

Board of Health

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Promoting and Protecting the Health of Delaware County

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January 18, 2024, Delaware County Board of Health Meeting Delaware County Department of Health Status Report

Administration

1. Old Business

- Performance Management Software. Completed a selection process for a software program to manage strategic planning and business strategy (100% grant reimbursable). AchieveIT will provide a dashboarding package to enhance visibility and accountability for the Department and was brought to County Council for approval in September.
- Timekeeping/Attendance Platform. Working with UKG/Kronos on launching timekeeping/attendance software package that will provide improved employee/management accountability and enhanced grant management and recordkeeping capabilities.
- Staffing. Staff recruitment and stabilizing staff retention remains a high priority.
 - Analyzing department wide data and exploring training and retention opportunities.
 - Working closely with the County Human Resources on these efforts. The County has shared plans to include the Health Department in a comp study which will be an immediate next step towards efforts to stabilize recruitment and retention in the department.

2. New Business

- Using technical assistance via direct State funding to PHMC, working with PHMC on a Workforce Development initiative.
 - PHMC will review all DCHD job descriptions.
 - The review will consider the requirements for PHAB accreditation as well as provide DCHD assistance in (1) formatting the body of the job descriptions; (2) ensuring that the descriptions of the job duties flow logically, are not repetitive, and are clearly written; and (3) linking each job description to the appropriate public health competencies.
 - By integrating Public Health Core Competencies into job descriptions, DCHD can help ensure the recruitment and retention of public health professionals whose skills are well matched to the needs of the positions.
- Yeadon Phase 3 opening/move in expected January 2024.

3. Highlights/Successes

- Effectively and efficiently billing of grant contracts, including approximately \$5,000,000 of FY24 renewals of Preparedness, Epidemiological Laboratory Capacity, HIV/STI, Immunization, PAIC, Tuberculosis, Maternal Child Health, and Mosquito Borne Vector Control grants and approximately \$8,000,000 of new grants effective 7/01/23, which includes year 1 of a 5-year Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG) and two Congressionally directed spending projects - Health Research Services Administration Health Equity grant and a Department of Labor Perinatal Community/Doula Grant.
- Working directly with the County budget management office and controller's office on closeout of FY23 (5123) budget with \$9,450,465,000 in approved invoicing/payments for the period of 7/01/22-06/30/23.
 - DCHD received 68% of its revenue from categorical programmatic grants
 - The remaining 32% was subsidized by County ARPA dollars
- Implemented several infrastructure initiatives in 2023, including DCHD/CDP platform providing an Electronic Health Record (EHR) system (Personal Health), enhanced inspection management system (Environmental Health), and Qualtrics Advanced Metrics Experience Management platform) (Population Health and Epidemiology).
- Comprehensive new building design/renovations completed in Chester Wellness Center, as well as Administrative Services move from Media to Eddystone/Baldwin Towers.
- Continuing to support a 40-vehicle fleet. With 30 EV vehicles in the DCHD fleet, DCHD has overcome challenges not encountered in the county before and demonstrated Delaware County's leadership and strong commitment to environmental health/sustainability.

Environmental Health

1. Old Business

- Environmental Health has achieved full staffing of Environmental Health Supervisor positions as of December 2023; was able to successfully promote two internal candidates. Currently interviewing for an administrative coordinator and administrative assistant. Discussing need for a third Sewage Enforcement Officer.
- DCHD uploaded 2024 Mosquito Borne Disease Control (MBDC) grant application to state in November 2023; awaiting 2024 contract for Council signature.

2. New Business

- Legal Updates. Delaware County legal participated in a hearing held in December regarding ongoing litigation with selected municipalities not parties to current court injunction to DCHD environmental services. No change in status, except one jurisdiction withdrew from the litigation (Prospect Park). DCHD to continue environmental health services in all areas except those named in injunction (Springfield, Tinicum, Ridley, Upper Chichester, Aston, Darby, and Marple). Upper Chichester requested mediation. Additional court date scheduled for 2/1/24.
- State Police Partnership. Building a partnership with the Pennsylvania State Police Liquor Control regarding joint compliance with food facilities holding a liquor license.

