

**Maricopa County
Board of Health Meeting Minutes
Admin Building
301 W. Jefferson Street, 10th Floor
Board of Supervisors Conference Room
Phoenix, Arizona 85003
3:00 p.m.
November 27, 2006**

Ms. Adamic called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Audrey Adamic
Don Cassano
James Giangobbe, M.D.
Zuhdi Jasser, M.D.
Supervisor Andrew Kunasek*
Brian McNeil
Brian Spicker*
Jim Vandeventer
Pam Wight
(*arrived during the meeting as noted)

Members Absent:

Susanne Cook, R.N, Ph.D.
Maclovia Zepeda

Ex-Officio: Bob England, M.D., M.P.H., Director

Ms. Adamic announced to everyone attending this public meeting that requests by the Public to speak to the Board of Health members can be acted upon after completion of the Action Items. The Board of Health members can not take action on any item discussed by the public.

ACTION ITEMS:

Approval of the September 25, 2006 Board of Health Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Cassano made the motion to approve the September 25, 2006 Board of Health meeting minutes and Mr. Vandeventer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by seven votes.

Annual Appointments to the Finance Committee:

Ms. Adamic asked for appointments to the Finance Committee. Ms. Adamic asked Mr. Cassano to request nominations for the Finance Committee. Mr. Cassano said his Finance Committee is in place and those members are requested to continue to serve on the Finance Committee.

Mr. Cassano made the motion to approve Ms. Wight, Ms. Adamic, and Mr. Vandeventer as members of the Finance Committee. Mr. Vandeventer seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously by seven votes.

Extension Request - Syphilis Prevention Policy:

Dr. England requested an extension from the Board members requiring testing for congenital syphilis. Dr. England explained that rates in Maricopa County continue to be worrisome. We continue to pick up cases because of the testing in place; the medical community continues to work with us.

Mr. Cassano made the motion to extend the Syphilis Prevention Policy with Dr. Giangobbe seconding the motion. The motion passed unanimously by seven votes.

Dr. England explained that one of the issues he hopes to address through the STD clinic is enhanced ways of dealing with this issue. We met with ADHS and they have ideas for extending syphilis remedies and we are going to work with them. Dr. England said it is interesting that our congenital rates stayed up even after our overall rates are lower.

Formal Recognition of Dr. England as Director of the Department of Public Health:

Ms. Adamic announced and congratulated Dr. England on his promotion to Director of The Department of Public Health. Ms. Wilson notified the Board of Health members via memo that Dr. England was promoted to Director. The Board of Health members reiterated how pleased they are that the County selected such an able person as Director.

Fee Waivers:

Ms. Minichiello, Program Manager, Environmental Services, has two fee waiver requests for discussion. The Scottsdale Airpark Kiwanis Club's request was granted by the Department because the event took place last weekend. The fee was waived after speaking with the special events coordinator because the same event qualified for previous waivers. In the event the Board of Health would deny this fee waiver request – Environmental Services would contact the event coordinator and request the fee be paid. The second request is for the Behavioral Health Consumers in Action. Both requests meet the eligibility requirements for fee waivers.

Mr. Cassano made the motion to approve the fee waiver requests for the Scottsdale Airpark Kiwanis Club and the Behavioral Health Consumers in Action. The motion was seconded by Dr. Giangobbe and passed unanimously by seven votes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:**Fee Waiver Revision to Chapter 1, Regulation 5., a of the Health Code:**

Ms. Minichiello, Program Manager, Environmental Services, requested the Board of Health members feedback on possible revisions to Chapter 1, Regulation 5., a, of the Health Code, regarding fee waivers. If the Board is in agreement, all the appropriate steps would be followed to start the revision process starting with review through County counsel.

Ms. Minichiello said Supervisor Brock suggested some time ago to synchronize the expiration date for permits and fee waiver requests. Most of the permits expire in one year while the events are scheduled anywhere from one to 14 day events. Also requested is clarification for what defines a charitable organization.

Mr. McNeil asked if restrictions or changes would set precedent that might eliminate prior approved waivers if the request is made again?

Mr. McNeil asked why not just leave the wording as is? Ms. Minichiello said at one time there were concerns that the Department might override the Board's ruling. The requested changes would provide a safeguard.

Dr. Jasser asked why not stay as liberal as possible to assist organizations with financial hardship? Ms. Minichiello said further clarification would assist the community by providing clarification for eligibility.

Dr. Jasser asked who requested the suggested changes to the regulation? Ms. Minichiello said no one from the Board of Health requested changes. The suggested changes will assist in clarifying the requirements for a fee waiver.

Mr. McNeil asked if a one time event operating under the parameters for the poor, distressed, and under privileged, would qualify because the language is written in a way that is more inclusive?

Ms. Adamic asked if Board members could have a full copy of the regulation pertaining to these changes.

Mr. Power, Director, Environmental Services, said Environmental Services is considering several revisions to the Health Code. Mr. Power asked for the Board's suggestions regarding the health related revisions. Mr. Power assured the Board if they do not agree with the revisions the process will stop.

Dr. Jasser explained one consideration is whether or not we can grant variances under the suggested changes. Mr. Cassano said we grant waivers now and we want to feel assured that will continue. Mr. Cassano suggested the County attorney review the proposed revisions before moving forward.

Director's Report:

Dr. England, Director, Department of Public Health, thanked the Board of Health members for their vote of support. Dr. England asked the Board members to recognize Mr. Porter's promotion as Deputy Director.

