

BOH08082017

The regular meeting of the Hancock County Board of Health was held on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 4PM at the Hancock County Commission Office. Chair, James Pryor proceeded with roll call. Board Members present were: Rick Smith, Lisa Conti, Kyle MacPherson, Phil Rujak and James Pryor. Staff in attendance were Medical Officer, Anna Suray, MD, Jackie Huff, Chelsea Everly, Michelle Truax and Becky Weekley.

Guest in attendance wishing to address the board were Lizabeth Baldt, Del. Mark Zatezalo, Chris Gridler, Jessica Doak and Bill Gotschall.

Board Members reviewed the minutes from the June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017 meeting. Rick Smith motioned to approve the minutes. Lisa Conti seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Board members then reviewed the financials. After some discussion, Kyle Macpherson moved to approved the financials as presented. Rick Smith seconded the motion. The financials will be filed for the auditor.

**Old Business:** Harm Reduction Regulation (Needle Exchange) has completed the 30+ day public comment. No comments were presented. Discussion of the coalition and the collaboration of the members and then Hancock County Health Department role were addressed. The need in our county is to address and prevent the spread of disease that is associated with the opioid crisis. The Health Department will address this through education of the public on safe practices and when needed referral to other resources. Ohio Valley Harm Reduction Coalition will combine resources to seek sustainability of the program as long as the need exist. Phil Rujak motion to adopt the Harm Reduction Program through the Hancock County Health Department. Rick Smith seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**New Business:** Audit Selection- Committee to select a firm to conduct the audits for 2016 and 2017 for the bid process was formed. Members are Jackie Huff, Chelsea Everly, Phil Rujak and Jim Pryor. The audit process has been started and will await the bids to come back for the committee to review and make selection and forward to the State Auditor office for approval.

Letter from Attorney General office informing health departments of numerous inquiry's to his office regarding bed bugs and possible plan of actions. The letter required no action of the board and was made a matter of record.

New reporting system at the state for retirement. The system is COMPASS and is up and running. Any late filing from July and on will be charged a late filing fee.

**Program Reports** Clinical and Environmental reports were provided to members and reviewed. Some discussion on the reports for clarification.

Outreach- Narcan trainings are continuing as desired by the public. Some of the law enforcement and fire departments have been trained on administering the lifesaving drug. Future outreach to more

responders and other agencies are ongoing. Harm Reduction clinics anticipated to start sometime in September with dates, time and location to follow.

Threat Preparedness grant work has all been submitted to date. Drill through the Office of Emergency Management will be coming in September. We will also be working on KI distribution Drill for the spring.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Breast and Cervical Cancer Awareness Walk will take place on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2017 starting at 9:00 am. This year registration can be accomplished online through event schedule that is also linked to the departments Facebook page. T-shirts will be available for \$10. Everyone is encouraged to participate for this worthy cause. All proceeds raised by the event and sponsors remain locally for those that need the services.

**Public Comment:** Del Mark Zatezalo- After a year of the smoking ban it has been brought to his attention that persons in the 21 and over establishments particularly fraternal/veterans groups feel that they have served and been shot at and therefore should be allowed to do as they please(smoke). Places that children are allowed is not what he is talking about. There are people within organizations that didn't mind the smoking ban and wish it to continue." At any rate, we asked for signatures from the fraternal groups, bars, cafes and the likes because they had a drop in business and would like some relief. There is an interest in allowing some sort of waiver because their business is down 10-20% year over year. I am trying to get a grasp on these numbers from the Hancock County Revenue as best as I can. Again any place that children are allowed I didn't approach. Asking for a little lead way for them because of the loss of revenue which Liz can talk about." Legislature has dealt with this for the last several years. So just asking for consideration for more discussion and possible waiver. Petition signatures were provided from patrons of the establishments. (not just Hancock County residents) to ask for a waiver.

Liz Baldt-Hancock County GOP-" Stated that Mark and she represent the people, and when they all come clamoring to us wanting answers we try to do our jobs and represent them. We bring the petition forward to give an advantage of a waiver for these businesses(taxpayers). They want a choice, we are America" The revenue loss she stated is unbelievable with 16 businesses closing and nine more anticipated to close." She also stated, B&O taxes(Weirton)decrease in population, and other factors are hitting the county hard and some sort of relief is needed. "These people work hard, pay taxes and are law abiding citizens they need this waiver."

Rick Smith had a statement for Del Zatezalo, "You stated that you are here to represent the Veterans constituents, well I am a veteran, and I did smoke and don't feel that I am represented. I quit smoking 20 years ago, due to my sister and mother dying from cancer." We often hear the smoking ban but we rarely hear about the health of our citizens, strong statistics exist to show the direct and indirect effects of tobacco on health and insurance and the cost associated. People are dying. Never is the emphasis on health"

Zatezalo responded," there were people who like the ban and that's ok with me. It's up to the establishment. The Chester American Legion was more ok with the ban and the Chester VFW was absolutely against."

Baldt also chimed in that “you can’t blame everything on smoking”

Rick Smith reiterated that it was not a debate and he let her speak without interruption and would ask the same of her. Will address the health side of it later.

Phil Rujak asked, what was being done at the state level, referencing that people make statements of government telling us what to do? Why don’t you put it on the ballot and let the people decide? Let the peoples’ voices be heard.

Zatezalo responded that it was possible(Ballot), and that they were doing it with the roads now, but he wants the waiver to be done and the board has that authority. Phil stated that Zatezalo had the authority to place on the ballot and let all the people voices be heard. Whether it be statewide or county.