- Liquid Waste Hauler Program. Discussions on Liquid Waste Hauler Program to begin January 2024.
3. Highlights/Successes
- Customer Service Enhancements. Environmental Health successfully implemented MuniPAY online payment program and a publicly accessible computer station at the Baldwin Towers front desk in November 2023, both of which enhance customer service.
 - Certified Food Manager Training. Continuing partnering with Pennsylvania State University and will provide Certified Food Manager (CFM) training quarterly through 2024 for general public and/or business owners.

Personal Health

1. Old Business

- Personal Health has achieved full staffing for the division's three nurse manager and 2 medical assistant positions as of November 2023. Currently recruiting for an STD DIS, communicable diseases DIS, and 2 public health nurses.
- Blood Lead Point of Care Testing. Using Representative Scanlon/HRSA Congressional Directed Funding, in January 2024 will purchase DCHD's first point of care blood lead testing machines and supplies. Developing program to distribute and implement use of these at DCHD Wellness Center, ChesPenn Federally Qualified Health Center and CHOP practices in the county.
- Doulas. Using Senator Casey/Department of Labor Congressional Directed Funding, in early 2024 will be distributing two Request for Proposals for an overall doula technical assistance/reimbursement program and an academic birth companion training program.
- Preparing DCHD and our partners for Pennsylvania Immunization Registry transition to a new Immunization Information System - the Pennsylvania Immunization Electronic Registry System (PIERS); go-live date of January 17, 2024.

2. New Business

- Healthcare Acquired Infections (HAI). Working with state and Taylor Hospital on a C.Auris case where the patient spent time in emergency department and the medical surgery unit and was not on any precautions; point prevalence survey scheduled for 1/4/2024.
- Perinatal Hepatitis B. Disseminating new Perinatal Hep B Guidelines to OB providers in Delaware County.
- TB. Of the 334 open TB cases in the state surveillance system in Delaware County, DCHD has closed over 180. As of late December 2023, DCHD targeting investigating at least 5 open cases per day to close these out.
- DCIU Assistive Technology Partnership. Council approved DCHD Title V DCIU assistive technology partnership agreement in December 2023; rollout of program in 2024.

3. Highlights/Successes

- Measles Outbreak. In December 2023, successfully addressed the Delaware County components of a multi-jurisdictional measles case investigation. Philadelphia Department of Public Health lead. Three cases to date. Twelve susceptible

- (unvaccinated and without prior history of disease) pediatric contacts provided immunoglobulin and requiring 28 days of quarantine were identified. Three adults with immunity but with concern for immunosuppression were provided immunoglobulin.
- Title V Doula Programs. In December 2023, started implementation of Title V doula projects with three partners (Maternity Care Coalition, Pettiway Foundation, Foundation for Delaware County).
 - Non-compliant Active TB. In December 2023, worked with Delaware County legal and Jefferson to ensure a treatment of a non-compliant active case and follow up of contacts.

Population Health

1. Old Business

- Training. Continuing partnership with Southeast Pennsylvania Area Health Education Center; targeting Mental Health First Aid training for DCHD staff members in February 2024.
- School Nurses. Ongoing partnership with Personal Health, implementing 2nd year of school nurse preparedness program in 10 Delco school districts.
- Delco Revive. First internal CPR class was held on 12/12/23; first instructor course scheduled for January 1/19/24 (once approved by Delaware County Community College).