Salary issues – The annual Pay for Performance Package went into affect last August with an average 3.5% across the board increase based upon individual performance ratings. The first phase of the administrative market study is reflected in our budget. The WIC increases significantly impacted our grant budget because grants don't provide salary increases. Market increases provided to staff in multiple phases are creating temporary salary inconsistencies. The second phase of the administrative market study encompasses counselors, social workers, and program managers.

Communication – Our Annual All Hands Meeting is next Wednesday November 29th from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Mountain Preserve Reception Center. Please join us if your schedule permits.

Infrastructure Issues –The downtown Office of Enterprise Technology is reviewing and assessing our entire IT program. We expect the final report by the end of January. The new IT server room at 1645 E. Roosevelt Street is up and functioning.

Facilities – the County is working on long range facility planning which includes Public Health.

The Management Team held a Strategic Planning session on November 18th. Reality is we perform many functions beyond the essential mandated services for a Health Department. We really would like to place ourselves in a position that allows us to focus on the entire County population. One direction for growth is to concentrate on programs providing prevention related services.

Incorporating assessment and evaluation documentation while moving toward an evidence and outcome based program approach is the future for most departments. We need to work with our community partners to succeed. We are, by far, the largest Health Department in the Country with only a single clinical site. Negotiations are underway to add two immunization clinics at Maricopa Integrated Health Services family health centers and possibly one immunization site at the Maryvale YMCA.

Healthcare for the Homeless has reorganized their outreach approach, identifying and providing services to 300 new clients in the first month. We continue to explore moving the Homeless program under Maricopa Integrated Health Systems, but have delayed this until the next competitive grant funding cycle later this year. MIHS may then apply directly for that cycle of funding.

We are seeking to leverage more community resources for our programs, including an expanded use of volunteers. We especially hope to tap into existing volunteer agencies, such as the Maricopa Medical Reserve Corps.

The tuberculosis program reorganization is complete. We have filled several open positions.

We have hired a new HIV Program Manager. Audrey Broner remains with us as a contract employee, helping us with other administrative needs, such as in the TB program.

Mr. Spicker asked about bilingual pay and how it is appropriated for the Department. Mr. Porter said we are currently providing one level of bi-lingual pay for those individuals meeting the criteria. Bi-lingual pay is not viewed as an incentive or significant to recruitment.

Supervisor Kunasek asked who is best suited to develop a mass vaccination plan and carry it out. Is there a plan elsewhere that we could adopt?

Dr. England cited examples of the complexities of mass vaccination or medication administration. A discussion followed regarding the use of volunteers with appropriate involvement of the Department in the distribution of flu shots.

The Family Planning clinic issue has been resolved through the generosity of the Board of Supervisors with the support of Supervisor Kunasek. The Board of Supervisors authorized \$500,000 to continue to provide Family Planning services. Minors will receive care and services with parental consent. The law mandates at least 30 days written notice before terminating a patient that is in your practice and confidentiality issues keeps us from notifying patients by mail of our policy changes, so individuals will be notified when they return for services. We hope to schedule appointments with a new provider at that time.

Disease updates – we are at the tail end of the West Nile season – we may still hear of some cases, but for the most part the mosquito season is over.

Flu shots – I have flu shots available today, at the meeting, to vaccinate anyone who has not received their flu vaccination. Incidentally, we have our first lab confirmed case. We continue to use flu shots in ways to help educate the public as to who needs them.

Proposition 201 passed – beginning in May, all workplaces in the State of Arizona will be smoke free. We are looking at ways to jointly implement enforcement with ADHS, with Environmental Services taking the lead role.

World Aids Day is December 1st, this year commemorates twenty five years.

Dr. England asked for topics to discuss at the next two Board of Health meetings.

Mr. McNeil asked for clarification about the family planning issue – what percentage of your population will be excluded under the new provisions? Dr. England said hopefully only approximately fifty individuals. It could be more if documentation requirements prove too difficult.

Mr. McNeil asked for additional information related to a study presented on health indicators in Maricopa County – how do you take that information and structure your programs to meet those needs as opposed to having generic programs that cut across multiple cultures and groups? How do you avoid generic programs? How do you structure your system to meet specific needs? Dr. England explained the need for dedicated epidemiologists and evaluation professionals. We need to do more of the core Public Health functions, including analysis of our data. We are not doing an adequate job of implementing best practices into the limited programs that we have. That is especially important if we are going to move into broader programs. However, many of our grant funded programs are very specific and we have little leeway in how to run that program.

Ms. Adamic would like to have an analysis of how things are done in our community – are we appropriating enough funding for Public Health? Where is the County related to the Healthy 2010 goals?

Dr. Giangobbe asked about steroid education for athletes in Maricopa County. Are we doing anything?

Dr. England discussed the need to take a science-based, thoroughly evaluated approach to all our programs.

Ms. Adamic requested an organization chart for the Department at the next meeting.

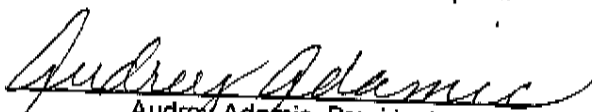
CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

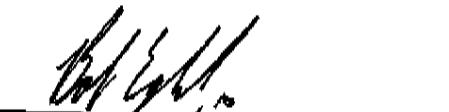
No members of the public were present.

CURRENT EVENTS SUMMARY:

No current events were discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.


Audrey Adamic, President


Bob England, M.D., M.P.H., Director

The minutes were transcribed and edited by Susan Attiah.