



**Delaware County Health Department
Board of Health Meeting
July 7, 2022**

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

Lily Higgins, MD, Vice Chair
Patrick Brennan, MD
Annemarie Hirsch
Oni Richards

- I. There being a duly convened quorum, Vice Chair Lily Higgins called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- II. Vice Chair Announcements: BOH members announced themselves. Asked public to please sign in with name and address if you would like to speak tonight. Agendas available in the back of room. Solicitor Jonathan Lichtenstein announced public comments is for the agenda items; all other public comments will take place at the end of the meeting; 3-minute time limit.
- III. There was public comment on the agenda items:
 - a. Joann Stump, Edgemont. Covid vaccines should not be considered for 6 months to under 5 age group. still under emergency use, 99% of children do not get Covid. CDC says more children die from myocarditis than Covid. Stated many references.
 - b. Karis Kocker, 836 Concord Rd., Glen Mills. Very concerned about approval of Covid vaccine that is only an emergency use vaccine. Denmark has discontinued use due to great concern. Urged not to approve vaccinations for this age group.
 - c. Christy Perry, 125 W. Wayne Ave., Wayne. The US is ranked 37 in the world. Reviewed the DCHD practices and sees nothing new. Wondering how the health department is going to change things. Vaccine won't make up for healthy living; why is health department focusing on vaccinations? Resident voiced concerns about wasting tax dollars on unnecessary vaccinations. Vote no to vaccinating children.
 - d. Angela Walker, Clyde Rd., Radnor. Childhood vaccinations are very risky for children and likely to increase risks as their immune systems aren't developed. Children's immune systems are different than adults and need to build up. Are you telling parents of the risks? Hasn't seen this in Delaware County Health Department information.
 - e. Terry Dill, Preston Rd., Media. Physicians in the UK sent letter to officials regarding vaccinating younger children; due to their low risk, question vaccine efficacy. Resident concerned about vaccinations for babies and children; many have already had Covid infection. Will we come to the point where we become vaccination dependent? Healthy lifestyle, exercise, sunshine. We have more to learn about vaccine injuries. Parents should have the right to have their children vaccinated, relying on natural immunity.
 - f. William Dennison, 441 Beatty Rd, Springfield. Dr. Fauci was missing any info/advice on helping people to fight off Covid by strengthening our immune system. Looking to see more info on the Delaware County Health Department website to promote healthy lifestyle. Does DCHD have a plan to address healthy nutrition, etc.? Any inclination to inform the public on what they can do to strengthen people's immune system?
- IV. Approval of minutes: Lily Higgins made the motion to accept the May 5, 2022 meeting minutes, approved by; Dr. Patrick Brennan; seconded by Annemarie Hirsch. Motion passed unanimously.
- V. Board Updates

- a. Director Lyon provided an operational update on DCHD:
 - i. Population Health reported testing is available from Personix as of July 1; 65 tests completed.
 - ii. Personal Health reported 6 active cases of TB; 12 latent cases; 3 on weekly prophylaxis. TB clinic will begin in Yeadon. Weekly average for STI is 6 per week; also testing at George Hill prison. Hired STD nurses; increased STI clinic hours in Yeadon. Vaccinations for children are averaging 5 per week. Going through certifications to offer through September at Keystone First for catch-up vaccinations for students that are behind with their shots. Offering shingles/pneumococcal vaccinations for homebound residents.
- b. Questions for Administrators:
 - i. **Dr. Brennan: How are vaccinations being distributed? Is HD responsible for distributing vaccine to pediatricians?** No; pediatric offices get approved through the state.
Is Monkey Pox vaccine being distributed to the County? Have we distributed any? Had early conversations asking if Delco will receive Monkey Pox vaccine; state will decide. Delaware County Health Department may receive a small quantity; vaccine will be for those identified as high-risk exposure to Monkey Pox.
EPI Report on communicable diseases in June, following up on all diseases by July 18. How are you handling this with current staffing? Is this possible? It is required personal health work, fundamental work where Delaware County Health Department protects all residents and those traveling through our community. Taking on all the work on July 18; what we do for managing one disease is different than managing Monkey Pox, and different than other diseases, etc. All the work is getting done in collaboration with PADOH. Staff will be able to handle it, using staff for case investigation. Number of communicable diseases- are high due to transient movement with close-by urban centers; Trenton, NYC, etc.
 - ii. **Annemarie Hirsch: challenge for recruitment and retention for nursing staff. What incentives do we have?** We are benchmarking off other counties; Montgomery County is intensifying with a monetary sign on, retention, and working with the health department for 5 years; also creative scheduling. Must work through HR on how that would work for county operations. Nothing formalized at this time.
 - iii. **Lily Higgins: Are we giving out pediatric Covid and routine vaccinations? Is Monkey Pox testing being offered?** Children's vaccinations at Yeadon on Tuesday's 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; will offer evening hours in September. No Monkey Pox testing yet. Taking guidance from the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Monkey Pox is showing up in the ER's; we are weighing in on cases in the community. If Delaware County Health Department staff agree it's necessary, the testing goes to the Bureau of Labs; physicians can do sample collection.
 - iv. **What is Delaware County Health Department doing in the community on awareness for immunocompromised and high-risk for Covid? Is Delaware County Health Department doing anything?** Trying to encourage high risk individuals to be vaccinated; outreach to immunocompromised, not doing much outreach. Not at any capacity to provide any kind of treatment, vaccine only. Have been working on vaccine hesitancy in the communities.
- c. County Emails
 - i. IT deployed equipment in the emergency status of Covid.
 - ii. IT and Delaware County Health Department are standardizing criteria for emails outside of County employees and it was decided to remove county emails for the Board of Health members.
 - iii. Board of Health members are to use their preferred email.
- d. Pediatric COVID Vaccinations (under age 5)
 - i. Our first COVID 19 pediatric vaccine clinic for 6-month to < 5-year-olds was held on 6/28/22 and went well with 11 vaccinations. All patients were rescheduled for their follow up doses (2 August dates for Moderna, September and November dates for Pfizer). Additional first dose pediatric clinics will be held on 7/12 and 7/26.
 - ii. No mandate for this population; it is a service offered.

