

Pima County Board of Health Minutes
January 24, 2018
Abrams Building, Room 1108
3950 S. Country Club Road
Tucson, Arizona 85714

**Approved
February 28th 2018**

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Horwitz called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M.

Attendance was as follows:

Board Members:

Mr. Bin An - Absent

Mr. Richard Elías - Absent

Mr. Matthew T. Emich - Absent

Mr. Rene Gastelum

Mr. Charles Geoffrion

Ms. Mary Lou Gonzales

Dr. Paul Horwitz, President

Mr. Mike Humphrey

Mr. Miguel Rojas - Absent

Dr. Gail Smith

Ms. Carolyn Trowbridge, Vice President – Absent

A quorum was established

Non-Board Members:

Dr. Francisco García, Pima County Assistant County Administrator

Dr. Marcy Flanagan, Pima County Health Department Director

Ms. Paula Mandel, Pima County Health Department Deputy Director

Presenters:

Ms. Ursula Kramer, Pima County Department of Environmental Quality Director

Mr. Scott Porter, Pima County Department of Environmental Quality

Ms. Kelli Stephens, Pima County Health Department

Ms. Julia Flannery, Pima County Health Department

Ms. Bonnie Bazata, Community Services

Ms. Ernestina Limon, Pima County Health Department

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Geoffrion led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. MINUTES ADOPTION

- Adopted Board of Health December 13, 2017, minutes

The motion was made and seconded (Mr. Geoffrion / Dr. Smith) that the December 13, 2017, minutes be adopted as written. Motion carried 6-0.

4. **BOARD OF HEALTH**

- Board Bylaws – Dr. Horwitz recently reviewed the Board Bylaws. Lack of consistent attendance is making quorums hard to obtain. Dr. Horwitz did not question the members' dedication but would like to see more consistent attendance. Dr. Horwitz understands that everyone's time is valuable and appreciates their time.
- Hepatitis A Update – Follow-up regarding County Administrator's input regarding communication with the Board: Dr. Horwitz, gave an update regarding his meeting with Mr. Huckelberry, County Administrator, and that he values the input from the Board and is receptive to the points made in the letter from the Board regarding concerns about hepatitis A and the need to address sanitation in the form of handwashing stations and mobile bathrooms.

5. **DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

- DAVE (Database Application for Vital Events):
Dr. Flanagan, Director, gave an update regarding the States electronic vital records system that went live in October 2017, recorded the first dip in revenue in December 2017. This could be due to these funds going directly to the State. Dr. Flanagan could not speculate if the dip was a result of the introduction of the system that now has the State receiving the fees or due to other factors. Health Department managers are closely monitoring this and Dr. Flanagan will keep the Board apprised of any changes or trends. Dr. Flanagan will also reach out to Arizona Department of Health Services to share collected data and develop a plan to potentially redirect vital record funds back to the Health Department.

Regarding the DAVE system and past problems, Dr. Flanagan updated the Board of the issue with physicians not registering with the system. Vital records manager, Ms. Pallanes is actively reaching out to physicians and offering assistance to register.

Dr. García, Assistant County Administrator, explained that physicians who are infrequent users are the hardest to reach. One option being explored is to place information about the new DAVE System in the Medical Society newsletter. Dr. Horwitz suggests using the Medical Licensing Board as a mechanism to disseminate information regarding registering with the DAVE System and Ms. Gonzales, shared that nurses can now also sign death certificates.

Mr. Gastelum, requested that data be tracked regarding birth and death certificates issued to help identify if either certificate experiences a notable drop in revenue. Dr. Flanagan will follow-up with the vital records manager to pull the data and provide this information at the next Board meeting.

- Influenza Update (H3N2):
Dr. Flanagan reported that Pima County has 1,700 confirmed flu cases this flu season to date. Last year's flu season there were a total of 2,600 confirmed flu cases. Dr. Flanagan shared that prevention information is being provided to the community that include not going to the emergency room, instead call your PCP (personal care provider), stay hydrated, rest, maintain good hygiene and get the flu shot.

Dr. Flanagan reported that she received a call from TMC regarding a problem with patients transferred from long-term care facilities are not accepting their patients back if they are diagnosed with the flu. Due to misunderstandings long-term facilities were concerned that doing so could negatively affect their licensing. Dr. Flanagan arranged a conference call with Arizona Department of Health Services, local hospitals, long-term care and skilled nursing facilities to provide information and guidance about admitting a diagnosed flu patient and how it would not affect their licensing. During this conference call it was discovered that long-term care facilities and skilled nursing facilities are short staffed. Dr. Flanagan reported her plan to form teams within the Health Department led by public health nurses and epidemiology staff that will be organized by Board of Supervisor district and will serve as educational liaisons to support local hospitals, shelters, and other facilities identify and resolve these types of issues quickly. Dr. Horwitz suggested a separate portal could be utilized to communicate with each other regarding these issues. Dr. Flanagan will have staff explore platforms such as SharePoint, Internet, and Healthy Pima for this purpose.

Mr. Gastelum asked if this flu was different than others. Dr. García provided information on how the flu works within the body. He also stated that the type of vaccine being used is a good match to this particular strain. This vaccine is less immunogenic meaning it causes less of an immune response and there are significant genetic changes that occur to the strain that make it different from what is seen in other hemispheres. Mr. Gastelum inquired about connecting with public health nurses or staff at public places such as libraries to help mitigate the spread. Dr. Flanagan informed the members of the Board that the Health Department partners with the libraries to have a public health nurse presence.

