

COUNTY OF



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

**Meeting of the Allegheny County Board of Health
November 1, 2023**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Minutes for the meeting of September 6, 2023
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items
4. Director's Report
5. New Business Action Items

For Final Approval

- A. Clean Air Fund Requests Totaling \$24,000
6. Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items
7. Adjournment



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CONDADO DE



ALLEGHENY

RICH FITZGERALD
EJECUTIVO DEL CONDADO

Reunión de la Junta de Salud de Allegheny County
1.º de noviembre de 2023

1. Apertura de la sesión
2. Aprobación del acta para la reunión del 6 de septiembre de 2023
3. Comentarios públicos sobre los temas de agenda
4. Informe del director
5. Nuevas medidas de la empresa

Para aprobación final

- A. Solicitudes de Clean Air Fund por un total de \$24.000
6. Comentarios públicos sobre los temas fuera de agenda
7. Aplazamiento



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Allegheny County Board of Health
September 6, 2023
Minutes

Present: Dr. Donald Burke
Anthony Ferraro
Caroline Mitchell
Dr. Joylette Portlock
Dr. Edie Shapira
Dr. Ellen Stewart
William Youngblood, Vice Chair

Absent: Patrick Dowd, Secretary
Dr. Lee Harrison, Chairman
Dr. Kotayya Kondaveeti

1. Call to Order

Board Vice Chair William Youngblood welcomed everyone to the Allegheny County Board of Health meeting. He announced that the Board of Health had met in executive session to discuss personnel and legal matters.

2. Approval of Minutes

Mr. Youngblood asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Action: moved to approve the minutes from the July 12, 2023 meeting and Dr. Donald Burke seconded the motion. **Members approved the motion unanimously.**

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items

Kim Joyce then said there were no written comments to be added.

An Lewis and Jay Ting Walker spoke about the proposed use of Clean Air Funds to support the electrification of municipal vehicles in the Mon Valley.

4. Director's Report

Dr. Barbara Nightingale, Deputy Director for Clinical Services, presented program updates because Patrick Dowd, Acting Director and Chief Operating Officer, was in Philadelphia representing the ACHD.

Dr Nightingale provided updates on the Food Safety programs over the recent months including the approval of 29 temporary events and farmers market registrations, as well as more than 160 new participating food vendor inspections.

Dr Nightingale then provided an update on the ACHD Housing program's five mosquito sprays throughout Allegheny County, informing all present that 10,290 catch basins have been successfully treated.

Dr Nightingale noted the installation of new air quality monitors. She also provided a list of new reports issued by the Bureau of Data, Reporting and Disease Control. She also provided a snapshot of ACHD's communications activities in 2023. These included 31 press releases, more than 400 social media posts, more than 4,300 GovQa inquiries and 120 Allegheny Alerts.

Dr. Nightingale also provided her Medical Director's Report. She addressed school immunizations, respiratory viruses, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), Covid 19 and influenza. Dr. Nightingale also discussed key goals for the Plan for a Healthy Allegheny: reducing the racial disparity in infant and maternal mortality and reducing the disparity in life expectancy.

Dr Nightingale reviewed the vaccinations students are required to have before attending school in Allegheny County, as well as other recommended vaccines. She highlighted that 95.1% of school-age children met the requirements for 2022-2023.

Dr Nightingale reminded the Board that the season is upon us for respiratory viruses. She reviewed each of the viruses most prevalent in our region: Covid 19, Influenza and RSV. At this time, respiratory illness hospitalizations occur primarily due to Covid 19, influenza and RSV, the latter of which is the leading cause of hospitalization for infants. Symptoms may seem mild but can be severe and cause death. The groups at highest risk are young children, adults 65+, pregnant people and those with chronic medical conditions.

