

CABELL-HUNTINGTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Board of Health Regular Meeting –July 24, 2013

Board Members Present:

Harriette Cyrus
Thomas Gilpin, Atty.
Greg Howard, Atty.
Sally Oxley, PT
Omayma T. Touma, MD

Board Members Absent:

Kevin Yingling, MD

Staff Members Present:

Harry K. Tweel, MD, FCCP
Stanley Mills, HHR Program Manager I
Kathleen Napier, DON
Jack Mease, Accountant
Elizabeth Ayers, PIO
Kay Dick, Secretary I

Called to order at 5:04 PM.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion to approve the minutes for June 26, 2013 was made by Ms. Oxley, seconded by Dr. Touma and passed.

Environmental Health/Threat Preparedness:

Threat Preparedness: Mr. Mills stated he is waiting on guidelines on the end of the year report from the State. He also said we are still working on strengthening community partnerships.

Environmental Health:

Mr. Mills brought a “rearing chamber” of mosquitoes to the meeting, which consists of larvae that were collected out of tires. These are sent off to be tested. The first positive (for West Nile Virus) pool was discovered in Barboursville. He predicts there will be many more reported. He said there are more mosquitoes this year due to the sustained rain we have had recently. He said all 3 local TV stations interviewed him today and will report to citizens what they can do to protect themselves from mosquito infestation.

Mr. Mills also reported some flu cases at the Boy Scout Jamboree, as well as a reported Norwalk Virus outbreak. He stated we have been collecting ticks and sending them to be tested, but there is no indication that this year will be any different than last year.

Mr. Gilpin asked about Jesse Boner needing to be an authorized official in the Medicare system. Dr. Tweel said someone has to be designated for billing purposes, and Jesse has done this in the past, so this is just a renewal. Ms. Oxley asked if she understood correctly that we either have to bill for everything or nothing? Dr. Tweel said we can bill separately for batch flu shots through Medicare.

Ms. Cyrus asked about paying for animal head removal, what is the protocol for this? Mr. Mills said they are taken to a vet for this. If there is any exposure, dog or cat, to a human and the animal dies, the head is removed and sent to the hygienic lab for rabies testing. He said this does not have to be done very often.

Dr. Touma asked if food handlers are not required to wear gloves? Mr. Mills said only if they are handling ready to eat food with their bare hands. She asked if we can do some kind of reminder and Mr. Mills said that is taught at all our food handlers classes. He said he will tell the sanitarians to be aware that a complaint was made.

Nursing:

Ms. Napier reported as of July 1st we can now resume giving PPDs, so the clinic has been very busy doing these. She also stated the clinic had an annual VFC (Vaccines For Children) site visit several weeks ago, and received a silver certificate, which is very good.

Ms. Napier also advised there has been one additional TB case identified, so the clinic is again testing contacts. Dr. Touma asked if this case is related to the other cases we have? Ms. Napier said we don't think so, no link has been found yet.

Ms. Napier said school starts back 8/8 this year, so the clinic has been busy with back to school immunizations. Flu vaccine should be shipped to us in the next two weeks. Clinic construction is progressing well and hopefully will be completed by the end of the month.

Mr. Gilpin asked what DOT means in regards to TB meds. Ms. Napier explained it is Direct Observe Therapy, which covers 11 children that we are giving daily (7 days a week) meds to. Mr. Gilpin asked how long this will be done? Dr. Tweel said some of the children will have to be on treatment for at least 9-12 months. Some we may be able to stop treatment after 12 weeks. Dr. Tweel offered congratulations to the clinic staff for their efforts in handling this situation. Dr. Tweel said so far this year we have had 7, possibly 8, active TB cases in Cabell County, which is as many as was in the whole State last year. Dr. Tweel said this is a huge outbreak for this area.

Public Information Officer (PIO):

There were no additional questions for Ms. Ayers regarding her report.

Tobacco, Epidemiology and Change The Future (CTF) reports were accepted as submitted:

Dr. Tweel commented that Teresa Mills, the regional tobacco prevention coordinator, conducts the Cabell County Tobacco Coalition meetings at the health department, and the coalition has been very helpful in providing information and support to Marshall University in their efforts to become a tobacco free campus. Dr. Touma asked what is being addressed at the national level regarding e-cigarettes? Dr. Tweel said there is no regulation in the manufacture of these cigarettes; therefore, without knowing what's in them, it is impossible to regulate them. He said some counties have included these in their clean indoor air regulation, but justifying that without the medical data to back it up is difficult. He said the FDA is working to address this issue.

Mr. Gilpin commented on the report from Dr. Newsome. Dr. Tweel said he thought it was an excellent summary that addressed the health issues in our area as perceived by the public.

Financial Report:

Mr. Mease advised this is the year end report. There wasn't much income in June, but normal expenditures went out. For the year, receipts exceeded expenditures by 8%. Expenditures are 95% and receipts are 108% of projected budget. Dr. Tweel commended Mr. Mease on the excellent job he is doing. Ms. Oxley said it was helpful to have the grants listed on the financial report

Approval of Expenditures:

A motion to approve the invoices for June 2013 was made by Ms. Oxley, seconded by Mr. Howard and passed.

Administration:

Dr. Tweel asked the Board members to ratify their votes given by mail on hiring the CTF employees, as they can no longer be exempt.

Dr. Tweel also reported that we are advertising for the office assistant, sanitarian, maintenance worker and administrator positions.

A motion to ratify the Board members' vote to hire the CTF employees as regular full time employees as long as the Community Transformation Grant funds cover their salaries was made by Ms. Cyrus, seconded by Ms. Oxley and passed.

Dr. Tweel advised Carl Hadsell is to be at the health department for a meeting with the planning team on Friday. He will be giving them a broader view of the total community wide plan, which includes both local hospitals.

Dr. Tweel said the clinic remodeling project is going well. He invited the Board members to stop by the clinic and see the transformation. He also said he has asked Neighborgall to give an estimate on the cost of fixing the window leaks and determine the source of our water leak problem. They reported to him that they don't have anyone on staff that does that type of repair, but recommended a company, Advanced Building Restorations. Dr. Tweel asked the Board permission to contact this company for an estimate on repairing the cracks in the caulking around the specific windows that are leaking. He also said most of the problem is cracking lentils and the mortar around the bricks.

Dr. Tweel stated year end reports are due, but the State has not yet sent us the format they want the reports put in. This will be done as soon as we hear from them.

Dr. Tweel reported several staff members will be attending statewide training regarding TB issues. Dr. Tweel will also be attending and giving one of the lectures, "Contact Investigation".

Dr. Tweel said the immunization lawsuit is on hold until the Kanawha County suit is resolved.

Dr. Tweel said the grievance has been re-scheduled for 9/30/13.

Mr. Howard asked if there is any regulation about smoking at the little league ball fields? Dr. Tweel said there is no policy at this time, the question is, who enforces it? Mr. Mills suggested getting Mayor Turman involved in that. Mr. Howard asked if any other counties in WV have a policy? Mr. Mills said he will check on this. Dr. Tweel said we can push this issue if the Board so desires, but without backup from law enforcement and the courts, it will be an exercise in futility to go after violators. Dr. Touma asked if City Council would address this issue? Mr. Howard said he will talk to the county commissioners about it.

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for September 25, 2013 at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Gilpin asked if there was any more business. There being none, the Board adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry K. Tweel, MD, FCCP
Secretary

Approved:

Thomas H. Gilpin, Chairman
Cabell-Huntington Board of Health