Phil asked why the legislative bill pertaining to Commissioner having the authority over the Board of Health did not advance in the session. Zatezalo stated, it did not make it out of committee the spectators voted from the crowd and the chair stated the no’s have it. Phil stated again that isn’t that like passing the buck? Let the people vote.

Jim Pryor stated that two and a half years ago they discussed that they legislatures put to vote and nothing came of it. The Board of health is looking out for the health of the county’s citizens not the economic health.

Zatezalo stated,” There are plenty of other things you could get involved in whether you want to or not that’s another thing.”

Bill Gotschall-Executive Director of Smoke free Pennsylvania, which is responsible for reducing the hazards of tobacco use and protecting workers from the same. He encouraged the Board of Health to continue their stance on the clean air regulation because much data is there to support the benefits people receive from clean air. He however, wished the Board would reconsider the definition of smoking in the regulation to remove vaping products. He presented references for statics that vaping is not as hazardous as smoking tobacco products. Any vaping could be a transition to get away from tobacco addiction.

Chris Griader-Rebel Vapor Lounge-Urged the Board to allow sampling of vape products in vape stores to be able to sample product before purchase.

Jessica Doak-Ella Vape- Stated all she heard before in this meeting was Harm Reduction. Harm Reduction is about helping the citizens in our area. She asked that board consider allowing vaping in the vape shops to help make a smooth transition from cigarettes to vaping.” This would help a lot of people get off cigarettes.”

Member Phil Rujak asked if they could provide the board with data and sources that were discussed. Information should be forthcoming. Mr. Rujak also asked if there any regulations on the age of persons for vaping. Mr. Gotschall stated that most states are 18 years and older. WV is 18 years old.

Chairman Pryor asked if there were any other discussions of the Board?

Phil Rujak stating his position, wished that Delegate Zatezalo and Mrs. Baldt had remained for further discussion. They speak about enticing business for our county and state. No data is available to support that smoking or not smoking inside a building does entice or not entice business or generate revenue/business. Smoking does effect healthcare cost for businesses and counties.” We as the Board of Health consider the public health factors.” There exist years of data to show the cost and effects of smoking on people and the community. Anyone can sway their talking points to what their agenda item might be, however the actual data needs to be specific to that item and not generalized.

Jim Pryor commented that he is a veteran and served his country and was a member of the Chester Legion and VFW (Del Zatezalo reference previously) and did not feel welcomed due to his stance on the Clean Air regulation and affiliation as a Board of Health member. People of the county approach me a lot about the CA regulation and thank me for the boards efforts. They can go to the veteran’s organization and enjoy the company of others while not be subjected to secondhand smoke. The Chester Legion constructed a very nice outside smoking area that people are enjoying and able to smoke if they choose. He references 2 years ago, and stated,” We are not dictating their right to smoke a cigarette. They just can’t subject others to the harmful effects of their decision to do so. They can go outside and protect the others.” Exemption were also discussed several years ago, and as the board of health we could not grant waivers to businesses because it did not protect all members of our community including workers.” The state of Ohio does not permit smoking inside buildings and the state of Pennsylvania only exempted the casino floor. We do not want to discriminate and chose only a specific group to protect from harmful effects of the second-hand smoke but to protect all the public.

Rick Smith commented that the number one concern of the health department is the health of all people not a selected few. Economics as referenced has been declining for many years from back to when Weirton Steel was there. Lack of population plays a big role in the economic outcomes of the county. With the number of LVL on each corner of every block of the county how can the economy sustain and thrive with that saturation and less population. Once again, the health of the county is our concern for all not just a selected few. Zatezalo said he represented the veterans and as two members of this board who were not surveyed the blanket statement is not considered a clear representation. In 2010 discussion was labored over the clean indoor air for the next years before voting on the regulation in 2015. Emphasizing that it is about the health.

Phil commented that we are not the economic development board but board of health. With regard to vaping we are willing to read and review the information that will be provided.

Dr. Suray referenced an article in the American medical journal that addressed the vaping.

Jessica Doak asked to make her previous statement clear, vaping should not be everywhere only in the Vape shops to sample the flavors.

Jackie Huff asked to comment about the petition. The County Commission meeting when it was initially presented Mrs Baldt quoted statics of Hancock County populations when stating that the signatures of

1400 was a fair representation of the county. I posed the question at the meeting if the signatures had been verified with the county. Upon further review they had not been verified and the number with duplicates and out of state and county was closer to 294 not over 1000. Both Del Zatezalo and Mrs. Baldt came today to request a waiver on behalf of the constituents. The signature pages said sign to reverse the smoking ban nowhere was a waiver mentioned. Delegate Zatezalo and Mrs. Baldt stated they are here to help the people of the county that they represent. Then why is the county not represented equally? Petition for and against clean air! Why is most of the signature patrons from out of state? Mrs. Baldt stated 16 businesses closed with 9 more due to close, what are those businesses? We have LVL closing and moving machines into existing sites. (New legislation allowing more than 5 machines per LVL site). We also have new business opening all the time.

The next meeting of the Hancock County Board of Health is October 10, 2017 at 4:00PM at the County Commission office.

Phil Rujak moved to go into executive session regarding personnel issues. Kyle MacPherson second the motion. Jackie Huff and Dr. Suray were asked to stay.

Returning to regular meeting business from executive session a motion was made by Phil Rujak to approve the merit increases for the staff as presented. Kyle MacPherson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned by motion and second respectively, Rick Smith and Kyle MacPherson.

Respectfully submitted for Dr. Anna Suray by Jackie Huff