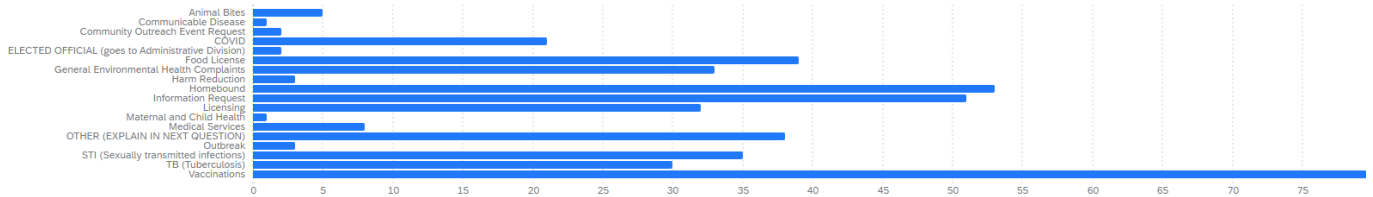
2. New Business

- Population Health Administrator Jim Plummer separated from DCHD in December 2023. DCHD will begin the recruitment process for a new administrator.
- Food Pantry Support. Exploring refrigerator/freezer supports for Delco food pantries to support public health emergency resilience.
- Diabetes/Cooking Education. Making plans for a 2024 Diabetes Education Initiative Through Cooking Initiative; potential partners include the YMCA, Keystone First, and Making a Change Group.
- AEDs. Conducting an inventory of the county's automated external defibrillator (AEDs); may be able to use one-time DCHD public health emergency preparedness funding to update pads and machines and then will transition program back to county facilities.
- Mobile Services. Continuing partnership with Jefferson Health System for mobile mammography and other mobile health screening events, with a target rescheduled date of 2/16/24 for a mobile mammogram screening at DCHD's Chester wellness center.
- Testing. Exploring a partnership with Test and Go to provide respiratory test kits and harm reduction supplies to community members free of charge through a 24/7 functioning kiosk.

3. Highlights/Successes

- Starting implementation of DCHD's pilot public health student internship program with West Chester University in 2024.
- Successfully implemented expanded call center "reason for call" tracking – e.g., December 2023 "Reason for Call" Summary:

Reason for Call



Epidemiology

1. Old Business

- Respiratory Illness Season. DCHD continuing to surveil the respiratory illness season. Emergency department visits increasing for COVID 19, pneumonia, RSV, and Influenza for all ages and races. Highest increase slope for influenza.
- DCHD Community Health Assessment. DCHD exceeded our target for primary data collection for our CHA survey. DCHD is preparing to release CHA for public comment in January 2024.

2. New Business

- Regional Community Health Needs Assessment (rCHNA). DCHD has begun collaborating with the non-profit team developing the Southeastern PA Regional Community Health Needs Assessment (rCHNA).
 - DCHD is sharing lessons learned from DCHD’s in progress Community Health Assessment (CHA) (e.g., sampling methods, incentives, and next steps, especially involving special and hard to reach populations).
 - Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs) are mandated by the Affordable Care Act and conducted every three years by not-for-profit hospitals and healthcare systems. The Southeast PA rCHNA covers Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties.
- Infant Mortality Data in Delaware County. DCHD is embarking on a Perinatal Periods of Risk (PPOR) evaluation for Delaware County. DCHD is collaborating with The Foundation for Delaware County, who conducted the prior PPOR for our county and who is also applying for renewal of their HRSA Healthy Start grant.

3. Highlights/Successes

- Collaborated with Pennsylvania Department of Health to obtain infant mortality data for the service area of the federal Healthy Start program in our county (City of Chester, and the 8 municipalities that surround Chester), meeting a critical need of our Foundation for Delaware County Healthy Start partner for their renewal application to the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Communications

1. Old Business

- Ongoing communications on respiratory illness season, Deterra drug disposal mailing, and website updates.

2. New Business

- Using opioid settlement funds under the Delco Revive project, planning anti stigmatization marketing campaign with Bellevue consulting firm for early 2024.

3. Highlights/Successes

- Using opioid settlement funds, DCHD completed a mailing of Deterra drug disposal pouches and a resources postcard to 70% of Delaware County households in December 2023;
 - 7,459,425 pills have the potential to be destroyed via this mailing.
 - Providing support resources that someone may need during the stressful holidays and working to prevent children's exposures to old medicine and/or someone experimenting with opioids in our county.
 - Successfully shared information with the public via a press conference; social media; email distributions with township managers, police/fire departments, state representatives, and school nurses; and collaborated with Department of Emergency Services for our first Delco Alert blast to 9,000 contacts who signed up for health department updates.