

Board of Health

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Promoting and Protecting the Health of Delaware County

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March 21, 2024, Delaware County Board of Health Meeting Delaware County Department of Health Status Report

Administration

1. Old Business

- Continuing onboarding for the AchieveIT performance management program software which will be used to manage strategic planning and business strategy and track/monitor progress and success; targeting implementation after April 2024.
- Staff recruitment and stabilizing staff retention remains a high priority.
 - Continuing ongoing intensive meetings with county HR to improve hiring processes and procedures.
 - DCHD is continuing to support a 40-vehicle fleet, including 30 EVs with an acting fleet manager (prior fleet manager retired in December 2023). Current focus on optimizing operations with limited charging infrastructure.
 - Implementing 2024 employee engagement activities.
- Using technical assistance via direct State funding to Public Health Management Corporation (PHMC), continuing to work with PHMC on a Workforce Development initiative. PHMC has begun process of reviewing all DCHD job descriptions, including considering readiness for PHAB accreditation requirements and linking each job description to the appropriate public health core competencies.

2. New Business

- In partnership with Dr. Kristin Motley of Healthcare Solutions of Delaware Valley, completed Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity (DEI) survey of all DCHD staff members and DEI review of DCHD policies and procedures. Conducted first DEI training for all DCHD managers in February 2024; second training for all DCHD managers scheduled for March 2024.
- Conducting strategic planning and preparing Act 315 Program Plan for submission in March 2024.
- Initiating development of a DCHD annual report.

3. Highlights/Successes

- Launched UKG/Kronos timekeeping/attendance software and timeclocks. As of 2/20/24, all DCHD timekeeping is live via this system. This is already providing improved employee/management accountability. Continuing to build out functionality. Future

aspects will provide additional enhanced grant management and recordkeeping capabilities.

- As of 2/20/24, Population Health, Epidemiology, and Personal Health Disease Intervention staff members have successfully moved into Yeadon Phase 3 offices and begun operations in the new space.

Environmental Health

1. Old Business

- EH is fully staffed for current operations.
- DCHD submitted 2024 Mosquito Borne Disease Control (MBDC) grant application to state in November 2023. Awaiting 2024 executed contract. The 2024 award amount is \$209,582. Funds increased nearly \$50,000 for additional Outreach Programming and supplies.

2. New Business

- In a major update to EH operations, on 1/18/23 EH implemented 3 regions in Delaware County and create more diverse services coverage for all staff members. A map of regions is being considered for DCHD webpage.
- MBDC: Internal candidate selected to implement education aspect of MBDC grant; outreach planning underway.
- Bathing Places: Focus: license and inspect public pools that did not apply for a DCHD license in 2023. Work Session for EHS staff as we near Public Bathing Place season anticipated for early March to review expectations and code.
- Liquid Waste Hauler Program still in planning stage, working with EH Inspection Management System on licensing ability; anticipated start date summer 2024.
- EH management team met with County Solicitor in February 2024 to discuss current fine/violation regulations; received guidance on continuous planning towards violation and fine process. Goal is to avoid citation process as much as possible but having process in place prior to any issues arising. Working on magisterial map for Delaware County, purchasing citation book, and drafting violation letter for approval by solicitor (draft should include DCHD code/violation and appeal process).

3. Highlights/Successes

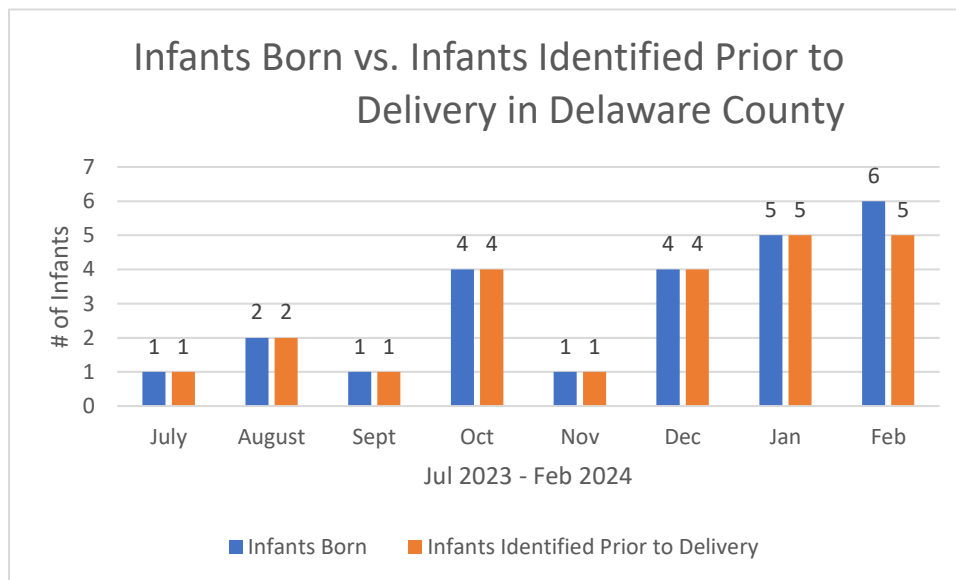
- The establishment of DCHD's Environmental Health program was commended by the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture at the House Appropriations Committee budget hearing in February 2024 (marker 2:05:00 in the video link here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J4jAcqojHZY>).