6. HEPATITIS A UPDATE:

- Dr. Flanagan briefed the Board regarding the departments' focus for mitigating the spread of this disease within shelters and the homeless population. The Health Department will partner with El Rio to help provide vaccines as a cost effective approach however, Arizona Department of Health Services needs to give that direction. A conference call to discuss this is set for January 25, 2018.

Dr. García informed the Board of collaborative work with El Rio in 2017 to serve more than 2,000 homeless persons through who visit local shelters and mobile teams that served those living on the streets. Dr. García's role as the County's Chief Medical Officer is to act as the subject matter expert and be the key contact for other jurisdictions. Dr. Horwitz inquired if the immunizations for homeless persons are effective due to the unlikelihood of a homeless person returning for the second dose of vaccine. Dr. García reported the efficacy of a single dose is over 90 per cent and increases to 95 per cent to 97 per cent following administration of the second dose, therefore, the CDC recommends focusing on the first dose of the vaccine for this population.

7. DEQ HOMELESS POPULATION PROTOCOL PRESENTATION:

- Dr. Horwitz introduced Ms. Kramer, Director, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Mr. Porter, Environmental Quality Manager, DEQ, to present on the process when a complaint of a homeless camp is received. Mr. Porter explained the complaint process and the role DEQ staff serves as the central point of contact. Staff are assigned to

research the history, property ownership, and complete a site visit. If the site is on public land, DEQ staff will notify the homeless persons of the complaint and inform them they need to leave. DEQ staff do not discard personal items and work with the individuals to provide a reasonable amount of time to gather and relocate. Once this is accomplished a cleanup is scheduled and any items left behind are properly disposed. Mr. Porter informed the Board that once a site is scheduled for cleanup, no trespassing signs are posted in the area. Dr. Horwitz asked how soon after an area that has been cleaned up can it become a homeless camp again. Mr. Porter said that this can happen after a couple of years.

Mr. Geoffrion inquired about situations during monsoon season. Mr. Porter replied that flood control handles a majority of these cleanups to ensure the safety of those living in the area.

Dr. Smith inquired about statistics regarding mental health diagnoses of persons living in encampments. Dr. García shared with the Board that a study on homeless urban encampments had been conducted in 2014, revealing at least 60 per cent of the individuals reported a history of mental illness. Mr. Humphrey inquired if DEQ had mapped hotspots. Mr. Porter said that MapGuide is used by several county departments to map and track hotspots and found them near culverts and washes. Dr. García noted that from a public health standpoint it is recommended to relocate persons living in distant encampments to closer areas that have access to better sanitation however, the challenge is that residents do not want encampments in their communities. Dr. García also shared that the behavioral health system has improved over the last ten years and offers more resources however, it still is not enough. Mr. Geoffrion asked if the head count of homeless in Pima County had been completed. Dr. García was unsure if it had been completed but noted that for those living on the street the range is 2,500 – 3,000 and the count becomes higher if those living in cars and on couches are added. Mr. Humphrey asked if the cleanup process is the same for migrant camps. Mr. Porter indicated that it used to be but now the State handles these and are usually abandoned.

8. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INTERNSHIP INITIATIVE:

- Dr. Flanagan introduced Ms. Stephens, and Ms. Flannery, to report on the recently launched internship and volunteer program. The purpose of this initiative is to generate interest and awareness in public health, create opportunities to promote public health as a career, build leadership and mentoring skills, and align internship program with the Health Departments' strategic and workforce development goals. Health Department staff are encouraged to provide opportunities for students to initiate internships. An example of an internship project that focused on increasing the number of month's women breastfeed and is still being used. Dr. García acknowledged Dr. Flanagan's proactive approach with the University of Arizona College of Medicine to establish a public health rotation for medical residents interested in community health and to increase awareness of its practical application beyond a clinical setting. Dr. Horwitz and the Board were excited and support this program and encouraged the Health Department leadership to promote and market it.

9. MOTHERS in ARIZONA MOVING AHEAD (MAMA) GRANT – STORIES PROJECT AND STEERING COMMITTEE:

- Dr. Flanagan introduced Ms. Bazata, and Ms. Limon, with Pima County, who presented on the Mothers in Arizona Moving Ahead (MAMA) program which is a collaborative partnership to help those living in poverty make a change by supporting responsive relationships for children and adults, strengthen core life skills, and reduce sources of stress in the lives of children and families. There is also an effort to educate the community for a deeper understanding of poverty while gaining a political will for a lasting community change.
- The Board was asked by Bonnie Bazata if anyone would be interested in serving as a member of the MAMA Committee advisory Board. Mary Lou Gonzales has volunteered and been appointed on the committee as of January 24th 2018. The first Graduation Celebration is on February 7, 2018, at 10:00 A.M. at the Abrams Public Health Center located at 3950 S. Country Club Road, Room 1106/1108.

10. AUTO PULLOVER PROTOCOL SAFETY STICKER UPDATE:

- Dr. Horwitz shared with the Board that he delivered 50 stickers to each Board of Supervisor office and City Council Ward offices. Additionally Dr. Horwitz delivered stickers to the libraries, Sheriff's office, and the Tucson Police Department.

11. CALL TO AUDIENCE:

There was not enough time for a call to audience.

12. SUMMATION OF ACTION ITEMS AND PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS:

There was not enough time for a summation of action items and proposed agenda items.

13. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 P.M.