

Pima County Board of Health
Minutes
September 25, 2013
Classroom
Health Department South Office
175 W. Irvington Road
Tucson, Arizona 85714

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Horwitz called the meeting to order at 3:11 p.m.

Mr. Schlueter called the roll as follows:

Mr. An
Mr. Elías - absent
Mr. Gastelum - absent
Mr. Geoffrion (late)
Ms. Gonzales
Dr. Horwitz
Ms. McComb-Berger
Mr. Rojas
Dr. Smith - absent
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

- Adopt Board of Health August 28, 2013 Minutes

The motion was made and seconded (Rojas/Trowbridge) that the August 28, 2013 Minutes be adopted as written. The motion carried 6-0.

4. REPORT FROM NOMINATION COMMITTEE AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Dr. Horwitz reported that after contacting the Board members, he was the only member who wanted to serve as President and Ms. Trowbridge was the only member who wanted to serve as Vice President.

The motion was made and seconded (Rojas/McComb-Berger) that Dr. Horwitz be elected President and Ms. Trowbridge be elected Vice President. The motion carried 6-0.

5. PUBLIC HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Health Department Director Francisco García began by saying the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is estimated to move us from an uninsured rate of approximately 25 to 30 percent down to approximately ten percent. The Health Department's job is not to be a primary care provider. The Health Department provides essential services which are established statutorily. Five main service lines provided are in the areas of tuberculosis, breast and cervical cancer detection, STD/HIV, family planning and immunizations. The Health Department in collaboration with the Pima County Public Library and Communications Office developed a webpage to provide tools to connect individuals to the resources to become insured and to inform businesses of rights and responsibilities under the ACA. The webpage is reachable from the Health Department's website. There are three choices for direction from the Department's ACA page: one for people who already have insurance; one for people who need insurance; and one for people who need insurance, but may also qualify for other government assistance. Each choice links with an appropriate federal government site. There are also tabs which include Key Dates, About the Law, Get Ready, Fact Sheets, and More Help. Going forward Health Department staff will be reaching out to County administration and departments with the goal of training County staff on how to direct people to the correct resources. There will be local agencies certified by the federal government as resources for application assistance. The list has not been released yet; however, at least three local agencies have been identified. The Health Department is working on establishing a billing system to recover fees for services. One concern with the ACA is that the federal government may begin to defund Health Department programs that will continue to be necessary.

6. PHN CASE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Nurse Manager Deborah Weber utilized that attached PowerPoint presentation to discuss the Public Health Nursing (PHN) Home Visitation Program. The program began in the 1930s with home visits to STD clients and moms and babies. There is still a focus on maternal child health, but PHN clients can include anyone. The nurses do assessments, education and referrals. There are six PHN positions at each of the main PHN offices. Referrals to the PHN program come from a number of sources including hospitals and the Tucson Fire Department.

The Health Start Program, which is grant funded by the Arizona Department of Health Services, serves pregnant and post-partum women and their children until age two. Public Health Aides, overseen by PHNs, do the actual home visits. The program provides education support and advocacy services. Measurable program successes include a low birth rate of 6.4 percent for Pima County Health Start participants compared to a state rate of 7.1 percent; and 91 percent of Pima County Health Start children are appropriately vaccinated by age two compared to the Arizona rate of 76.4 percent.

7. STI PROGRAM

Program Manager-Senior Brad McKinney went over the attached PowerPoint presentation on the County's STD/HIV Program. The program provides testing and treatment for Chlamydia, Gonorrhea and Syphilis; HIV testing and linkage to care; partners services; case surveillance; reporting; and outreach. The STD/HIV clinic has approximately 6,500 client visits, and does approximately 4,700 rapid HIV test annually. Forty-seven percent of the clients are in their

20s. Gonorrhea and Chlamydia rates continue to rise in Pima County. Syphilis rates among females are going down, but going up with males. Twenty-six percent of all new HIV infections are among youth 13 to 24 years of age; and about four out of five of these occur in males.

8. PIMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT FACILITIES

Due to time constraints this item was not discussed.

9. CALL TO AUDIENCE

There were no speakers from the audience.

10. SUMMATION OF ACTION ITEMS AND PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

Dr. Horwitz summarized items from the meeting. The only action item from the meeting going forward was the continuation of Item 8: Pima County Health Department Facilities to the next meeting. Dr. García indicated that two items he eventually will be bringing to the Board are the response to sexual assault in our community, and intentional and unintentional injuries among youth.

11. TOUR OF SOUTH CAMPUS

Ms. Weber, who manages the South Office, gave the Board a tour of the South Office along with Dr. García.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.