Personal Health

1. Old Business

- Human Resources. Currently recruiting for communicable diseases DIS and administrative assistant. Two new hires (1 public health nurse and 1 Sexually Transmittable Diseases (STD) DIS) in process of being hired.
- Health Services Research Administration (HRSA) congressionally directed funding/Delaware County Health Equity grant.

- DCHD is in the process of purchasing point of care blood lead testing/screening machines and supplies under the grant.
 - The program to distribute and implement the use of the machines at DCHD Wellness Centers, ChesPenn Federally Qualified Health Center and Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) practices in the county is currently under development.
- Immunization program. Immunization clinic hours continue (Chester: Mondays, 9am-3pm, Yeadon: Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-3pm). Conducted extended hours over fall back to school season every other Wednesday: 12pm-4pm, and every 3rd Saturday; these were adjusted for the winter season. Expanded hours will be re-introduced in spring 2024. The homebound program continues to administer vaccines to members of the community that are unable to leave home.
- Perinatal Hepatitis B program: Total active Delaware County case load right now is 60 pregnant women and babies (29 probable and 31 confirmed).
 - Cases closed this month: 3
 - Cases transferred from Philadelphia to Delaware: 1
 - Babies born this month: 6
 - Expectant mothers (due March through August 2024): 18
 - Families (mothers + infants) in progress: 42
 - Infants in progress for HBV series: 23
 - Infants completed three dose HBV series: 19
 - Infants overdue for HBV: 0
 - Infants overdue for PVST: 7 of 19 (12 waiting)



- Lead program: Ongoing clinical case management of elevated childhood blood lead cases. Delaware County had 5 elevated blood lead cases identified with WanaBana applesauce as a potential source of lead exposure.
- Tuberculosis (TB) program: As of 2/23/24:
 - 13 active TB cases
 - 12 electronically directly observed therapy cases (eDOTs)

- 28 latent TB infection (LTBI) cases currently being treated
- 3 electronic disease notifications (EDNs)
- 24 new positive Interferon-Gamma Release Assays (+IGRAs) the week of 2/19/24 and 18 new +IGRAs week of 2/12/24. This is a large increase from prior weeks. DCHD is continuing to monitor trends in this regard.
- Title V projects are underway, including doula projects with three partners (Maternity Care Coalition, Pettitway Foundation, Foundation for Delaware County) and assistive technology project with the Delaware County Intermediate Unit.

2. New Business

- New DCHD Teen STD Clinic to begin March 12, 2024 (to occur alternating Tuesdays); offsite STD testing at Haverford College will be held 3/22/24.
- Department of Labor (DOL) Congressional Directed Funding
 - Full application submitted to DOL in January 2024; decision pending. In preparation for this grant, DCHD received approval from Council to release two Request for Proposals (RFPs). These RFPs were released to partners on 2/25/24:
 - RFP Delaware County Birth Companion Program. Developing an Academic Birth Companion Program. 2024-2027; \$200,000 RFP 5124-4548-665104 - Summer 2024-Spring 2027.
 - RFP Delaware County Perinatal Doula Program – Growing and Diversifying the Doula Workforce. 2024-2027; \$600,000 RFP 5124-4548-665104 - Summer 2024-Spring 2027.
 - The timeline for these RFPs is as follows is submission deadline 4/3/24, selection notification on 4/17/24, county council review anticipated 5/1/24, and anticipated contract start date of 6/1/24.

3. Highlights/Successes

- DCHD supported the successful transition to the new statewide Pennsylvania Immunization Electronic Registry System (PIERS) in January 2024. Personal Health conducted PIERS related consultations for health providers throughout the county varying from account login, account access, account changes, staff information changes, inventory reconciliation and orders. DCHD successfully contacted 13 out of 32 Vaccines for Children (VFC) providers for PIERS related issues to ensure PIERS account access and VFC vaccine inventory input.
- DCHD Personal Health and Epidemiology successfully addressed Delaware County components of a multi-jurisdictional measles case investigation from November 2023 – February 2024. Philadelphia Department of Public Health had the lead on the investigation. DCHD conducted disease investigation and quarantine monitoring for Delaware County residents and provided extensive support to one vulnerable family in the county.
- DCHD facilitated significant VFC re-homing activities in January-February 2024, promoting the safety and availability of the pediatric vaccine supply in the county including:
 - Rehoming of 1,154 vaccines to DCHD due to permanent Crozer Pediatric closure in January 2024.

