions about Division Reports - None

VII. Public Comment

Cariss Croaker, 335 Concord Rd. Did the members of the board take an oath of office when coming onto the Board? The oath is required by state law and requires you to uphold the Constitution of the USA and State. A copy of the Bill of Rights was passed out to the BOH members.

Bill McIntyre, 215 Cherry Hill Lane, Broomall. The green spaces are being over inhabited by plan species and create an environment where mosquitos breed. There seems to be more species of mosquitos now. Can you partner with other groups to avoid so many mosquitos?

Patty McIntyre, 215 Cherry Hill Lane, Broomall. Concerned about what was said about fall immunizations. Please remember they are a drug like anything else; keep that in mind; not for everyone. There are exemptions. Feels the immunizations have gotten worse. Son experienced medical reaction with vaccinations; parents should be told. There is talk about the new virus in the news; hope we are never forced to get immunized.

Jamie Merwin, 13 Front St., Upland. Appreciated the Environmental Health presentation and options for exploration in future with EH changes; thinks this will be important for future. Already some groups focusing on environmental injustice. She is a social worker in Delco, feels there's a lot of mental health disparities. If funding and money coming in, hope we can increase funding for mental health. Screening people more but need services for public health and mental health and other concerns.

VIII. Motion to adjourn; approved by Annemarie Hirsch, seconded by Rosemarie Halt.

Next meeting is December 7, 2023 at the DCHD Yeadon site. There will be public notice of the location.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa C. Lyon, MPH, CPH

DRAFT