

Vaccine Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 29, 2022

Present: Betsy Wiest, Lisa Karle, Mary Viglione, Jennie Hagerty, Leatrice Schoolcraft, Pat Tracy, Barb Lewis, Pat Stucke, Jenn Woodard, Mary Louise Imbrugio, Sherrai Holland, Colleen Hammon, Rita Scrimenti, Dave Deter

Not Present: Danielle Brooks, Niken Carpenter, Gary Horton, Liz McCormick, Lisa Boyd, Missy Niedzielski, Chelsea Bates, Kathy Lamb, Laura Luther, Niken Carpenter, Steve Walters, Cris Taylor, Darrell Smith, Mary Sackett, George Fickenworth,

The meeting started at 10:04 a.m.

Lisa Karle: Opened the meeting and greeted participants.

Health Provider Updates:

Health Department – Not available for this meeting

Sherrai Holland, Community Health Net: Testing and vaccinations have been at a minimal over the last few weeks. They are seeing an increase in the boosters for both 1st or 2nd dose. Between the 1st and 2nd booster is a 4-month waiting period. 2nd booster is for ages 50+ and immune-compromised. Vaccines are held by appointment only on Friday mornings via www.communityhealthnet.com with the dropdown. The vaccine and booster offered is Moderna – offered only for those age 18 and older. For those who received a Pfizer or J&J vaccine, they can receive the Moderna booster. Still offering PCR and rapid testing – by appointment Monday thru Friday. They offer rapid testing to all patients during doctor appointments. N95 masks are also available as well as rapid tests for providers.

Colleen Hammon indicated that she heard people are having difficulty physically with the 2nd booster. Sherrai has not heard this but will check with her team.

Jenn Woodward said she is hearing that other shelters are not being masked. What is the mandate? For healthcare centers, masking remains the same and she has not heard that congregate centers be lifted.

Jenn indicated that CSS is no longer masks. MHA provides a mask optional protocol but continues with COVID triage. Jenn asked if Sherrai could send something concerning the mask mandate and congregate settings.

Lisa said we need to be careful of the use of mandate vs. guidelines. Lisa has not heard differently from the Dept. of Health about the masking guidelines and will keep the team updated on what she discovers. Much of the guidance revolves around the rate of transmission – which is low in Erie County.

Homeless Provider Updates:

Pat Stucke (MHA): Approximately 88% of their members are vaccinated. Thank you to CHN for donating rapid tests. They continue with COVID triage.

Dave Deter (City of Erie): ESG Cares Act recipients - deadline has been extended to 12/30/2023. Currently at about 70% of funds being expended. Working on outreach for Home ARP Allocation. In May will begin reaching out to people concerning this. Primary focus is homelessness through priority groups – primarily a construction project to create housing. Still in a waiting pattern for ESG – Dave will keep us updated.

Jenn asked what happens when she runs out of funds for her grant. Can she reapply for additional funds? Dave does not expect to receive another allocation but if agencies are having difficulty spending funds, those funds may be reallocated.

Mary Louise asked in the grouping of people to receive the money for construction, is the chronic homeless listed? Dave indicated they are listed as a group. He also said allocation of funds cannot occur until planning is done and he is anticipating that to be sometime in September.

Jennie Hagerty asked if there will be an application process and when Dave shared there would be community members as part of the planning process, who are those community members. Dave said that would be homeless provider, HANDS, other developers, other stakeholders in community – still putting list together. Dave anticipates there will be an application process but will keep the group updated as developments occur.

Pat Tracy (Sunday Supper/ONP): Have been dining in for 3 Sunday's and are unmasked. Pat still giving out Country Fair gift cards for those who are being vaccinated and/or boosted.

Mary Viglione (CCBH): No new updates. Still operating under the waiver so authorizations are still extended. When in the office, they are masked.

Barb Lewis: Continues to work with 2-3 people who are housed tentatively. Still working on advocacy.

Leatrice Schoolcraft (Erie County):

Jennie Hagerty (MCW): Mercy Center is offering a vaccine clinic on 6/22/22 from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. in parking lot – will offer a vaccine clinic. Looking to start with new facility for permanent housing in October. Mercy Center for Women is asking for support for a grant. Click on the website to vote. The website is: mcwerie.org

Jenn Woodard (COC): No new updates.

Leatrice Schoolcraft (County): No new updates.

Colleen Hammon: No new updates. Still lots of unsheltered people in the area.

Rita Scrimenti (Emmaus): No new updates. Still have meals to go and also inside dining with masks when not seated.

Mary Louise Imbrugio: Continues to provide those in need with season appropriate clothing and supplies. Pat from MHA offered to donate handwarmers or sleeping bags from the MHA to Mary Louise, Pat Tracy (Sunday Supper) and Rita Scrimenti (Emmaus).

Betsy Wiest (SPH): No new updates.

Additional Conversation Notes:

- Lisa completed the Point-in-Time yesterday. Approximately 24 people were identified as unsheltered. Five people answered all the questions and provided their names. Lisa was able to look them up in HMIS and document this information. The new system this year seemed to allow for better opportunities for interviewing individuals and provided better information. The County is considering a summer PIT count which is optional. Numbers are up from last year but down overall. Many people are sleeping out of doors (park benches, cars, outside shelter places). Barb Lewis reminded the group that these numbers are a small portion of the homeless. We need to figure out where the encampments are and find ways to reach more people – hopefully be engaging those with lived experience. Lisa indicated there were funds from CARES funding but providers need to apply for this. Lisa encouraged the team to volunteer for the upcoming PIT counts so we can reach more people.
- Lisa asked what we recommend people do when seeing someone panhandling. Suggestions are:
 - Giving low value gift cards to McDonalds, etc.;
 - People try to acknowledge the person in some way (hello, a wave, etc.) as we can't always stop when driving; Blessings bags are given;
 - If able to communicate, provide resources for the person.
- There was a discussion about Country Fair gift cards because they now provide alcohol. CF was initially chosen because at the time, CF provided bathrooms only to those who purchase something as bathrooms were not available. Discussion occurred about providing gift cards to other locations that don't sell alcohol. Lisa indicated there are Port-a-Potties downtown. Lisa met with Emily Fetcho (Erie Downtown Partnership) who indicated their group is business owners downtown and they are very supportive of providing services for all who occupy downtown – including the homeless. They feel that the bathrooms need to stay for those in need and are looking at something more permanent in three locations. Emily may be a very good resource for this group. Lisa will share the name of the staff at the EPD who may also be helpful with this project. Barb mentioned that we need to figure out how determine what our homeless actually need and not what we think they need.
- Barb indicated that the new website under data and housing, there is a section about street outreach that showed PIT counts from a couple of years ago. If we are trying to promote the need for street outreach, we need to be a more formal outreach. We need to possibly change the wording to make it more accurate. Lisa recommended that Barb contact George for any changes.

Joke for the day:

Jenn Woodard: What is the opposite of irony? Wrinkly!

What do Alexander the Great and Winnie the Pooh have in common? They both have "The" as their middle name!

The date for the next meeting is Friday, May 13, 2022 via Zoom.