

MARICOPA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting Minutes
Administration Building
301 W. Jefferson Street, 10th Floor
Board of Supervisors Conference Room
Phoenix, Arizona 85003
September 22, 2008

Ms. Adamic called the meeting to order officially at 3:08 pm with a quorum present.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Audrey Adamic
Don Cassano
Susanne Cook, RN, PhD
James Giangobbe, M.D.
Michael Kearns
Brian F. Spicker*
Mike Snitz (*new member*)
Jim Vandeventer
Pam Wight

Members Excused:

Zuhdi Jasser, M.D
Maricopa County Supervisor Andrew Kunasek, District 3

Ex-Officio: Bob England, M.D. (via telephone)

(* Denotes members arriving after Roll Call)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

Ms. Adamic advised that if anyone from the public is present at the meeting today who would like an opportunity to speak, a Speaker Request Form is available and must be filled out prior to addressing the Board of Health. The Board of Health cannot take action on but only discuss questions from the public under the Call to the Public section.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

- 1. Approval of the July 23rd and August 25th, 2008 BOH Minutes:** -Ms. Adamic
Dr. Giangobbe made the motion to approve the July 23rd and August 25th, 2008 BOH minutes. Mr. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7 to 0 vote.

- 2. Fee Waivers:** -Ms. Minichiello
Ms. Minichiello presented 5 fee waivers for approval. Sun City Area Interfaith Services, Inc., St. Clement ADHC, Avondale South Head Start, Westside Head Start, Foothills Food Bank

Mr. Vandeventer made the motion to approve Sun City Area Interfaith Services, Inc. for a fee waiver as recommended. Dr. Giangobbe seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7 to 0 vote.

Mr. Cassano made the motion to approve the St. Clement ADHC for a fee waiver as recommended. Ms. Wight seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7 to 0 vote.

Mr. Cassano made the motion to approve the Avondale South Head Start for a fee waiver as recommended. Ms. Wight seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7 to 0 vote.

Dr. Giangobbe made the motion to approve Westside Head Start for a fee waiver as recommended. Mr. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7 to 0 vote.

Mr. Cassano made the motion to approve Foothills Food Bank for a fee waiver as recommended. Dr. Giangobbe seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 7 to 0 vote.

Introduction of and welcome to new board member Mike Snitz representing District 4.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Public Health Report

-Dr. England

Dr. Bob England presented the following matters to the Board.

Human Resources

Immunization Requirement (see email that is attached to Director's Report) – We are going to implement a new immunization requirement for all staff. In light of the measles outbreak that happened down in Tucson taught us a lesson about how incomplete our immunization records are amongst our own staff as well as health professionals in general. We want to make absolutely sure that we have a HERD affect in place for the types of diseases that we might accidentally spread to our clients. The email breaks down the plan in detail. So, to avoid us from having outbreaks in the future, we are in the initial phase of implementing this immunization requirement.

Infrastructure

Funding (see email handout)

The funding situation for both the county and the state is really bad. I have heard but this is not official that departments are being asked to prepare 10, 15 and even 20% contingencies for further cuts from the county portion of our budget. We are already looking at those contingencies just in case. In addition, the state budget is at least a billion dollars out of budget this current fiscal year so we are anticipating further cuts coming our way as the state is forced to cut funding to some of its departments with ADHS being one of our main partners. In light of this information, I sent an email to all staff preparing them for future cuts.

Sites

Part of our plan is to increase our alternate sites out in the community and get people more accessible to public and decrease travel. Our food bank site over on 31st Avenue and Thomas should be open next month and the Mesa site should be opened by the end of the year. These are not clinical sites other than we provide WIC services and immunizations but it will also provide places for people that are field workers to have access too without having to come all the way back downtown.

Strategic Planning

We continue to work on the rest of the department copying the Community Health Services model which was so successful. It is turning out to be a real useful tool.

Programs
Disease Control

PHEM –

The last time I spoke with you, I talked about the City's Readiness Initiative site visit here. That's the strategic national stockpile – the mass dispensing portion of our emergency management money. We worked really hard on this one. We received a 92 on our score. The CDC won't tell us where we land but we've got an inside source that tells us that we are the highest scoring county in the country. However, we are still a long way away from actually having to deliver services at all 100 sites. This is a great improvement and I am really proud of our staff.

They are also implementing what is called Project Public Health Ready which is a new set of standards that the local health officers opted to go to as a state for all of our emergency management activities.

Vitals

We are working with ADHS on the new online vital registration system. It still has a lot of issues but they are creating technical fixes both with the software to make it more user friendly and take less time and also with some device that basically increases bandwidth that helps our ability to process information on our site. We've been falling short of funding or actually been over spending there basically by the same amount of what we are paying in overtime because of this glitch and all the extra work that is involved. We are moving toward hiring new folks that should be able to produce more in a regular time as opposed to paying people over time.

Community Health Nursing

The flu shot season is in gear. We have lots of activities planned. This is not the year that we are going to try to do all kids; that recommendation we will try to implement next year

Community Health Services

We did not receive the Strategic Alliance for Health grant that we applied for that was about pulling our various programs together. We were in the common category where we were awarded the grant but not funded the grant. So we don't know where that places us on the list at this point.

Disease Updates

Our West Nile human cases have picked up during the last couple of weeks. This is no surprise as we are at the end of the season where it usually does pick up. The mosquito season proceeds the human disease season and then there is a lag time for getting appropriate testing and reporting completed. So it is usually August/September where the human cases start to appear. We will continue to put out educational reminders.

Rabies vaccine shortage continues which is really scary. For the first time we are in a position of not just advising community docs about the use of post exposure rabies vaccine but actually playing a role in the ability of a physician to order the rabies vaccine from each. Periodically there is a code word that changes that CDC gives out to state and local health departments. We always get consultation request from doctors in clinics and ERs asking about a particular patients need for the post exposure rabies vaccine. In the past we give them advice but now if they need to order it, if there hospital

is out, which most are, they will need are code word in order to order a series from the manufacture. With this in mind, I will be surprised if the entire nation gets away without a fatality.

How long term is this problem?

It began last Spring when we first heard that this was going to happen when one of the manufactures of the vaccine went down. There are always one or two vaccines that are in shortage and it is usual because there are only one or two manufacturers for many vaccines. So if one manufacturer must go down where the FDA shuts them down where they have to throw away a lot and reconfigure how they do the manufacturing this is what happens. This is the only disease that I am aware of that is 100% fatal and that has a vaccine that is 100% effective.

We have particularly complicated and puzzling salmonella outbreak that might make the news but we have pulled out all of the stops. Environmental has done a ton of work. They have implemented every intervention we could come up with. The CDC is here doing a FEA trying to help us figure this out. In the big picture it is not a part of our big disease issue but just wanted to make you aware of it.

Environmental Services

With regards to the foreclosed homes and abandoned pools, the County Attorney has given the Environmental Services department permission that if we put a notice on the property that looks abandoned, take pictures and no one responds within 24 hours we are given the okay to go in and treat. If someone responds and won't let us on their property then we have to go through a warrant. In the last two weeks we have had over 2,000 complaints just because of the monsoon season and the economy. So with the staff we have, we are probably about 4 to 6 weeks behind. Of the complaints, about 1/3 of them we are able to get in and treat without having to go through a warrant, 1/3 are homes that are occupied but that people allow us to treat and the other 1/3 are those we have to get warrants for.

Announcements and Current Events

No announcements or current events discussed

-Board Members

Adjournment

Mr. Vandeventer made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Dr. Giangobbe seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a 9 to 0 vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:49 pm.