- Rehoming of over 100 doses among 4 clinics in February 2024.

Population Health

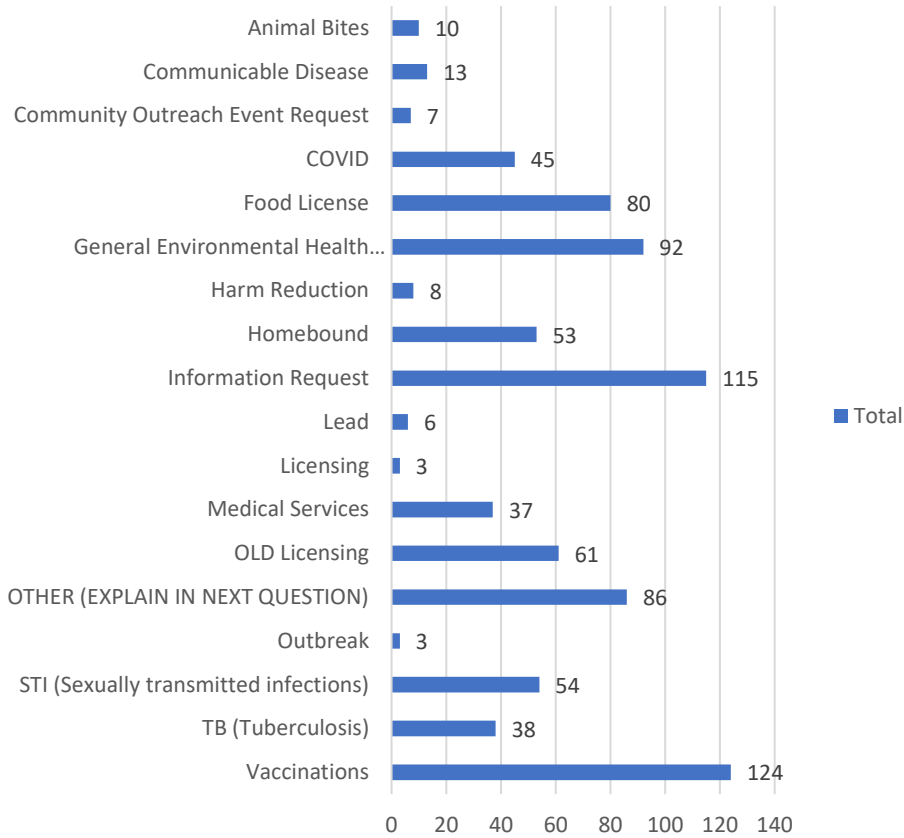
1. Old Business

- Ongoing recruitment for the Population Health Administrator as well as a Public Health Emergency Preparedness clerk; awaiting posting for a replacement call center representative who was internally promoted.
- Implementation of DCHD’s pilot public health student internship program with West Chester University on hold at this time pending hiring of new Population Health Administrator.
- Continuing partnership with Southeast Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center; implemented Mental Health First Aid training for DCHD staff members in February 2024 and targeting a second training for school nurses in March 2024.
- Continuing the partnership with Keystone First Wellness Van and Jefferson Health System for mobile mammography and other mobile health screening events throughout 2024. The Mobile Cancer Mammogram Screening Event at Chester originally scheduled for November 2024 had to be rescheduled to 3/1/24 due to Jefferson staffing limitations. Conducted a successful blood pressure screening event with Keystone First on 2/26/24, screening 28 residents and providing lifesaving intervention for one person.
- DCHD continues ongoing Wellness Line call center activities (see charts below); in December 2023, DCHD expanded the “reason for call” tracking to provide us with enhanced information from the community.

DCHD Wellness Line Call Center Intakes by Division (1/1/24-2/26/24)



Call Center Intake "Reason for Call"
 January 1, 2024 - February 26, 2024
 (n = 835)



| “Reason for Call” | Count | Percentage |
|---|-------|------------|
| Animal Bites | 10 | 1% |
| Communicable Disease | 13 | 2% |
| Community Outreach Event Request | 7 | 1% |
| COVID | 45 | 5% |
| Elected official | 0 | 0% |
| Food License | 80 | 10% |
| General Environmental Health Complaints | 92 | 11% |
| Harm Reduction | 8 | 1% |
| Homebound | 53 | 6% |
| Information Request | 115 | 14% |
| Lead | 6 | 1% |
| Licensing | 3 | 0% |
| Maternal and Child Health | 0 | 0% |

| | | |
|--|-----|-----|
| Medical Services | 37 | 4% |
| OLD Licensing (will be combined with Food License) | 61 | 7% |
| OTHER | 86 | 10% |
| Outbreak | 3 | 0% |
| STI (Sexually Transmitted Infection) | 54 | 6% |
| TB (Tuberculosis) | 38 | 5% |
| Vaccinations | 124 | 15% |

