

ALLEGHENY COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

May 2, 2018

Present: Lee Harrison, MD, Chair  
William Youngblood, Vice Chair  
Karen Hacker, MD, Secretary  
Anthony Ferraro  
Caroline Mitchell  
Ellen Stewart, MD  
Joylette Portlock, PhD  
Edith Shapira, MD  
Donald Burke, MD

Absent:  
Kotayya Kondaveeti, MD

1. **Call to Order**

The meeting was held at ACHD's office at 542 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh. Dr. Harrison called the meeting to order and announced that an executive session was held to discuss legal and personnel matters. Dr. Harrison stated that he must leave the meeting at 1:30, and that Mr. Youngblood will chair the meeting after he departs. Dr. Harrison acknowledged and thanked Allegheny County Councilmember Cindy Kirk.

2. **Approval of Minutes from March 7, 2018**

Dr. Harrison asked if there were any comments or questions about the minutes. There were none.

**Action:** Mr. Youngblood moved to approve the minutes, Dr. Shapira seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

3. **Public Comments on Agenda Items**

**A. Rachel Filippini – GASP, re: Clean Air Fund request for Building 1 Renovation Oversight**

Ms. Filippini stated that she is the Executive Director of the Group Against Smog and Pollution. She urged the Board to vote against the Clean Air Fund request for Building 1. She stated that other County funds should be used for building upkeep and that the Clean Air Fund should be used to fund tangible improvements for increased air quality.

*At this time, Dr. Kondaveeti arrived.*

**B. Dave Smith – Clean Air Council, re: Clean Air Fund request for Building 1 Renovation Oversight**

Mr. Smith stated that he was an Outreach Coordinator with the Clean Air Council. He stated that the Clean Air Fund should not be used to improve buildings. He stated that the Clean Air Fund should be used solely to improve air quality.

**C. Matt Mehalik – Breathe Project, re: Clean Air Fund request for Building 1 Renovation Oversight**

Mr. Mehalik stated that he was the Executive Director of the Breathe Project. He stated that the Clean Air Fund is not a fund for capital expenditures, that is what the capital budget is for. He stated that the County needs to do more to combat air pollution, and the Board should not approve this Clean Air Fund request.

**D. Ashleigh Deemer – Penn Environment, re: Clean Air Fund request for Building 1 Renovation Oversight**

Ms. Deemer stated that she is the Western Pennsylvania Director for Penn Environment. She stated that the expenditures for Building 1 were expected to take 40% of the Clean Air Fund. She encouraged ACHD to use the Clean Air Fund for its intended purpose, improving air quality.

*Dr. Harrison announced that he wanted to switch to New Business, and discuss agenda items 5D and 5E.*

**5. New Business**

**D. Reasonably Available Control Technology (RACT) for Ozone for Select Sources – Request to go to Public Comment**

Jayne Graham, ACHD Program Manager for Air Quality, stated that this was a request for the Board to authorize a public comment period. Ms. Graham stated that Allegheny County was declared to be in non-attainment, and that ACHD performed an analysis that did not find any deficiency in ACHD regulations. She explained that this certification states that ACHD's regulations are appropriate for the sources within Allegheny County. She stated that a public comment period was needed before this certification could be sent to the EPA. Ms. Graham requested permission to send this document to the EPA, if no public comments were received during the public comment period.

**Action:** Dr. Portlock moved to approve the request to go to public comment for the RACT for Ozone for Select Sources, and to submit to the EPA if no public comments were received during the public comment period. Mr. Ferraro seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

## **E. Clean Air Fund Requests**

### **1. Request Permission to Expend 5% of CAF funds for Air Program Operations in 2018**

Ms. Graham stated that Article XXI allows ACHD to use up to 5% of the Clean Air Fund for operation costs. She was unsure if this expenditure required Board approval, but wanted to ask for approval from the Board to be sure. Ms. Graham requested permission to charge a total of up to \$579,703 from the Clean Air Fund for operating expenses for the year 2018.

Dr. Harrison asked what the big ticket items were for planned expenses. Ms. Graham stated that these would be contracts for necessary assistance with modeling for SIPs, hiring five interns for the summer, a part-time permitting contractor, a stenographer for SIP hearings, utilities for 18 monitors, and equipment such as computers.

Dr. Burke asked in past years, how much was charged from the Clean Air Fund. Ms. Graham stated that last year 5% was, and that tens of thousands were in years prior. Dr. Burke asked what the total amount of the other projects was. Ms. Graham estimated that they were \$800,000. Mr. Ferraro asked if the Board approved previous charges. Ms. Graham stated that yes, the Board approved all of them.

**Action:** Mr. Ferraro moved to approve the requested expenditure from the Clean Air Fund for Air Program Operations, Dr. Stewart seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

### **2. Clean Air Fund Request for Building 1 Renovation Oversight**

Ron Sugar, ACHD Deputy Director for Administration stated that Building 1 is 100 years old, was received by ACHD 61 years ago, and is the flagship of the Clack campus. The vision for the renovation includes environmental consciousness and LEED Silver certification. Utility costs would be projected to be 35-45% lower.