Looking at each of the viruses, Dr. Nightingale reported that over the last 12 months Allegheny County has seen the following for each virus:

Covid 19 in Allegheny County (8/2022 – 7/2023)

25,527 (reporting not mandatory)

2578 hospitalizations

363 deaths

Influenza in Allegheny County Infections (2022-2023 season)

16,118 cases drastic undercount

80 hospitalizations

24 deaths

RSV in Allegheny County Infections (2022 – 2023 season)

2658 cases

28 hospitalizations

4 deaths

Residents can practice good general hygiene during cold-like illnesses, stay current on vaccines and talk with their primary care providers about treatment options. Currently, approximately 21% of residents have received a bivalent booster for Covid. New vaccines will be available later in September and residents should consider this option. Approximately 61% of children and 52% of adults in Pennsylvania have received an influenza vaccine. The RSV vaccine just became available for infants less than eight months all the way to 19 months, pregnant residents at 32-36 weeks and residents over the age of 60.

Dr. Nightingale clarified ACHD's role in keeping transmission of illnesses down, including providing vaccination at the ACHD Immunization Clinic as well as home visits to senior high rises and residents in need in the community. She also shared that current outbreak investigation is still being performed for cases in 65 years and older.

The members of the Board of Health asked with the ACHD would have RSV vaccines available for residents. Dr. Nightingale explain that they should be available in October.

The Bureau of Community & Family Health

Dr. Nightingale introduced Dannai Wilson, Deputy Director for the Bureau of Community and Family Health who provided updates on the work of her bureau.

Ms. Wilson informed the members of the Board of Health that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) awarded the ACHD Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention program a Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure (BOLD) grant of \$1.8 million over five years.

Dr. James Weeden proceeded to explain the importance of this grant. Allegheny County has a significant population of seniors and approximately 12% of residents suffer from Alzheimer's and dementia related diseases, as compared with the commonwealth average of 11.5%. This grant will empower the ACHD to establish partnerships and build the community-based infrastructure to help support those caring for residents suffering from these diseases.

Ms. Wilson updated the members of the Board of Health on the launching of the collaboration between the Office of Family Child Health and the Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC). Together, they have partnered with Pacify, a 24-hour virtual lactation service offered through an app. The aim of the partnership and app is to improve breastfeeding retention, particularly for those who need assistance after regular business hours, need assistance with transportation, and for those individuals with insurance that does not cover lactation support.

She also provided an update on the new WIC mobile van. In addition to the nine WIC clinics throughout Allegheny County, the WIC van has already attended multiple events and the team is in the process of determining the best use of the van. It will be officially launched in the fall of 2023.

She also announced that the ACHD Community Traffic Safety program received an additional three-year grant from Pennsylvania Department of Transportation.

Food Safety Story Map

Next, Otis Pitts, Deputy Director of Public Policy, and Amanda Mator, Food Safety Program Manager, shared the recently developed Food Safety Story Map with the members of the Board of Health.

Together, they recounted many of the changes that have been implemented by this program included the COVID-19 mitigation standards, the repeal and replacement of Article III and other efforts.

The idea behind the story map is to provide the public with a better understanding of the work of the Food Safety program. This tool tells the story in number of what our inspectors do, the number of consumer complaints and safety inspections, processed, the types of conditions identified in food facilities. It gives a snapshot of the number of permits issued and violations identified.

The members of the Board of Health commended Ms. Mator and her team for their work and streamlining of the work of the program and providing this information to the public. Two members stated that they personally have received fewer foodborne illness calls due to the diligence and hard work of the team. The Board then requested an updated list of restaurants and licensing classifications before moving on.

This concluded the Director's Report.

5. Action Items

Mr. Pitts presented to the Board of Health a proposed revision to the fee schedule for the ACHD Food Safety program. The program recommended a reduced commissary use fee as opposed to the current full-fledged food facility permit fee for base operations. As multiple vendors share commissaries, this would aid in avoiding duplicate permitting for one facility. The new fee would cover costs such as installing water tanks, disposing of wastewater and transporting supplies at a reduced rate.

Ms. Mator clarified that when a facility offers dine-in as well as catering, one permit covers both.

