

The Lehigh Valley Board of Health

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

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING APRIL 12, 2010

County Council Chambers
Northampton County Courthouse

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Lyon at 6:00 PM.

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

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

OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT The meeting having been duly announced, Dr. Lyon welcomed members of the public and offered the opportunity for public comment. Kathy Coyne, representing the Greater Lehigh Valley Oral Health Partnership, addressed the Board regarding the work of her organization. She discussed the importance of public health approaches to oral health and indicated that she had disseminated a white paper developed by the Partnership to all BOH members. Dr. Lyon thanked her for her attendance and her remarks. Dr. Beckwith and Ms. Stegura expressed the Board's support for her important work.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES Following review of the minutes of the meeting of March 8, 2010, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the minutes were unanimously approved as distributed.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN In observance of National County Government Month, a display has been set up in the rotunda of the Northampton County Government Center. The theme this year is "Healthy Counties"; and educational materials on public health services are available. Dr. Lyon stated that the information will remain available throughout the Month of April.

Dr. Lyon reported that a request for proposals (RFP) has been drafted to assist the Health Commission in its identification of a treasurer to oversee the financial administration of the Health Department. It will be forwarded to Commissioner Dougherty for review and approval.

Board tasks requiring completion prior to application for state certification and DOH establishment were enumerated, with particular attention to defining the most appropriate timeline. Following lengthy discussion, it was agreed that Dr. Lyon would communicate with the Health Commission and establish a meeting date in early June. Dr. Lyon asked that members re-

main mindful of the need to prioritize activities in order to meet this target. Note was made of the fact that the Board's approved budget expires on June 15, 2010. Dr. Lyon informed board members that he had received a call from Deputy Secretary of Health Michael Huff, who expressed his support for the Board of Health and offered his assistance.

REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY EDUCATION COMMITTEE Mr. Black reported briefly on the activities of his committee, noting that he and Dr. Lyon would be meeting with the Editorial Board of the *Express-Times* on April 20th. He complimented Dr. Gertner on summary materials which he pulled together from the recently-released county health rankings and requested that copies be provided to each board member..

REPORT OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE Chairman Gertner summarized a recent meeting with representatives of Allentown and Bethlehem and Lehigh and Northampton Counties regarding personnel issues and the possibility of obtaining Human Resources guidance in areas including union contracting and benefit management. He reported that HR expertise may be available to the Board through the University of Pittsburg. Mr. Black agreed to look into the possibility of acquiring such consulting services through local business and the Lehigh Valley Partnership. Dr. Gertner led a discussion comparing and contrasting employee benefits in the Allentown and Bethlehem Health Bureaus.

Dr. Gertner moved approval of up to \$10,000 from the Board's contingency budget to acquire HR consulting services which meet with the approval of the Chairman of the Personnel Committee (Dr. Gertner), the Chairman of the Finance Committee (Dr. Beckwith) and the Chairman of the Board (Dr. Lyon). The motion was seconded by Mr. Black and, following discussion, carried unanimously.

DEVELOPMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH CODES/ORDINANCES Ms. Stegura provided a status report on the progress of her workgroup (Mr. Bausch, Mr. Reinhart, Ms. Kistler, Ms. Maloney, Mr. Barron) in reviewing and harmonizing city and other municipal ordinances under a single bi-county health code. It was noted that a public hearing will be required. Ms. Stegura recognized members of the public health community Jeffrey Stout, Jessica Lucas, Ted Veresink, and Gary Ritter – who have been assisting and serving as advisors to the workgroup. Mr. Stout indicated that he would be submitting written recommendations to Ms. Stegura and the Board within the next few days.

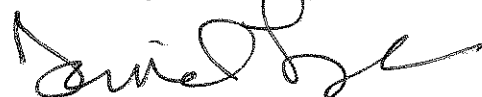
REPORT OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONSULTANT Mr. Barron presented his monthly report, a written version having been disseminated to board members (attached). It was noted that the Program and Personnel Classification Plans were nearing completion.

OTHER BUSINESS None

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENT There was no further public comment.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for 6:00 PM on Monday, May 10th at the Lehigh County Government Center.

Respectfully submitted,



David T. Lyon, MD, MPH