

Pima County Board of Health
Minutes
April 27, 2011
Room 1108, Abrams Building
3950 S. Country Club Road
Tucson, Arizona 85714

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Horwitz called the meeting to order at 3:06 p.m.

Mr. Schlueter called the roll as follows:

Ms. Allen - absent
Mr. An - absent
Dr. Brumm
Mr. Elías - absent
Dr. Fulginiti
Ms. Gonzales
Dr. Horwitz
Mr. Rojas
Mr. Stopani - absent
Ms. Trowbridge

A quorum was established.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. MINUTES ADOPTION – BOARD OF HEALTH

- Adopt Board of Health March 23, 2011 Minutes

The motion was made and seconded (Fulginiti/ Trowbridge) that the March 23, 2011 Minutes be adopted as written. The motion carried.

4. MEASLES AFTER ACTION REPORT

Health Department Director Sherry Daniels referred to the provided Measles After Action Report and said the report will be posted on the Department website and shared with the State. On January 18, 2011, an individual who had recently traveled out of the country presented at a local hospital with illness later confirmed as measles. Department staff made 708 phone calls to potentially exposed individuals and 24 total suspect cases were identified. All suspected cases were ruled out and the incident only had the one confirmed case.

One of the keys to the response was reaching out to community health providers at the onset. The Department sent out 25 total mass communications messages to health providers throughout the duration of the incident. Crafting messages has proven very time consuming and going forward the Department's Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) staff is being tasked with in-advance preparations of approved messages for various types of incidents. Additionally, PHEP staff is being tasked with developing a repository of routinely validated and updated health partner contact lists for use in response efforts.

Ms. Daniels said that overall the response went well. As a result of lessons learned from previous responses, the Incident Command Structure was established early and planning began early. The command structure had depth with deputies named to ensure gapless coverage. One area identified for improvement was WebEOC, which is a web based incident management tool. Staff determined that WebEOC was not secure enough to use for patient information. The Department has purchased an electronic medical records system which will be used in future events. Cost tracking was done well and overall the measles response costs were approximately \$35,000, in contrast to the larger 2008 response which cost over \$800,000.

5. DISEASE INFORMATION REPORTING

Records and Administrative Services Division Manager Brad McKinney addressed the Board on this item. Dr. Fulginiti, Mr. McKinney and Health Department Chief Medical Officer Dr. Michelle McDonald called the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) a few months ago to discuss this item. ADHS is unable to provide non-reportable disease data generated by hospitals or health systems. Mr. McKinney reported that data sharing was a priority identified by the Community Health Assessment Taskforce, which includes many hospital representatives. Staff is hoping that local discussion will produce headway in the effort to share disease data more freely. Mr. McKinney said infection control practitioners do not have the authority to release non-required disease reporting data. Dr. Fulginiti advocated for a meeting with hospital representatives to discuss how to develop a system to share all disease information. He also said that the University Medical Center and University Physicians Hospital board meetings are open meetings and a quality report is shared telling that board what is going on. Both Dr. Fulginiti and Dr. Horwitz offered to reach out to hospital representatives to solicit their help and participation in an upcoming meeting.

6. COMMUNITY HEALTH ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT

Dr. Horwitz addressed the Board on this item. The Committee was formed in response to a suggestion from County Administrator Huckelberry. The Committee met prior to the regular meeting and will be working on identifying what achievable, measurable goals they want to pursue. The next meeting will be next month prior to the regular meeting.

7. PROPOSED HAND WASHING ORDINANCES

Dr. Horwitz opened discussion on this topic by reading a comment provided by Beth Sanders, who is from the University of Arizona's Mel and Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health, and was present at the meeting. Ms. Sanders' comment was that she supported the hand washing ordinance as long as mobile food vendors can use anti-bacterial wipes or hand sanitizer; and she expressed that requiring sinks for mobile vendors would be unreasonable.

Ms. Daniels referred to her handout which included a cover memo, a report from Consumer Health and Food Safety Program Manager Sharon Browning and a draft ordinance. The cover memo listed four areas the Hand Washing Committee is seeking to address: where food is offered and portable toilets are provided; where human-animal contact is encouraged, such as at a petting zoo; where customers eat at mobile food establishments; and where farmers' markets operate. The first two areas were the focus of the presentation.

Ms. Browning utilized a PowerPoint presentation to address the Board on hand washing facilities, stakeholder meetings and the proposed ordinance. Hand washing facilities refer to equipped lavatories, hand antiseptics and single-use hand antiseptic towelettes. Studies show that in the United States in 2008 foodborne illness affected 48 million people and caused 3,000 deaths and in 2010 cost \$152 billion. Ms. Browning held stakeholder meetings regarding where food is offered and portable toilets are provided, and where human-animal contact is encouraged. Comments from these meetings are included in her report.

The proposed ordinance presented is for a new section, 8.22, in Pima County Code Title 8, Chapter 8, which would require hand washing facilities for events where portable toilets are present and food is offered to the public, and petting zoos and animal rides. However, Ms. Browning and Ms. Daniels recommended against requiring hand washing facilities at petting zoos and places where human-animal contact is encouraged due to permit fee and enforcement issues. In lieu of the hand washing facilities for these venues the Department would offer education and guidelines for signage. A significant difference between petting zoos and events where portable toilets are present and food is offered to the public is that the Health Department's involvement is already required at food events. Additionally it was pointed out that petting zoos and animal rides are often transitory, which makes it very difficult to know when and where they are in operation in the County. Addressing the portable toilet hand washing issue may require a nominal fee increase or additional fee; however, addressing the petting zoo issue would be much more complicated in terms of fees, staffing and how to proceed. The proposed requirement for hand washing facilities at events where portable toilets are present and food is offered to the public was generally well accepted.

The Board discussed petting zoos and had questions about how common petting zoos are in Pima County and Arizona; how significant of a health risk they present; and how much disease is attributed to these settings. Additionally, there were questions about what the fee would need to be and what resources were needed to enforce hand washing facilities

requirements at venues where human-animal contact is encouraged. Ms. Daniels said the Department will research the questions and bring back information to the Board to help them make a more informed decision.

8. CALL TO AUDIENCE

One comment from the audience was shared by Dr. Horwitz as part of item 7, Proposed Hand Washing Ordinances.

9. DIRECTOR'S SUMMATION OF ACTION ITEMS

Ms. Daniels summarized action items from the meeting. The action items identified were:

- It was requested during the Measles After Action Report discussion that the Department account for volunteer hours provided during future responses, which has been done in the past and will be addressed in the future.
- The next Community Health Advocacy Committee meeting in May 25, 2011 at 2:00 pm.
- Staff will follow-up on contacts made by Drs. Horwitz and Fulginiti to set up a meeting on the feasibility of expanded disease reporting as discussed in Item 5, and will return with either a scheduled date or results of the meeting.
- Staff will research the requested information in relationship to venues where human-animal contact is encouraged

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.