

MARICOPA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting Minutes
Administration Building
301 W. Jefferson Street, 10th Floor
Board of Supervisors Conference Room
Phoenix, Arizona 85003
July 28, 2008

Ms. Adamic called the meeting to order officially at 3:05 pm with a quorum present.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Audrey Adamic
James Giangobbe, M.D.
Zuhdi Jasser, M.D.*
Michael Kearns
Maricopa County Supervisor Andrew Kunasek, District 3
Jim Vandeventer
Pam Wight

Members Excused:

Don Cassano
Brian F. Spicker

Members Absent:

Susanne Cook, RN, PhD

Ex-Officio: Bob England, M.D.

(* 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 June 23, 2008 Board of Health Minutes:** **-Ms. Adamic**
Ms. Wight made the motion to approve the June 23rd, 2008 BOH minutes. Dr. Giangobbe seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6 to 0 vote.

- 2. Fee Waivers:** **-Ms. Minichiello**
Vista Colina Family Shelter, Saguaro Jane's Inc., Compassion in Action

Ms. Minichiello presented 3 fee waivers for approval.

Mr. Vandeventer made the motion to approve the fee waivers as recommended. Dr. Giangobbe seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6 to 0 vote.

- 3. Election of Officers** **-Ms. Adamic**
Mr. Vandeventer made the motion to hold off on electing officers to a special meeting in August or at the September Board of Health meeting. Dr. Giangobbe seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 6 to 0 vote.

Dr. Jasser arrived at 3:24 pm

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Public Health Report

-Dr. England

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

Human Resources

- *Reductions in Force – Completed 2nd RIF, lost 18 position. There had been so much time from the original announcement to the time the RIF occurred there had been 10 positions that were vacant. So we ended up RIFing 8 individuals. Of those eight, two people immediately found positions back with the County and another two are completing the hiring process now. So, in terms of people, not a lot of people were subjected to the RIF process compared to what it was looking like. However, we did lose 18 positions in the Tobacco office. The Tobacco office has stepped up and re-designed the program to save as much money as they can. For example, the staff that is almost always out in the field anyway has given up cubicles and will be now sharing laptop docking stations for people to tap into the office from outside sites. They are also re-designing the program in Tobacco. Again, this is all based on the reduction in funds from the state and also the change of direction at the state which we still hope will be positive overall. There have been some issues regarding the budget from ADHS. We still don't know how those budget cuts will affect us.*

The question was asked when we will have a full fiscal impact of the state budget. Dr. England responded by drawing the attention to the outline that was sent out today. There are some mind-boggling amounts in this narrative. The first few pages discuss legislatively specified cuts. Following that is a discussion of the 8.65 million dollar lump sum and how that is broken out within ADHS. The part we still don't know is how each of these translates into cuts that come down our way versus how much is absorbed at the state level. For example, the \$200,000 reduction in TB monies is going to be 7.6% or so of the money that ADHS gives to the county for TB control.

The question was asked if there will be a report given that states the total impact to the county. Dr. Bob responded by saying as soon as he knows the full impact, he will be able to report back on that.

The cut to the immunization budget is a very notable mention regarding the state budget cuts. They went from a total budget last year of 10.4 million dollars to a 5 million dollar budget this year for underinsured vaccines. What we have learned is that the vaccines that we currently have we are allocating just like we did the old way. But from this point forward, what we order and what we use will be limited purely to those vaccines that are required for school entry. This means no HPV, crebnar or flu vaccines, etc. This is disheartening given that immunizations are the most cost effective public health measure that we have but we will continue to give out as much as we can and continue to work our programs as best as we can. One of the programs that worries me the most is that there are no flu vaccines for underinsured which was going to be a part of our strategy to vaccinate as much of the school aged population as we can.

Communication

- *Dr. Bob will be canceling the annual All Hands meeting that we do with all the staff. Due to the budget restraints, with having to close operations half a day and find a facility*

that is big enough to hold 400 plus people. He will instead be taking himself around to the every program and sites talking to different employees.

