

Vaccine Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 28, 2022

Present: Lisa Karle, Betsy Wiest, George Fickenworth, Pat Tracy, Jennie Hagerty, Josh Jaeger, Danielle Brooks, Niken Carpenter, Alyssa Jaeger, Sherrai Holland, Colleen Hammon, Philip Fromyer (ECCM), Darrell Smith,

Not Present: Laura Luther, Dave Deter, Pat Stucke, Mary Viglione, Mary Louise Imbrugio, Gaby Reyes, Zareen Khan, Barb Lewis, Garry Horton, Phil Fromyer, Steve Walters, Jenn Woodard, Cris Taylor, Leatrice Schoolcraft, Rita Scrimenti, Kane Patron (CSS),

The meeting started at 10:03 a.m.

George Fickenworth: Opened the meeting and greeted participants.

Health Provider Updates:

Sherrai Holland, Community Health Net: Things running steadily. Testing is low at this time. Looking forward to joining Sunday Suppers for vaccines. Volunteers should plan to arrive at 2:30 p.m.

Pat Tracy asked if it was necessary to stay for the 15 minutes after the booster. Some members of the team were asked to stay after the vaccine and others were able to leave right away.

Niken asked if we have a the XXB Covid virus strain in Erie? Sherrai had not heard of that. This is a question that may need to be directed to the Dept. of Health. Lisa will reach out to Laura Luther.

George shared the following GoErie Article:

from today's (10/28/22) Go Erie article...

“Sampling done at the Erie Wastewater Treatment Plant earlier in October showed a sharp increase in the amount of coronavirus. Tests performed on samples taken Oct. 3 showed a majority of them (57%) were the variant BA.2, which hasn’t been detected since late spring.

'I think this BA.2 is not the older BA.2 or BA.2.12 that caused outbreaks here in March and April, but might be BA.2.75, a much newer and more immune evasive strain,' Dr. Howard Nadworny, a Saint Vincent infectious diseases specialist and county health department adviser, said in an email. '(T)he sharp surge over the past two weeks, which now appears to be starting to decline (in wastewater sampling), is almost certainly due to yet another variant.'

The BA.2.75 variants represented 2.6% of all variants sampled Oct. 16-22 from a section of the country that includes Pennsylvania, the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention reported.

Nadworny said rapid variant changes could lead to short surges in cases through the winter.”

Laura Luther, Health Dept: Not available for the meeting.

Homeless Provider Updates:

Pat Tracy (Sunday Supper): Have been promoting vaccines at Sunday Supper and the clinic this Sunday has been advertised on social media. Pat has gift cards for those who are eligible to receive them. Lisa indicated that Rita was not able to be on the call today but will volunteer on Sunday.

Alyssa Jaeger (CSS): No new updates. Had a client who was destroying property at more than one of their locations. She will put a note in his HMIS chart to inform other providers so they can be prepared.

Jennie Hagerty (MCW): The Food Rescue outreach may be another one to consider to include in this committee. Food Rescue Outreach is a team of volunteer who receive donations (including hot meals) who identify agencies in need. Jennie will provide the information to the team. <https://lakeeriefoodrescue.org/>

Held first Health Fair last Wednesday and it was successful. Many providers attended to assist those who attended. The unveiling of the building is next Wednesday. The community is invited. Harvest 912 gave a clinic at the Mercy Center.

Pat asked if this group would be a good resource for those who are in isolation at the hotel this winter? Jennie will reach out to them to see if they can help when needed. ECCM is coordinating the hotel vouchers. Funding is available and will start when ONP opens.

Lisa reported that funding is available but was not sure how it works at this point because funding is limited. Colleen reported that there have been many requests who are coming in because of the cold for meals who have not historically been using shelter beds but requesting hotel beds. This is a challenging situation – especially for those who are not comfortable with traditional shelter settings. She feels hotel beds will be in high demand this winter.

Josh Jaeger (LH): Full for 2nd month in a row. Have only had one outbreak. ONP is ramping up and they start on 11/16/22. Hopeful for some vaccine clinics in this location and still working to make this happen. Josh will keep us updated. PA Thrive will be coming in to do STD testing. Working with Harvest 912 for a foot clinic. They are reevaluating their rules to be more in line with national rules to be more empathetic as it relates to harm reduction.

Danielle Brooks (CCBH): Still going out into the community to work with clients.

Darrell Smith (ECM): Annual banquet was last night and tonight. Doing breakfast Monday-Friday. Bag lunches yesterday and today as a result of the banquet so no interruption in service. Things are quiet in the shelter. On some occasions, arrangements have been made for those needing isolation and have developed a relationship with the Avalon.

Philip Fromyer (ECCM): Has been working with Erie School District and others on the homeless population in the schools. Indicated that there are no funds available through Salvation Army at this time. He indicated that there is no funding for hotels in the system at this time but wasn't sure if this included COVID isolation as well.

Colleen Hammon: When asked about hotel vouchers, Colleen explains how the funds are used and that we aren't holding back, we are trying to share why it is that there aren't funds available at this time and how we need to make sure funds are available for those who are truly sick.

Reported that COC just had Harvest 912 at their location.

Lisa Karle (Erie County): Lisa indicated there are funds available for COVID isolation coming to a shelter as a new admission. That shelter will be responsible for feeding the person for the 5 days they are in isolation. In the past, both City Mission and Soup Kitchen have provided meals if the shelter can pick up the meals.

Niken Carpenter (City of Erie):

The City of Erie's anticipated paving locations for the week of Oct. 31, 2022:

- East 3rd Street
(Lighthouse – Dunn)
- East 3rd Street
(Dunn – Pennsylvania)
- East 3rd Street
(Pennsylvania – East Ave)
- East 8th Street
(East Ave – Pennsylvania)
- East 9th Street
(Wayne – Reed)
- East 9th Street
(Reed – Wallace)
- East 9th Street
(Wallace – Parade)
- East 19th Street
(Reed – Wayne)
- Parade Street
(East 6th – East 4th)
- Pennsylvania Ave
(E. Lake Rd – East 3rd)
- Polk Street
(East Ave – Pennsylvania)
- West 4th Street
(Cascade – Raspberry)

Police Department is coordinating a Take Back the Drugs event in City Hall lobby on Saturday, 10/29/22 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. A flyer will be attached to the minutes.

Niken said one of the health providers reached out to her with a citizen who is looking to be naturalized and needed a bus ticket to Buffalo. There are agencies that can help in these situations:

Naturalization for Homeless Applicants: <https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/fact-sheets/Fact-Sheet%E2%80%93Promoting-Citizenship-for-Homeless.pdf>

Betsy Wiest (SPH): No new updates. Betsy will reach out to Harvest 912 to see if they would like to be part of this committee.

Jokes for the day:

George: What do you call two witches that share an apartment? "Broom"mates.

Pat: What is a scarecrow's favorite fruit? Strawberries!

Lisa: Why do ghosts ride elevators. It raises their spirits!

The date for the next meeting is Friday, November 11, 2022, via Zoom.