Mr. Sugar explained the timeline of events of the renovation. He stated that AECOM completed a feasibility study in 2015. The Air Advisory Committee granted approval in December 2015, and the Board granted approval in January 2016. A competitive bid was done to select an architect. The architectural design is now 60% complete, and should be 90% complete in July 2018. Mr. Sugar planned to be able to give the Board a presentation, and make a request for full funding, in September 2018. Mr. Sugar stated that the estimated project cost is \$10.4 million, which will be split between the Clean Air Fund and Title V.

Mr. Sugar requested \$66,000 from the Clean Air Fund to fund approximately 50% of pre-construction activities performed by Massaro. Such pre-construction activities include an independent calculation of project costs based on Celli Flynn Brennan Architectural Design documents, a constructability review, and reconciliation of project costs.

Dr. Kondaveeti asked if the whole Clean Air Fund would be used for this project. Dr. Hacker stated that the Clean Air Fund had a balance of \$12 million, and that this project would use \$5 million. Michael Parker, ACHD Solicitor, stated that Article XXI established the Clean Air Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to support air quality efforts, an adequate facility supports those efforts. Mr. Sugar stated that the Air Quality program does not have to pay rent if it is located within a County owned building. He stated that a leased facility would cost \$20 per square foot, for a total cost of approximately \$600,000 per year. He stated that the cost would be approximately \$250,000 per year by investing \$10 million for a 40 year lifespan of Building One.

Ms. Mitchell stated that she was a lawyer, and she reviewed Article XXI. She encouraged the Board to support this request. Mr. Youngblood stated that this has been gone through before, comparing the costs of renting or renovating. He stated that this was the least expensive option. Dr. Portlock reminded the Board that a substantial sum of money was being discussed and that there should be a rigorous approach to transparency when spending money from the Clean Air Fund.

**Action:** Dr. Shapira moved to approve the requested expenditure of \$66,000 from the Clean Air Fund for prudent oversight of Clack Building One's renovation, Mr. Youngblood seconded the motion.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

#### 4. **Old Business**

##### **A. Update on Live Well Allegheny**

Dr. Hacker stated that Live Well Allegheny was now comprised of 55 communities, 14 school districts, 42 restaurants, and 14 workplaces. She also stated that Live Well Allegheny will be hosting a learning collaborative on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

*At this time, Dr. Harrison acknowledged Allegheny County Councilmember Sue Means.*

##### **B. Coke Oven (H2S) Regulation Update**

Dr. Hacker gave the Board a brief presentation regarding Air Quality efforts. She stated that air quality monitors are placed in accordance with prevailing winds. She noted that the County is within EPA attainment for ozone, but that challenges remain. She stated that the area around the Liberty monitor is still having problems. She noted that temperature inversions and multiple sources, the largest of which is US Steel's site in Clairton, contribute to this problem. She stated that ACHD needs to redouble its efforts. She stated that recent efforts by ACHD include its revised civil penalty policy, its joint action with the EPA in November regarding the Edgar Thomson Works, night time inspection of the coke plant, the SO<sub>2</sub> SIP, the revised H<sub>2</sub>S regulation, and the PM<sub>2.5</sub> SIP.

Jim Kelly, ACHD Deputy Director for Environmental Health, stated that this regulation update is for coke plants. Mr. Kelly stated that Allegheny County has the most stringent coke

oven regulations in the country. Mr. Kelly stated that the regulation included standards and requirements for coke oven operations, and also included standards for fugitive and stack emissions. He stated that fugitive emissions were responsible for the 'rotten egg' smell. He stated that the rationale for change is that the current H<sub>2</sub>S limit in the rule was not protective of the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS and that fugitive emissions should be reduced to improve compliance with the H<sub>2</sub>S State standard. Elements of the regulation to be changed include the door areas, which will impact allowable visible emissions; coke oven gas, which will impact the allowable H<sub>2</sub>S concentration, and updating of equipment lists. Mr. Kelly stated that these changes will be discussed with the Regulation Subcommittee in June, and then later with the Air Advisory Committee and the Board.

*At this time, Dr. Harrison excused himself and left the meeting.*

Dr. Burke asked if modelling was performed, and how much the smells could be expected to be reduced. Mr. Kelly stated that operational changes will impact the smell and will address health and nuisance hazards. He stated that fugitive emissions can be difficult to model. Dr. Shapira asked if data from the Smell app was utilized. Mr. Kelly stated that it was difficult to do so. Ms. Mitchell stated that although Article XXI did enable odor control authority to ACHD, there is a specific exemption for coke batteries. She expressed concern about ACHD's ability to regulate H<sub>2</sub>S.

