



**Delaware County Health Department
Board of Health Meeting
March 21, 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 6:01 p.m.
- II. Chair Announcements
 1. A Board of Health Executive Session was held on March 5.
 2. Congratulations to Fair Acres for opening three newly renovated floors. Thank you for all the work you're doing for the residents.
- III. Public Comment: None
- IV. Approval of January 18 Board of Health minutes motion by PJ Brennan with public comment having two edits. Susan Copper to make the corrections. Approved by Oni Richards, seconded by PJ Brennan.
- V. Director Updates
 1. Realignment
 - a. County Personnel Board approved the realignment. DCHD worked with Strategic Versatility and Board of Health on strategy to structure a realignment. The realignment will enable DCHD to build a strong system that can support accreditation and pursue a Public Health 3.0 model. The Public Health Infrastructure Grant funding award gave DCHD the opportunity to build this out. The realigned positions fulfill the organization chart shared previously and will be shared with DCHD staff.
 2. Community Health Assessment Public Comment Period
 - a. Shout out to DCHD staff who worked on the data, analyzing, and figuring out how to propose the data. Hoping to have public comments up soon and will be included in the CHA and tied to the webpage for the CHA. Director Lyon stated this is a living document and will be updated as this is our first one ever.
 - b. Program plan has been finalized today. The Program Plan, required by the PA Department of Health (PADOH), demonstrated eligibility for Act 315 and Act 12 for state aid funding. Submitting to PADOH with narrative regarding what each division is doing. DCHD is different than other counties due to the still goal setting; due to the state April 5.
 - c. DCHD will be celebrating their 2nd year anniversary on April 2, 2024, which is also Public Health Appreciation Week. DCHD will have activities that week promoting the celebration and giving back to the community. Details to follow.
- VI. Presentations
 1. Cancer Rate Disparities, Dr. Victor Alos Rullan
 - a. Root cause of inequities; systematic difference in opportunities; structural inequities, racism, sexist, homophobia. Define root cases as complicated and evolving.

Question: did you look at screening rates of women? Didn't look at screenings, looked at mortality but will look at screening rates. Complicated to get data regarding local screenings.

Question: Screening ages are up to 64 yrs. old, but chart is up to 80 yrs. old. Should we be considering later years as well? Victor will investigate it; screening rates and outcomes are according to age.

b. Board of Health Member Oni Richards stated women aren't eligible for mammograms until 40+ yrs. Black women often have denser breast tissue and need screening earlier. Aggressive cancer found in younger black women. 1991-2021 chart curious as to why we see such a large discrepancy, the medication isn't always working for black women vs. white women. Breast cancer is being diagnosed in later stages in black women. Dr. Alos Rullan referred to slide 1991-2021, which highlights quality improvement, however, improvement in 2021 is not as significant in black women. Speaks to the need for research. This could lead to an opportunity to advocate for changes in best-clinical practices for breast cancer diagnosis.

Rosemarie Halt, Chair, pointed out DCHD is doing mammograms with Jefferson Health System.

Question: Are black women being prescribed different drugs than white women? Having more free screening would help. Working with Jefferson, to identify access barriers and remove identified barriers to screenings.

c. Board of Health Member Dr. Lily Higgins stated she would like to see zip codes where black women live. Wherever you find poverty you will find a lot of illnesses, happens around the world, not just here. The mammogram van is at Yeadon on April 5 and requires pre-registration.

d. Presentation attached.

2. Quarterly Infectious Disease Report Out, Jordan Martin

a. Reported every quarter, the presentation is cumulative of all the reports.

Question: Downward trend with chlamydia, not as good with gonorrhea, they are usually consistent. Looks like they were not dually diagnosed.

Question: Looks like spikes for chlamydia and gonorrhea spike in the summer.

Anything we can do? Spike in March for Hep D, do you know what was happening at that time? We'd have to go back and look at the data. Sometimes there is a data lag; could be many different things.

Question: Regarding the Vaccine-preventable diseases slide, remarkable there are few reported cases since chicken pox vaccine 30 years ago. Are many of the diarrhea diseases foodborne diseases? Did you find any food related diseases? There were 4 cases of meningitis: one meningitis aseptic. We do a very thorough investigation. Seeing some breakthrough cases with vaccinations, though vaccines continue to minimize illness symptoms. Unable to identify links between meningitis cases with the available information.

b. Feeling good about the measles cases in Delco, no cases in 2023. 1 case of measles in 2024. PADOH putting Primary Care Providers on alert.

Question: Are we following up to see if cases are following up on their treatment? We educate on treatment and call the PCP to seek treatment. Hep C testing is now best clinical practice and therefore we see higher numbers.

c. **Question: Is DCHD seeing more cases of pneumonia in 2024?** DCHD hasn't seen cases and not seen anything recent.

d. Presentation attached.

VII. New Business

1. Mission, Vision, and Values

- a. As part of the strategic plan, the Board came up with a revised statement.
- b. A slide presentation on former and new statements was shown. Motion made by Rosemarie Halt on new mission statement, approved by P.J. Brennan and seconded by Lily Higgins.
- c. No changes were made; Chair Halt stated the mission is much more streamlined and connects to the staff. It is actionable, which drives the mission.
- d. New Mission, Vision and Value statement passed.

VIII. Public Comment

1. Carris Coaker, Concord Township. It is a given you're engaged in this work. Believes Board has the best of intentions. Items mentioned about concerns in breast cancers. Aware of a drastic rate of cancers where PCPs are calling it turbo cancers. Stated that data is being concealed connected to those that have had an increase with Covid shot and increased with booster.
2. John Campbell, address not disclosed. Missing in the presented data is encouragement to take Vitamin C and exercise. Encouraged Board to look into this data on YouTube. Stated how devastating government and tyranny can be and hopes Board will reconsider taking the same steps as with the pandemic.

IX. Motion to adjourn made by Chair Rosemarie Halt; approved by Lily Higgins, seconded by P.J. Brennan.

Next meeting is June 20 in the 7th floor Large Conference Room at Baldwin Tower, 1510 Chester Pike, Eddystone, PA. There will be public notice of the location.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa C. Lyon, MPH, CPH
Board Secretary