- iii. Ask to register, but will take walk-ins.

VI. New Business

- a. Presentation from Bridget Moran, Temple intern
 - i. Executive Summary of 2021-2022 Report of Behavioral and Mental Health Services and Recommendations for Emerging Delaware County Health Department.
 - ii. Summary provided to the Board of Health members.
- b. Questions about the Presentation
 - i. **Data collections seems to be a problem for the County. You mentioned Abington is collecting data; how are they collecting data?** Have not spoken to anyone in Abington, only Philadelphia. Shared as a collaborative process with shared information on individual cases; unsure how that data gets tracked.
 - ii. **Elaborate on telehealth; provider community telehealth has provided many benefits. Any estimates of funding for behavioral health?** Reimbursement hadn't been discussed; Bridget was discussing creating space in the County to allow for quiet rooms for technology that don't have access or too hard to get to doctor. She was thinking more on the infrastructure, not on the funding side. Looking at how to create systems to be used in the community.
 - iii. **Program recommendations – peer-based model.** Yes, that's one of them. Peer role is very important in the recovery model. Working on prevention; physical health? Integrative behavioral health; very beneficial; delivering these services would be a benefit.
 - iv. **Data collection; developing the systems; could we collect data not just based on race but country of birth, something a little more teased out to get a better understanding.** A lot of different screening tools were used. Unsure if any specific names, country of origin. Cultural awareness and quality of care needs to come into play.
- c. Questions for Division Administrators
 - i. Presented in Operational Update
 - ii. Deputy Director Werner stated that additional planning to do at Covid testing sites. Opportunity to get testing to people about treatment options by their Primary Care Provider. Covid testing is available through Personica.
 - iii. **Providing education to any pharmacies giving treatment?** Dr. O'Mahony: Not directly through pharmacies; must come through prescription from PCP. We are not facilitating that in any way; we raise awareness for the individual.
 - iv. **A community member went to Yeadon and was told they are only giving Covid testing and vaccinations. A family member was ill and looking for help.** Stephanie Reese: We don't provide treatment for illness; we are not set up to be a primary care provider; all clinical service is around community prevention and spread. **What other services are being offered?** Delaware County Health Department is offering vaccinations for children, screening for STD testing. Determining best practices messaging to inform the community what is offered.
 - v. **STD testing and pregnancy testing?** Offering partner screening at the Delaware County Health Department and doing contact tracing. Meeting with partners to get them screened and tested. Working with maternal health and childcare; if test positive, Delaware County Health Department staff can assist with services. Starting at 2 months for Hep B vaccination. Perinatal Hep B nurse will ensure vaccination is received.

VII. Budget Review

- a. Presented by Director Lyon and attached with meeting minutes.
- b. Questions:
 - i. **Does the grant require application and approval or is it already approved?** Delaware County Health Department accept grants through the state, CDC funding, or allocations from the state for local public health, recurring grants. Workforce Development grant was for Covid; recurring grants are for current needs.
 - ii. **Asked by Council, will this budget increase each year?** No, it should be a stable budget for next 5 years; County match should decrease over the years.
- c. If you would like additional details, M. Lyon will provide that to you.

i.

VIII. Public Comment – County Deputy Solicitor Jon Lichtenstein noted Board Members are not required to answer any questions and that public comment period for Board of Health is 3 minutes. Public Comment asked to state name and address.

- a. **Bill McIntyre, Cherry Hill Ln., Broomall:** Has a business background; looking at all the costs in the budget, feels we're going to see some severe increases. Hearing about grants, where is it coming from and are there strings attached? Hoping we would provide other things like health, nutrition; direct people experiencing symptoms where to go.
- b. **Karis Kocker, 836 Concord Rd., Glen Mills:** we are emerging from unusual circumstances; tyrannies and monarchs can be out of line. Keep in line your oath, hope as a citizen you value our bill of rights, individual liberty, are kept in line.
- c. **Patty McIntyre, Cherry Hill Ln., Broomall:** Outraged that our tax dollars are going for a vaccination for babies that is not tested. So much panic; vaccination is the only solution? There are so many things that can be done presentably. How about lifestyle, promoting health. Homeopathic medicines are FDA approved. Would be exciting to see more of that thinking.
- d. **Jerry Urfeld, Newtown Square:** Penn has a history of medical atrocities in testing for vaccines. Noted several references. Vaccines are still under emergency use. Stated Delaware County Health Department is violating the Nuremberg Treaty.
- e. **Karis Kocker:** Do you actually listen to what anyone is saying?

IX. Board of Health Vice Chair, Lily Higgins, thanked everyone for their comments. Board of Health members and Director Lyon had no comments. Motion was made to adjourn; seconded by Oni Richards and was approved by Dr. Patrick Brennan.

Next Meeting September 1, 2022

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa C. Lyon, MPH, CPH
Board Secretary