



**Delaware County Health Department
Board of Health Meeting
November 21, 2024**

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 6:05 p.m.
- II. Chair Announcements
 1. The 2025 Board of Health schedule will be the same as last year.
 2. Board of Health Executive Sessions were held on October 24, 2024 and October 29, 2024c
- III. Public Comment
 1. Cariss Coaker, Concord Township: Regarding the appointment of the new health director, state law requires elected and appointed officers to take an oath of office. Commented on the obligation to uphold and support the Bill of Rights and stated county officers should take a loyalty oath. Expressed hope that the new director will reinstate taking the oath.
- IV. Approval of minutes – motion made by Rosemarie Halt, Lily Higgins approved, P.J. Brennan seconded.
- V. Director Updates
 1. Monkey Pox
 - a. A case was reported in California and was travel-related from Eastern Africa. No change in procedure and treatment; has no impact in PA or Delco. Enhanced surveillance helped to detect it and all processes are in place.
 2. Test and Go – slide presentation
 - a. There are three sites: Yeadon, Chester, and Government Center in Media. The most popular item is Covid tests and first aid kits.
Question: If the information is sent to the medical society; suggest putting it out through the health systems to get the information to the public. Also suggested to speak to the local colleges. We'd like to have other sites; depends on opioid settlement funding.
Q: STI tests are sent to the lab; how does DCHD find the results? We get the results and send the resident an email about their results; DCHD can keep track and keep up with treatment.
- VI. New Business
 1. Appointment of new Health Director
 - a. Board of Health Chair, Rosemarie Halt, read the approval of Lora Werner to fill the position of DCHD Director.
 - b. It is a three-step process, interview several candidates, submit to County Council and BOH members for approval.
 - c. The BOH finalizes the process, Lily Higgins approved, P.J. Brennan seconded.

2. Code Resolution

a. One minor correction was made: adding the word “late” to the licensing fee. Lily Higgins made the motion to approve, P.J. Brennan approved to make the change to the code.

3. Epi Update

Victor Alos Rullan and Epi team created and presented a presentation on SIDS in Delco. Data from state and local governments based on 15 years.

Q: A Board member replied that there is an increase in SIDS in Chester City. DCHD hasn’t been able to confirm the numbers.

4. Personal Health Presentation (Maternal and Child Health focus)

Stephanie Reese and Robert Speer

a. Working with Title V and MCH and Department of Labor grants. Robert spoke about the MCH programs at DCHD. Discussed community partners and grant amounts, as well as objectives for the future.

Q: Is funding at \$54,000 enough? This initial amount of funding is supporting evaluation of business partners and system and piloting concepts. Full implementation will require additional resources.

Q: Hispanic population had the highest rate of “no prenatal care” but had the lowest rate of “pre-term births”; reason? DCHD will investigate that data, we may be seeing this occurrence in other demographics.

Q: Where are the two clinical observation sites? MLH has two hospitals under Temple University’s curriculum with nursing students.

Q: What is the capacity? It’s an academic program; students may not go into the doula profession; nursing students are getting a certification.

Q: Do you have the data on infant and maternal death? Higher rate in Chester; there are programs working to address the regional disparities.

Q: Would like to see neonatal separated from opioid use and opioid treatment for mothers who are actively using vs. those in treatment.

Q: Will the state be covering more doulas under Medicaid? It is covered under Medicaid and doulas that are trained by Medicaid are to bill themselves.

Q: Have you seen any concerns? Dr. Goburn, MLH, wants to build out MLH to have doulas in their systems. Policies and MOUs need to be put into place and policies developed at the hospital system.

Rosemarie Halt suggested bringing back MCH and having the meetings again in 2025.

VII. Public Comment –

1. Ahamad Halifa from Sudan, lives in Upper Darby. Obtained his Master’s degree in epidemiology in global health. Express he is happy he came to the meeting and congratulations to the new director. Note about Hispanic population death rate may be less because smoking rates are 2nd lowest next to Asian women.

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

Next meeting is January 23 at the County Council Room, 201 W. Front St., Media PA. There will be public notice of the location.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Werner, DCHD Director

DRAFT