Strategic Planning

- *We continue to move forward with the Community Health Services strategic planning that was discussed before. Our management staff was surprisingly receptive and enthusiastic about doing this. After the tool was presented to them, it was demonstrated just how hands on and worthwhile this could be they were very interested in taking part.*

Programs

Disease Control

- *Just a reminder, that this Saturday is our big mass vaccination exercise that involves Public Health Emergency Management and Community Health Nursing. This event has about 30 different partner agencies including fire departments, schools, etc.*
- *Vitals – Last time I told you that ADHS was rolling out this new computer software. I just need you to be aware before you see it in the paper that this new software has been really difficult. After our first three weeks of utilizing it, with staff staying late a couple of days and coming in on Saturdays trying to play catch up, we are two weeks behind. The software has a number of drop down menus instead of taking the whole form and entering it into a computer. It really slows you down having to do all the drop down menus. ADHS is trying very hard to fix this as fast as they can. The head of IT, the chief operating officer are running the attempt to fix this as quickly as possible. Because we have staff that are really trained, we fell behind but now are keeping pace. I wanted you to be aware because there are some people who are a little frustrated. Our turn around for getting documents out is usually a couple of days and now is around two weeks and this impacts people had a bad time. Our vitals department is working diligently with our community.*

Community Health Services

- *The head of HRSA came out and visited with South Phoenix Healthy Start last week. The director of Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA). By all who were in attendance, it was a very successful site visit.*

Disease Updates

- *We had our first death from West Nile last week. Still not a big up surge in human cases but there are some that are pending that may get ruled in or ruled out. The question was asked if that fatal case was in Maricopa. Dr. England responded that yes it was in Maricopa and that he is certain that it is the first fatal case in Arizona.*

The question was asked how the green pool situation was going. A response was made that since the new right to go into foreclosed properties has gone into effect it is easier to go into abandoned properties but still takes some time go into those properties where people live. There are still a lot of foreclosed and abandoned homes and we will be continuing to make progress. The question was asked if this is a huge budget item to clean up a pool and get the warrant. The response was that it takes a lot of time more than anything being that Arizona is a little more restrictive in their laws for going into homes.

Pinal County has a lot of green pools in that area and not that much man power to handle. Maricopa County sprays along our border lines and ADEQ is also helping Pinal

County with Johnson Ranch which is a major problem area within that county. We have not found West Nile Virus in this area as of yet.

Rabies vaccine shortage – there is a recommendation for pre-exposure rabies vaccine as much as possible. We are working with the state right now to see if we can stockpile some of the vaccine ourselves. Does rabies vaccine expire? It does expire but I am not sure of the shelf life for the rabies vaccine but I am not worried about getting more than we are going to need.

Measles – the outbreak has been officially declared over down in Pima County and we never got an actual case here. It did cause us to rethink our own employee vaccine standards. We are actually going back to ADHS on doing a paper study making sure that all of us our staff are vaccinated for those diseases where we might be the vector to start or prolong an outbreak to the public.

Salmonella – I have to say it again, the number of reported cases of salmonella are minuscule compared to those cases that are actually diagnosed. The point is to wash your fruits and vegetables and to wash your hands after using the restroom. We did our best to try and educate the public during this time.

Krypto – There was a cluster of illness that was associated with swimming at one pool. The City of Phoenix really went above and beyond by closing all their pools and hyper chlorinating. The lifeguards and swim teams that went to other places and they were concerned about cross contamination. There is one pool in Mesa that has an outbreak. There were members of a swim team that were sick that swam together and also ate together so we are unsure if it was the pool that caused the illness or if it was the food. Simple education again here is to wash your hands and if you are sick or have diarrhea don't go swimming.

Ms. Adamic asked if there had been any analysis done on the possibility of health care district to share with us. Yes we will be doing this kind of analysis and presenting it to the Board in the future. The level of assessment in public health is missing so I will be working on gathering data to present to the Board more information.

Announcements and Current Events

-Board Members

No announcements or current events discussed

Adjournment

Dr. Jasser made the motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Wight seconded the motion. The motion was passed with a 7 to 0 vote.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:58 pm.