2. New Business

- 2024 Diabetes Education Through Cooking Initiative will launch in March 2024; partners include YMCA, Share Food Program (Delaware County’s emergency food partner) and Keystone First.
- Population Health is spearheading developing processes and procedures for a small “community pantry” at the Yeaton Wellness Center. Target date of piloting operations in April 2024.
- DCHD Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) initiating push to update contacts for all closed Point of Dispensing (POD) partners in spring 2024. On 2/26/24, the state introduced the latest 5-year PHEP grant cycle and the 2024-2028 PHEP program priorities (see infographic below).

Public Health Response Readiness Framework

2024-2028 PHEP Program Priorities - Defines Excellence in Response Operations

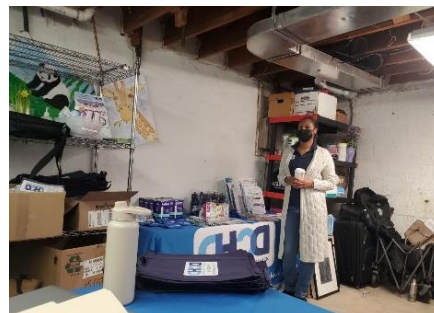


3. Highlights/Successes

- Population Health successfully partnering with Personal Health on health education and promotion events in the community, including:
 - Cupcakes & Condoms event at Penn State Brandywine Campus on 2/14/24; approximately 100 students reached.



- Murphy's Giving Market event on 1/29/24; Personal and Population Health collaborated to provide health education and vaccines at Murphy's Giving Market. Community members were offered: Blood pressure screenings, COVID-19 and influenza vaccines, required immunizations for school (VFC eligible children), Information about heart health, diabetes, respiratory illnesses, and tuberculosis, COVID test kits, and Free giveaways. Direct services provided to this vulnerable population included 10 COVID, 17 flu, 25 blood pressure tests, and 2 school aged children received a total of 5 school mandated vaccines through VFC. DCHD will build on valuable lessons regarding serving this population where they are.



Epidemiology

1. Old Business

- DCHD continuing to surveil respiratory illness season and gastrointestinal illness.
 - COVID-19 and Influenza – Decreasing 2/19/24
 - RSV and Pneumonia – Stable no change 2/19/24
 - Higher number of Flu A and RSV cases in 2024 compared to comparable week in 2023. These are preliminary data subject to change.
 - Norovirus is increasing across NE, Midwest, and Southern US, and is increasing in Delco since November 2023; February 2024 level not as high as February 2023. These are preliminary data subject to change.
- DCHD public release of Community Health Assessment (CHA) priority selection in February 2023; CHA reports targeted for release for public comment in March 2024.

2. New Business

- Pertussis (whooping cough) is of recent concern in young adults in Pennsylvania; Delaware County supported communications about pertussis at Swarthmore College in February 2024.
- Nether Providence officials reached out to DCHD with concerns about cancer in a community in the township in February 2024; DCHD is analyzing preliminary data from the National Cancer Institute and the Pennsylvania Department of Health and consulting and sharing information/data with state epidemiologists.
- DCHD is reviewing breast cancer data for Delaware County. Breast cancer is the second most common cancer among women in the United States and Black women die from breast cancer at a higher rate than White women.

3. Highlights/Successes

- In February 2024, DCHD Epidemiology and Personal Health staff members collaborated and will be initiating in-service/training sessions throughout 2024 geared to meeting continuous quality improvement parameters and streamline surveillance and investigations of reportable diseases.
- Using PA DOH, Bureau of Health Statistics and Registries, DCHD will create a report to determine if the number of cancer cases observed in the population or a jurisdiction is equal to the number of cancer cases expected in the comparison population.

Communications

1. Old Business

- Delco Revive media campaign to de-stigmatize and decrease negative reactions towards substance use disorders, addiction and harm reduction strategies under development; target public release in March 2024. Opioid settlement funds are supporting this project.

2. New Business

- DCHD participating in preparations for the City of Chester's 2nd annual Women's Health Conference.
- DCHD promoted Delaware County Black History Month Public Health Pioneers throughout February 2024. First Pioneer of the month was DCHD's most interacted with post on Instagram.

3. Highlights/Successes

- Conducted media training and on-camera exercise with Bellevue Communications in February 2024. Multiple administration and emergency preparedness employees participated with great feedback.
- Placed story with DelcoTimes alerting residents to the availability of COVID-19 testing kits that are available at our offices to pick up for free. Many residents have since taken advantage of the free kits.
- Communications outreach was a key component in greatly increasing the turnout in DCHD's 2nd annual February heart health blood pressure screening this year.