

**Board of Health
Tuesday, April 4, 2023
Virtual Meeting**

Members Attending: B. Hospidor, M. Kelleher, K. Schorn, J. Henning

Others Attending: S. Smith, M. Sninsky, J. Stoudt, V. Lopez, J. Young, P. Brookins, C. Kammerer, F. Lachat, E. Navarez

Dr. Kelleher called the meeting to order at 4:03 pm. She stated that a quorum is present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Mr. Reed connected to the meeting at this time.

Ms. Smith welcomed Mr. Henning to the Board and asked him to introduce himself to the group. Mr. Henning provided his professional background and stated that he was interested in serving on this Board because of his academic work on lead.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Ms. Schorn, seconded by Mr. Hospidor, to approve the February 7, 2023 meeting summary as written. Motion carried unanimously.

HEALTH INSPECTION REPORT

Mr. Reed stated that due to staffing issues, City health inspections were not reported to the State for several months. He stated that this practice has now restarted. He stated that he has performed 42 health inspections and has followed up on seven rooster / chicken complaints. He stated that he distributed an email to the group describing a situation at three City daycares with Shinga Toxic E. Coli (STEC).

Dr. Kelleher stated that it appears that these cases are linked.

Mr. Reed stated that daycares are inspected by the Dept. of Health and Human Services but that the Dept. of Agriculture investigates complaints. He stated that if the issue was because of food service at the daycares the City would be responsible for inspecting the food preparation location. He stated that generally the food provided at daycares is prepared in private homes which would also be under the jurisdiction of the Dept. of Agriculture. He stated that City testing is done in the PA Dept. of Health labs since the City does not have a full Health Department.

Dr. Kelleher stated that there are seven cases of STEC and four children have been hospitalized. She stated that without a local Health Department, area healthcare institutions are not informed of outbreaks. She expressed the belief that this is a significant number of children.

Ms. Smith questioned the symptoms of STEC. Dr. Kelleher stated that people will develop bloody and profuse diarrhea, can become dehydrated and have acute stomach pain. She stated that it is transmitted orally through fecal matter and is sometimes transmitted through food preparation. She

stated that it is transmitted through inadequate hand washing and can be present on some surfaces if not properly cleaned.

LEAD ABATEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Young reported that there are currently 18 qualified units in the program and that twelve have been inspected so far. He stated that two units have completed the program.

Ms. Smith requested that Mr. Young provide program background for Mr. Henning. Mr. Young stated that the City has received State funds and HUD funds to remove lead from housing where there are children under the age of six. He stated that the program is income based and will abate lead exposure. He stated that people learn about the program through word of mouth, community engagement and education.

Mr. Young relayed a story about one child who had a blood lead level of 33 when tested. He stated that it was discovered that this child was eating paint. He stated that after remediation, his blood will be tested again and noted his hope that it would be much lower.

Ms. Schorn questioned the age of this child. Mr. Young stated that the child was one year old. He stated that lead paint tastes sweet and so the child continues to eat it.

Dr. Kelleher stated that the blood lead level has recently been reduced to three, over that it is considered lead poisoning. She stated that children with high blood lead levels are usually referred to early intervention programs to address any developmental delays.

Mr. Hospidor questioned the remediation process. Mr. Young stated that the lead paint is encapsulated and that the lead blocking paint is bitter to prevent future consumption.

Mr. Hospidor questioned if latex paint would suffice. Mr. Young stated that latex paint would stabilize the situation but that to correctly encapsulate it, 20 year warranty paint must be used.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Dr. Kelleher stated that hospitalizations are down dramatically with two current ICU cases. She stated that it is unknown if community transmission will rise again. She stated that transmission has remained low even after lifting mask mandates and other safety measures.

Mr. Sninsky stated that the last case of COVID in the Fire Department was in the beginning of February. He stated that there is an ample supply of PPE and that the Department is now updating its policies since the emergency has been lifted.

Dr. Kelleher stated that COVID testing and vaccines will no longer be free now that the emergency has been lifted. She stated that there is a CDC site that provides free home test kits but that there has been very low participation. She stated that the costs of testing and vaccines are still unknown at this time.

COUNTY DEPT OF HEALTH

Ms. Lopez stated that she participated in a focus group through the Community Foundation to gauge interest in a County Dept. of Health.

Dr. Kelleher stated that she believed that the study has concluded and that a report has been submitted to the Commissioners. She stated that she will provide this information to the group.

HEALTH SURVEY

Ms. Kammerer introduced the new Health Equity Director, Dr. Paige Brookins.

Dr. Brookins stated that there is no update at this time. She stated that she will be attending the Latino Health Summit this weekend at the DoubleTree.

Ms. Lopez stated that the next part of the process is to create focus groups to determine patient experiences at healthcare provider facilities and with written educational materials.

HEALTH OFFICER AMENDMENT

Ms. Smith stated that Council has enacted the amendment.

Ms. Lopez questioned if Nurse Practitioners can serve in this capacity. Mr. Lachat stated that they can with proper supervision.

BOARD OF HEALTH AMENDMENT

Ms. Smith stated that the City Solicitor and City Council Solicitor are working on this amendment.

HEALTH CODE AMENDMENT

Ms. Smith stated that Council has enacted this amendment as well.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Kelleher stated that this will be her last meeting. She stated that she starts in her new position on April 24.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 7, 2023 at 4 pm via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelly Smith, CMC
Deputy City Clerk