Members of the Board of Health asked about fees for food delivery businesses and Ms. Mator explained that Article III required no fees of those providers. They merely transport

food from one location to a destination at which it is consumed. After further discussion, the Board of Health took action

Action: Mr. Tony Ferraro moved to approve the recommended revisions to the Food Safety fee schedule as permitted. Dr. Portlock seconded the motion. **The Board of Health voted unanimously to approve the motion.**

Kim Joyce, Deputy Director of the Bureau of Administration, presented a proposed request to utilize resources from the Clean Air Fund to support the electrification of municipal vehicles and expansion of the region's tree canopy in transportation corridors. Approximately 25% of Allegheny County's PM 2.5 emissions come from vehicles. For this reason, the Air Quality program sought applications from the thirty-two municipalities covered by the Mon Valley Episode Rule for the electrification of municipal vehicles. Additionally, the program sought applications for tree planting projects along transportation corridors. The Air Quality program recommended approval of five applications from Steel River Council of Government, West Mifflin Borough, Swissvale Borough, as well as two Tree Pittsburgh applications totaling \$2,312,086. The Acting Director provided the Board of Health with detailed information on each proposed project. The Air Advisory Committee also recommended approval.

The members of the Board of Health asked questions about the process and timeline for dispersing the funds and Ms. Joyce reviewed both. Members asked if the trees would be vulnerable to lantern flies and if this had been considered. Kim Campbell, an air quality scientist with the Air Quality program, explained that this was considered and that this would not be an issue.

The members of the Board of Health wanted to confirm that the energy used for charging these vehicles would not increase emissions. Ms. Campbell stated ACHD is working with the numbers provided by the EQA.

Action: Dr. Ellen Steward moved to approve the Clean Air Funding request as presented. Mr. Ferraro seconded the motion. **The Board of Health unanimously voted to approve the motion.**

6. Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

Ms. Joyce announced that six individuals sent comments on non-agenda items to the Board of Health. All comments focused on the proposed revisions to Article VI: Housing & Community Environment.

The following individuals share comments during the meeting:

- Lorraine Starsky - Need for more information on COVID variants
- Sally Jo Schneider - Covid Response and vulnerable populations
- Kevin Quisenberry – Article VI Revisions
- Jay Ting Walker – ACHD Transparency & Accessibility
- Thaddeus Popovich – Air Quality Studies

- Barbara Pace – Metallico Recycling on Neville Island
- Randy Sargent – New Findings on Health Hazards from Coke Operations
- Angelo Taranto – Metallico Recycling
- Patrick Campbell – Non-Agenda Item
- Chavayasha Chaney – Housing & Community Environment
- Jason Beery – ACHD Director Search
- Robert Damewood – Revisions to Article VI

**Allegheny County Board of Health
2024 Meetings**

Below is the proposed list of dates for the 2024 meetings of the Allegheny County Board of Health:

- January 17, 2024
- March 6, 2024
- May 8, 2024
- July 17, 2024
- September 11, 2024
- November 13, 2024



Clean Air Fund

Allegheny County Health Department Air Quality Program seeks Board of Health approval of the Clean Air Fund expenditures described below.

The Department seeks to improve air quality within Allegheny County through the use of its Clean Air Fund. The two projects below are to support public education concerning air pollution; as supported by Article XXI 2109.09.C.1.d. The Air Pollution Advisory Committee did not have a quorum at the October 2, 2023, meeting and was unable to vote on this request to recommend. The Committee did state that the Air Quality Program could bring this request directly to the Board of Health without a recommendation from them. The Air Quality Program is requesting Board of Health approval for the two projects below.

Summary Stats for Projects

Applicant	Educational Support	Unit (Per Year) Cost	Total Cost
Pittsburgh Regional Science and Engineering Fair (PRSEF)	This is a Silver sponsorship for three years. The ACHD will send judges to participate in the process. For its support, the ACHD will be recognized in multiple venues, including at the fair and its. ACHD has been a sponsor of PRSEF going back to 1989 and is a valued partner in this effort to involve young people in science.	\$5,000	\$15,000
Pittsburgh Regional Future City Competition	The Department proposes to direct a \$9,000 donation from the Clean Air Fund to sponsor the Pittsburgh Regional Future City Competition. This funding will provide support to the fair for three years. The funding will provide two special awards, as well as general event funding for the 2023-2024, the 2024-2025, and the 2025-2026 school year events. ACHD supported this event from 2014 through 2022.	\$3,000	\$9,000
TOTAL			\$24,000