

Pima County Board of Health  
Minutes  
May 23, 2012  
Room 1108, Abrams Building  
3950 S. Country Club Road  
Tucson, Arizona 85714

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Horwitz called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Mr. Schlueter called the roll as follows:

Mr. An  
Mr. Elías - absent  
Dr. Fulginiti - absent  
Mr. Gastelum  
Ms. Gonzales - absent  
Dr. Horwitz  
Ms. McComb-Berger - absent  
Mr. Rojas  
Dr. Smith  
Mr. Stopani  
Ms. Trowbridge

A quorum was established.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

3. MINUTES ADOPTION

- Adopt Board of Health April 25, 2012 Minutes

The motion was made and seconded (Rojas/Gastelum) that the April 25, 2012 Minutes be adopted as written. The motion carried.

4. DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY UPDATE

Ursula Kramer, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Director, updated the Board on upcoming DEQ related events. The Marana landfill air quality permit is up for renewal. The open house will be May 29 and the public hearing will be May 31. The open house provides an opportunity for people to talk and ask questions, then during the hearing DEQ accepts testimony, but does not respond. There will be an open house regarding the Oracle Ridge Mine (underground mine) air quality permit on June 27, and the hearing will be June 28. The Materion Ceramics air quality permit is up for renewal. The open house will be July 10 with the hearing July 12. The Rosemont Copper Company applied for an air quality permit and was denied by DEQ. The decision was appealed to the Air Quality Hearing

Board, which upheld the denial. Rosemont then took the issue to Superior Court on May 14 and the judge has 60 days to issue a decision. Currently DEQ looks at the operations of public water systems, but does not deal with water monitoring. DEQ is working with the State to expand the delegation agreement to take on water monitoring responsibilities.

5. HEALTH INFORMATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Health Department Director Sherry Daniels discussed that the Health Department is in preparation for applying for accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board next year. Part of the preparation includes having staff and programs in place to assure the Department is communicating properly; to be able to assess our community and develop a community health improvement plan; and to assure policies and procedures are up to date. Over the past few years the Department has lost a number of positions including a Public Information Officer and some Health Educators. These changes have impacted communication, which was identified as lacking through recent strategic planning and the community health assessment activities. Ms. Daniels introduced Health Information Coordinator Erin Coulter, who just transitioned to her new position after working in the, now expired, Communities Putting Prevention to Work (CPPW) grant unit. Ms. Coulter utilized the attached PowerPoint presentation to discuss the goals, responsibilities and objectives of her position.

6. IMMUNIZATION ACTION PLAN

Ms. Daniels explained that one of the grants the Department receives is for vaccine preventable diseases and includes auditing schools and child care centers for compliance. Discussion on this item included references to a recent Arizona Daily Star article regarding poor immunization rates in some Arizona schools. Ms. Daniels introduced Vaccine Preventable Disease (VPD) Manager Edmee Botwright, who discussed her program.

The VPD program conducts 26 activities required by the State grant. The VPD program develops and supports ongoing strategies to address immunization issues; promotes activities toward immunizing adults and children; and focuses on increasing immunization levels for children from birth to two years of age. The program collaborates with community agencies and schools to provide a wide variety of immunization services and outreach to underserved areas, including supporting the implementation of school based VFCs or Vaccine for Children program sites. The Department has recruited Marana Unified School District, Sunnyside School District and Tucson Unified School District; and the schools vaccinate students with vaccine provided by the State. Ms. Botwright discussed the VPD perinatal hepatitis B program and how the VPD program links with the Woman, Infants and Children (WIC) community nutrition program to improve immunizations in the WIC clients. The VPD program sends out post cards and makes reminder calls to parents regarding immunizations for their children and devotes considerable effort to immunization records validation for schools. Certain schools are notorious for low immunization rates and schools without school nurses have worse rates than those which have nurses.

Ms. Daniels pointed out that the Department is changing its immunization delivery model, which in years past included large, logistically challenging, back-to-school immunization clinics at the convention center. Now Department clinics provide immunizations by appointment or on a walk-in basis. Schools are sending information home with children to inform parents what vaccinations are required for the next school year; and parents don't have to wait until right before school starts.

7. ACCREDITATION AND STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Ms. Daniels said the Department is able to use Arizona Department of Health Services money designated for health policy to continue policy work started by the CPPW grant. Also the State was able to provide some additional funds to pursue accreditation, the Community Health Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan. Ms. Daniels introduced Senior Program Manager Alan Bergen, who now heads the Department's new Health Surveillance and Assurance program. Mr. Bergen utilized the attached PowerPoint presentation to discuss the steps leading toward accreditation. The Community Health Assessment has been completed and the final report is expected in June. A strategic planning retreat was held this month and work on both the Community Health Improvement Plan and the Strategic Plan is beginning this month, with implementation to begin this summer. Being accredited demonstrates a Health Department has high standards for their services, and it is strongly believed that accreditation will be advantageous in vying for crucial grant dollars in the future.

8. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Daniels did not have any legislative updates and pointed out that the session is over. However, she did mention that, depending on what happens with the Federal Health Care Reform Act (Affordable Care Act), it could have significant impact on the Department.

9. CALL TO AUDIENCE

There were no speakers from the audience.

10. SUMMATION OF ACTION ITEMS

There were no action items from the meeting; however, Ms. Daniels said the Community Health Assessment will be finalized soon and sent to the Board prior to the next meeting.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:16 p.m.