

Vaccine Education Committee Meeting Minutes  
Friday, June 10, 2022

Present: Lisa Karle, Mary Viglione, Niken Carpenter, Leatrice Schoolcraft, Pat Tracy, Pat Stucke, Jenn Woodard, Sherrai Holland, Colleen Hammon, Rita Scrimenti, Dave Deter, George Fickenworth, Laura Luther, Lisa Boyd, Gaby Reyes, Zareen Khan

Not Present: Jennie Hagerty, Betsy Wiest, Danielle Brooks, Barb Lewis, Mary Louis Imbrugio, Gary Horton, Liz McCormick, Lisa Boyd, Missy Niedzielski, Chelsea Bates, Kathy Lamb, Steve Walters, Cris Taylor, Mary Sackett.

The meeting started at 10:04 a.m.

George Fickenworth: Opened the meeting and greeted participants.

Niken Carpenter introduced two interns that will be with her office for the summer. Gaby Reyes is a Senior at Penn State and also runs Melancholy Clothing Brand. Part of the proceeds go to support mental health support and awareness in the community. IG: @melancholy\_brand melancholybrand.bigcartel.com  
Zareen Khan is a UPenn Grad.

**Health Provider Updates:**

**Laura Luther, Health Department** – Laura Luther shared that there is now a self-reporting form on the COVID webpage on the Health department site. They are currently working with the IT department to include a check box to allow for consent to a follow up call. This form now allows for home tests to report positive results. The link for the form is: <http://eriecountypa.gov/COVID-19/COVID-19-home-test-result-reporting-form/>

Laura also shared news of a new vaccine, Novavax, which has been approved by the FDA. There are still more steps that are needed for CDC approval. Novavax is a protein vaccine, which differs from Moderna and Pfizer, which were mRNA vaccines. There is some concern that this vaccine is coming out too late due to the number of variants to COVID and it may have been more beneficial if it came out a year ago.

There is also a push for the approval of the Pfizer vaccine to be used for 6-month-old to 5 years old and the Moderna vaccine to be used from 6-month-old to 6 years old. This is currently the only population to not have vaccine available. “Tiny Pedes” would need to have FDA approval then ACIP then CDC approval before being implemented.

Laura also shared that the 16509 zip code was the latest zip code to reach the 70% fully vaccinated population marker. 16503 is the least vaccinated population with only 39% vaccinated. 16411 (East Springfield) is also at 39.9% vaccinated.

There are no updates related to when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Booster will be recommended for people under the age of 50 years old.

If you are interested in reviewing COVID Data for Erie County, you are able to go to the COVID page of the Health Department website and you will be able to find data regarding cases, mortality, vaccine rates, and wastewater. It is aggregate demographics.

**Sherrai Holland, Community Health Net:** Testing and vaccinations have remained the same over the last four weeks. The most common symptoms the COVID team is seeing is headache, fatigue, coughing and runny nose. They are most often seeing people come in for the 2<sup>nd</sup> booster. You must be over the age of 50 years old or immunocompromised to receive the 2<sup>nd</sup> booster.

Community Health Net is also continuing to offer N-95 masks to whomever need them. They also have rapid test kits available. Please contact Sherrai if you are in need of either N-95 or rapid test kits.

CHN COVID team did provide onsite rapid testing to the Erie City Mission over the last month. They have continued to work with ECM to provide testing to their members during a recent outbreak.

CHN has started to screen all of their Healthcare for Homeless clients for the COVID Vaccine.

CHN has also increased the number of individuals on the COVID team, so they are able to help with Vaccine Booster Clinics.

#### **Homeless Provider Updates:**

**Nikon Carpenter (City of Erie):** There are no new updates. They are still masking.

**Pat Tracy (Sunday Supper):** Sunday Suppers is doing well. They are getting close to running out of gift cards. Pat reported that one of their members stated that the only reason he got the Booster shot was to get the gift card. She did identify that for those individuals that have gotten out of jail and do not have a card, she has been referring the members to Sherrai at CHN. Sherrai identified that she is able to look the member up in the PA SISS system as long as they have been vaccinated in the state of PA. George Fickenworth did report from past conversation with ECP staff that the ECP medical department tracks the members that are vaccinated, and they are given the card at the time of discharge from ECP.

There was also a question regarding current CDC Guidelines for testing positive for COVID. Current guidelines state that with a positive test, the individual should isolate for 5 days. After 5 days, you may return to activities while continuing to mask for another 5 days. Using PCR testing will show a negative test quicker than an antigen test (such as the rapid home tests). With an antigen test, you could still test positive for a few weeks after you do not have symptoms. PCR testing is still available at CHN (by appointment), Quality of Life, MLK, Booker T. Washington Center.

**Pat Stucke (MHA):** MHA went back to requiring face masks for their members 2 weeks ago.

**Leatrice Schoolcraft (Erie County):** No new updates

**Rita Scrimenti (Emmaus):** No new updates. They continue to mask at Emmaus. They have been very busy.

**Colleen Hammon:** No new updates. Looking forward to the Booster Clinic that will be held at ECM.

**Jenn Woodard (COC):** No new updates. COC continues to mask. COC had closed their dining room to outsiders when ECM had their outbreak.

**Lisa Boyd (CSS):** No new updates

**Dave Deter (City of Erie):** ESG Cares Act FY 2022 – there was a slight decrease in awards this year. They received a total of \$269,951.

**Mary Viglione (CCBH):** CCBH has started a new initiative where care managers and community health workers are completing outreach calls to members after emergency room visits. This is an attempt to help bridge any gaps in services for the member. The goal is to make first contact with the member within 24 hours of notification of the ER discharge.

**Darrell Smith (ECM):** ECM Emergency Shelter recently had COVID cases. They worked with the CHN COVID team to provide on site testing. Currently, everyone in the Emergency Shelter has tested negative twice so Daryll is in the process of letting Sean O’Neill at ECCM know they will be able to start to accept homeless members again. ECM continues to provide rapid tests to all individuals that are admitted. If they are positive, they will work to provide appropriate isolation for that individual. Darrell stated that ECM staff have learned a great deal over the past 2 years of the pandemic.

**Additional Conversation Notes:**

The committee discussed specifics of the upcoming Booster Clinic that will be held at the Erie City Mission. Committee decided to hold the clinic on Thursday, June 30, 2022. They will follow the protocol that they used for the last vaccine clinic held at ECM. The committee will see how the lunch vaccine clinic goes and then evaluate the need for a dinner vaccine clinic.

Jennie Hagerty is currently working to obtain funding to purchase more incentive gift cards. Committee members discussed alternative gift card suggestions. Ideas: Dollar General, Family Dollar, Local Eateries/Businesses such as Dominick’s Restaurant. Rita Scrimenti stated that when Emmaus needed to close, they worked with Dominick’s and that worked very well. Rita volunteered to come up with a list of local businesses that could be used.

Sherrai Holland at CHN is still waiting for approval to use funds to obtain gift cards for incentives. They would not be able to utilize the funding if approved at Country Fair due to the fact that they sell alcohol.

**Joke for the day:**

What did the ocean say to the beach? Nothing. It just waved.

How does the scientist freshen their breath? With experi-mints.

What kind of creature in the ocean does every other creature hate? A selfish.

The date for the next meeting is Friday, June 24, 2022 via Zoom.