

**Board of Health
Tuesday, June 6, 2023
Virtual Meeting**

Members Attending: B. Hospidor, K. Schorn, J. Henning, J. Dethoff, J. Schwartz

Others Attending: S. Smith, J. Stoudt, J. Young

Dr. Dethoff called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm. He stated that a quorum is present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Dethoff stated that a member of the public – Rev. Bynes – is in attendance and asked if he wished to make public comment. Rev. Bynes stated that he is attending to observe and that he is a new City resident.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Hospidor, seconded by Ms. Schorn, to approve the April 4, 2023 meeting summary as written. Motion carried unanimously.

HEALTH INSPECTION REPORT

None.

LEAD ABATEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Young stated that four (4) abatements are complete. He stated that two (2) are currently under contract, 18 inspections and testing have begun, and four (4) new applications have been received.

Dr. Dethoff questioned how properties are identified. Mr. Young stated that families need to meet specific HUD criteria, include a member of the household under the age of six, and the property needs to have been built prior to 1978.

Dr. Dethoff questioned if pediatricians recommend families for the program. Mr. Young stated that they do. He stated that there is currently a child with a lead level over 50 who is a priority. He stated that the property inspection is complete and abatement will begin after the test results are received. He stated that other recommendations have already been provided to the family to reduce the lead level in the meantime.

Dr. Dethoff questioned if there is a certification process for the contractors. Mr. Young stated that the contractors must obtain a certification from the State of PA. He stated that each supervisor and each worker on the site must also be certified. He stated that there is a website available where he can verify the certifications.

Dr. Dethoff stated that there were concerns early in the program that no local contractors were certified. He questioned if that is a problem. Mr. Young stated that there are two (2) local contractors that are certified and another one is in the certification process. He stated that additional contractors are also preparing for certification. He stated that there were five (5) contractors who bid on the last contract.

Mr. Young stated that he has been in contact with Rev. Bynes regarding the lead levels in his home. Rev. Bynes stated that his home was built prior to 1978 and he has a child under the age of six but he does not meet the financial requirements.

Mr. Young questioned if Rev. Bynes had his property tested for lead. Rev. Bynes stated that he has had testing completed.

Mr. Young stated that he will continue following up with Rev. Bynes. He stated that he did visit the property and has done a visual risk assessment. Rev. Bynes expressed the belief that the lead is in the paint.

Mr. Young suggested that Rev. Bynes purchase a vacuum with a HEPA filter to help reduce the spread of the lead dust.

Rev. Bynes stated that the contractor he hired to replace the windows did not work to reduce the dust or paint chips.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Ms. Smith stated that Dep. Chief Sninsky is not able to attend the meeting. She stated that he provided information in an email.

- COVID restrictions are all cancelled. Operations are “back to normal.”
- Opioids are still a community problem. If the Board wishes monthly numbers on opioid cases handled by the Fire Dept can be provided.
- An outreach team is being developed by the Fire Dept Training Division for “Stop the Bleed” and CPR trainings. This is for any business or group wanting these classes.

Chief Stoudt stated that one member of the Fire Department was out with COVID last month and it was his second case of COVID. He noted the drastic reduction of calls from those with COVID symptoms.

Dr. Dethoff requested that this topic be removed from future agendas and stated that the Board would appreciate updates regarding opioids.

Dr. Dethoff questioned where the public can obtain Narcan. Chief Stoudt stated that COCA has a vending machine where Narcan can be obtained but stated that he is unsure where the machine is located. He reported that Narcan was administered 34 times by the Fire Dept during the month of April. He stated that this number will fluctuate.

Dr. Dethoff questioned if anyone can get Narcan to have on hand. Dr. Schwartz stated that there is a standing order from the State of PA that anyone can print and take to a pharmacy to receive Narcan. She stated that the Board should review PA’s “Guide to Opioids”. Mr. Henning stated that Narcan is now also available over the counter and can be ordered at no cost through the Council on Chemical Abuse (COCA) website.

Dr. Dethoff questioned how this can be better publicized. Chief Stoudt stated that many people are aware. He stated that when ambulances arrive on scene for an overdose, many times they are told that Narcan has already been administered. He agreed with the need for better education. Mr.

Henning stated that COCA and SOS Berks do run advertising but agreed that a broader outreach is needed.

COUNTY DEPT OF HEALTH

Dr. Dethoff stated that the County has received the study results. He stated that the State Dept of Health has an office in Reading. He questioned if health issues are reported to them. Dr. Schwartz stated that many times information is reported to the Dept of Health by the laboratory completing the testing. She stated that the pathway to report illnesses is unclear.

Mr. Lachat connected to the meeting at this time.

HEALTH LITERACY SURVEY

Ms. Smith stated that she will invite the program administrators to the August meeting.

BOARD OF HEALTH AMENDMENT

Mr. Lachat stated that there is no update.

OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Dethoff noted the need to replace Dr. Kelleher. He stated that Dr. Kelleher indicated that her replacement at the Berks Community Health Center may be interested in serving. Dr. Schwartz offered to get the new contact information.

Dr. Dethoff questioned if Dr. Schwartz had any pediatric patients. Dr. Schwartz stated that she does not.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 1, 2023 at 4 pm via Zoom.

The meeting adjourned at 4:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shelly Smith, CMC
Deputy City Clerk