### **C. Update on PM2.5 SIP Process**

Mr. Kelly stated that this SIP is needed, as Allegheny County is not in attainment of the 2012 PM2.5 National Ambient Air Quality Standard. The SIP is due by November 2019, and must show attainment by 2021. He stated that attainment is demonstrated by using the CAMx photochemical dispersion model, with a baseline year of 2011. Localized ACHD modeling results are incorporated into a modified model.

Mr. Kelly stated that the model development is completed, but that the EPA may not approve ACHD's modified method. Mr. Kelly stated that the modeled results are not consistent with current PM2.5 trends. Regional emissions continue to decrease, and Mon Valley emissions should be static, but monitored values are increasing. Mr. Kelly noted that the model can not adjust for inversions. He stated that next steps include finalizing needed emission reductions and identifying contingency requirements.

Dr. Portlock stated that we know that climate change will make air quality worse and that she hopes that we can be pro-active.

### **D. Naloxone Update**

Abby Wilson, ACHD Deputy Director for Public Policy & Community Relations, introduced Robert Elser. Mr. Elser is the Opioid Response Administrator, which is a County-funded position. Ms. Wilson stated that she is very grateful that this is a fully-funded County program.

*At this time, Dr. Shapira excused herself and left the meeting.*

Ms. Wilson gave the Board a sense of the varied vehicles for Naloxone distribution. These ranged from Prevention Point Pittsburgh to traditional first responders such as police departments, to nontraditional first responders such as probation officers, to emergency departments, to pharmacies, to the County Jail. She noted the positive step of emergency departments providing naloxone upon discharge. She also emphasized how much work Prevention Point Pittsburgh is doing, and noted that ACHD wants to continue supporting that work.

Dr. Hacker noted that in the last quarter of 2017, a downward trend was noticed regarding EMS distribution of naloxone. She expressed optimism that was a trend in the right direction.

Ms. Wilson provided a heatmap of opioid-related overdose deaths in 2015 and 2016. The epicenter of these deaths was in the southern neighborhoods of the City of Pittsburgh. Ms. Wilson also noted that there is not access to syringe exchange services in those neighborhoods. Dr. Burke asked about the status of Prevention Point Pittsburgh in the south of Pittsburgh. Dr. Hacker stated that the challenge in that instance is that the community has to agree, and noted that it is difficult to find a space. Dr. Kondaveeti asked about following-up with individuals after administration of Naloxone. Ms. Wilson stated that it was difficult to track individuals. Dr. Kondaveeti noted that family support was important in recovery. Ms. Mitchell asked about price-gouging by Naloxone manufacturers. Ms. Wilson stated that the price of Naloxone had increased, but had stabilized.

## 5. **New Business**

### **A. Grant Update**

Dr. Hacker informed the Board that a grant for \$350,000 had been received from the Hillman Foundation to help fund qualitative researchers from Pitt conduct interviews in neighborhoods impacted by overdoses. She stated that this will get off of the ground in the near future.

### **B. Overview of Mortality**

Dr. LuAnn Brink gave the Board an overview of mortality. She stated that this was based on data from 2015, and that she expected to receive 2016 data this summer. She stated that overdoses are increasing more than any other cause of death. She noted that gender and racial disparities continued to persist. She stated that the median ages of death for whites were 77 for

men and 85 for women. For African-Americans, the median age of death was 65 for men, and 74 for women. She noted that within Allegheny County, the Mon Valley and the North Boroughs were home to the worst disparities.

Dr. Hacker stated that health inequality needs to be addressed. She stated that data should be used for targeted interventions with partners, and that Allegheny County should learn from other counties if there are specific programs and policies that we can utilize.

Dr. Burke stated that there is an outstanding health system within the County, and that this location is known for its 'eds and meds'. He stated that the community, including health systems, needs to do more to address the social determinants of health. Dr. Portlock stated that a holistic approach was needed for this multi-factorial problem.

6. **Director's Report**

Dr. Hacker had nothing further to state.

7. **Announcements**

There were no announcements.

8. **Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items**

**A. Donna Frederick, re: ATI**

Ms. Frederick was not present to offer public comment.

**B. Patricia Sweeney, re: Outdoor Burning**

Ms. Sweeney stated that she is a resident of Crafton Heights. She stated that outdoor problem was a problem in her neighborhood and that residents continually burned campfires. She requested that ACHD implement permitting for outdoor burning, with strict limits but noted that the best resolution would be to prohibit outdoor burning.

Ms. Mitchell responded and stated that the municipal government has enforcement authority for outdoor burning.

**C. Thaddeus Popovich, re: Shenango Implosion**

Mr. Popovich stated that preparations were underway to shut down traffic on Route 65, should driving become dangerous due to a dust cloud from the implosion of the Shenango plant. Mr. Popovich stated that it was good that traffic was being looked after, but questioned what was being done for the residents. Mr. Popovich requested that measures be put in place to monitor what blows across the river and into the North Boroughs during the scheduled implosion on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

9. **Adjournment**

Mr. Ferraro moved to adjourn the meeting, Dr. Stewart seconded the adjournment.