



**Delaware County Health Department
Board of Health Meeting
September 12, 2023**

ATTENDEES

Rosemarie Halt, Chair
Lily Higgins, MD, Vice Chair
Oni Richards
Annemarie Hirsch
P.J. Brennan, MD

Meeting Minutes

- I. There being a duly convened quorum, Vice Chair Lily Higgins called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. Announcements (Rosemarie Halt informed Board of Health members she would be late due to traffic. Lily Higgins, Vice Chair began the meeting).
- II. Vice-Chair Announcements
 1. DCHD Director, Melissa Lyon, has departed from DCHD. A replacement is currently being sought. Lora Werner is stepping in as Interim Director.
 2. A Board of Health Executive Session was held on September 3.
- III. Public Comment – none
- IV. Approval of minutes – motion made by Lily Higgins, Annemarie Hirsch approved, P.J. Brennan seconded.
- V. Interim Director Updates
 1. Board of Health Strategic Implementation Action Plan
 - a. Lora Werner presented the Implementation Plan, which resulted from the Board of Health’s 2-day, consultant-led strategic planning workshop last Fall.
 2. Annual Report
 - a. Highlights of the first 2 years of DCHD progress.
 - b. Will be distributed to community agencies and partners.
 3. Questions on Consolidated Reports?

Question: What are the balances on grants? Does the money roll over or go back to the funding source? Some can roll over, some do not, and some cover a few years. It depends on the requirements of the grant funder.

Question: Regarding West Nile positive pools, is this out of the ordinary this year? DCHD meets with the DEP and they’ve shown us that we are trending down. Recently, Delco had 2 positive West Nile Virus human cases.

Question: What types of vaccinations are DCHD doing? Vaccines for Children (VFC) are provided to prevent the following diseases:

- *Chickenpox (Varicella)*
- *COVID*
- *Measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR)*
- *Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (DTap, Td, Tdap)*
- *Hepatitis (A and B)*
- *Haemophilus type B (Hib)*
- *Human papilloma virus (HPV)*

- *Influenza (seasonal)*
- *Meningitis (meningococcal)*
- *Pneumonia (pneumococcal, Prevnar)*
- *Polio (IPV)*

DCHD continues to purchase private stock for the homebound program. Discussed majority of our vaccination efforts at DCHD are for uninsured folks or those who have no other access to vaccines. We do have some private stock that we will use for community flu drive-throughs; dates are being confirmed. After that, we will have availability for walk-in flu shots.

Question: Is DCHD giving HPV vaccine? Yes. DCHD provides HPV under our Vaccines for Children (VFC) and 317 programs. We are running a campaign; dental kits contain a brochure with information on it. **Any resistance to HPV vaccination?** No. We had a nurse, who recently left, who was particularly adept at providing education to the parents about it. The education is important for the parents to understand.

VI. New Business

1. AchieveIT

a. Lora Werner demonstrated how this program will streamline administrative reporting and provide a framework for DCHD's Act 315 Annual Report.

2. Epi Update

a. Victor Alos Rullan and Epi team created and presented a Delco Epi update presentation.

b. Questions:

- Is Candida Auris found in nursing homes?** Yes
- What demographic is the rise in pertussis?** Mostly high school age. Almost all of them had been fully vaccinated; this is happening all around the world.
- Why is Delco's rate higher than the states?** Victor doesn't have an answer, nor does the state.
- There is a decrease in STIs, do you suspect DCHD efforts made a difference?** We have created more access for prophylaxis.
- Is DCHD doing contact tracing?** Yes. DCHD performs disease investigation for reportable diseases. Contacts are investigated for STIs. We contact the infected partner and tell them to contact their partner to let them know. DCHD staff knocked on doors to communicate positive test results when we can't reach patients by phone.
- There are more positive tests for lead due to dropping the threshold. **Question: What are the contributing factors for the counties in red?** Most are in rural counties and have fewer tests. Lack of testing, so children are getting tested later.

3. Environmental Health 2024 Overview & Highlights

a. Marie Carbonara, Division Administrator, presented the information. If Board of Health members want to know anything specific about Environmental Health, please contact her, and she will provide it.

Question: Delco Times reports on restaurant inspections. Any major food-borne illnesses seen this year? One last year, none this year. If you're interested in that info, we can track that info and provide it to the Board of Health members.

Question: What is your approach with food-item recalls? DCHD works closely with the state and then will come to us about it; we'll send our folks out to the establishments to investigate. DCHD will encourage facility owner to take off the shelves. DCHD shares information back to the state.

VII. Public Comment –

1. Carris Coaker, Concordville. Commented on the obligation to uphold and support the Bill of Rights and stated county officers should take a loyalty oath. Expressed hope that the new director will reinstate taking the oath.

VIII. Motion to adjourn made by Vice Chair Lily Higgins; approved by Rosemarie Halt, seconded by P.J. Brennan.

Next meeting is November 21 at the County Council Room, 201 W. Front St., Media PA. There will be public notice of the location.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Werner, Interim Director