

The Lehigh Valley Board of Health

An Historic Public Health Partnership between the Counties of Lehigh and Northampton

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 11, 2010

Public Hearing Room
Lehigh County Government Center

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Lyon at 8:00 pm.

Board members present: David T. Lyon, MD, MPH
John F. Reinhart, MEd
Carol A. Kuplen, RN, MSN
David G. Beckwith, PhD
Eric J. Gertner, MD, MPH
Robert B. Black, MS
Halyna I. Stegura, RN, MSN
Vicky Kistler, MEd
Judith K. Maloney, JD, MPH
Ilene S. Prokup, RN, MS

Also in attendance: Michael A. Gaul, Esq.
Gerald M. Barron, MPH
Amy Holtz

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT The meeting having been duly announced, Dr. Lyon welcomed members of the public and offered the opportunity for public comment. There being none at this time, the Board proceeded with its published agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Motion to approve the minutes of December 14, 2009 as distributed was made, seconded and unanimously carried.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN Dr. Lyon reminded the Board that its consulting agreement with the University of Pittsburgh Center for Public Health Practice (CPHS) expires on February 15th. Dr. Beckwith suggested that the contract be extended through July; and this led to an extensive discussion regarding the ongoing need for CPHP services – particularly in view of issues raised at the Health Commission meeting earlier in the evening. Ms. Maloney emphasized in particular the satisfactory resolution of still-uncertain decisions regarding significant and complex HR/personnel matters which will face the new health department. Dr. Lyon pointed out that the term of the contract with CPHP reflected an estimate of how long it would take to accomplish agreed-upon tasks identified, but at this point it was clear that not all deliverables will have been met by February 15th. Dr. Lyon was asked to contact the appropriate CPHP representatives and attempt to negotiate a mutually-agreeable amendment to ensure the continued involvement of Mr. Barron and his CPHP colleagues and the achievement of all of the Board's objectives up to and including application for establishment. Mr. Barron agreed to develop a detailed timeline specifically identifying all tasks requiring completion within the next three months – and to share this with the Board no later than February 8th. Finally, Dr. Lyon reported that he and Dr. Beckwith, in conjunction with Fiduciary Intermediary Two Rivers Health and Wellness Foundation, are in the process of finalizing the Board's Quarterly Financial Report to the Health Commission – a copy of which will be shared with the Finance Committee and all board members.

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR Dr. Lyon called for nominations. Dr. Beckwith nominated Dr. Lyon for re-election to the office of board chair and Ms. Prokup to serve an additional term as vice chair. Mr. Reinhart seconded both nominations. There being no further nominations, a vote was taken; and Dr. Lyon and Ms. Prokup were unanimously reelected chair and vice chair respectively. Dr. Lyon expressed his appreciation for the confidence expressed and the opportunity to continue in this role.

OLD BUSINESS – PUBLIC ACCESS TO DRAFT MINUTES Upon motion made by Mr. Reinhart and seconded by Mr. Black, it was agreed that preliminary meeting minutes may be posted on-line prior to final approval of the Board. Such minutes will be unsigned, clearly marked as to their draft status, and replaced promptly by the final, approved minutes.

OLD BUSINESS – LOCATION OF FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS Following further discussion, Ms. Kistler withdrew her motion to discontinue alternating board meetings between the Lehigh and Northampton Government Centers in favor of another venue; and it was agreed that the Board's current practice as to meeting location would continue.

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONSULTANT Mr. Barron presented his monthly report to the Board, a brief summary of which is attached. Discussion focused on the approach to financial modeling and local funding.

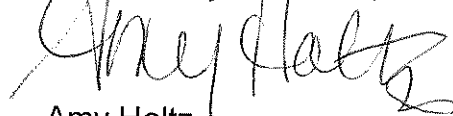
COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT In the interest of time, Mr. Black's report was deferred until next month.

OTHER BUSINESS Dr. Beckwith reported that he has had several conversations with Mr. Tony Hanna, Community Development Director of the City of Bethlehem, and summarized Mr. Hanna's understanding of and position regarding the formation of a LVHD. All agreed that consensus-building must be a top priority for the Board before the April meeting of the Health Commission.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT Dr. Lyon again invited public comment. Mr. Steve Krajewski spoke to the importance of establishing a bi-county health department in the Lehigh Valley and urged LVBOH members to continue their best efforts to realize what he characterized as "the single greatest opportunity in the State of Pennsylvania". Dr. Percy Dougherty pointed out that the failure of regional health opponents to derail the process at the Health Commission meeting was, in and of itself, a victory. Mr. Steven Bliss announced that Renew Lehigh Valley has welcomed a new intern to its staff.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 PM on Monday, February 8th at the Northampton County Courthouse.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Holtz
Administrative Assistant