

Vaccine Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, September 2, 2022

Present: Lisa Karle, Betsy Wiest, George Fickenworth, Pat Stucke, Danielle Brooks, Mary Viglione, Pat Tracy, Steve Walters, Colleen Hammon, Niken Carpenter, Sherrai Holland, Jenn Woodard, Laura Luther

Not Present: Rita Scrimenti, Leatrice Schoolcraft, Dave Deter, Phil Fromyer, Mary Louise Imbrugio, Darrell Smith, Jennie Hagerty, Barb Lewis, Alyssa Jaeger(CSS), Cris Taylor, Gaby Reyes, Josh Jaeger, Zareen Khan

The meeting started at 10:05 a.m.

George Fickenworth: Opened the meeting and greeted participants.

Health Provider Updates:

Steve Walters, Health Department: Held a vaccine clinic at the Quality of Life Center. Of the 12 vaccines, 4 were a first dose. CDC has suspended the use of the current boosters (Moderna and Pfizer) effective immediately. Any scheduled appointments must be cancelled and rescheduled when the new vaccine becomes available. They do not yet have access to the new booster which will target two strains of Covid.

Currently there are 6 cases of Monkeypox in Erie County.

Pat Tracy asked if those fully vaccinated with two boosters can get the new booster. Steve indicated they are eligible for the new booster but not sure how it is going to be rolled out yet.

Jenn Woodard asked about additional precautions for our population. Steve reported: Health Dept. is working on protocol for 1st line workers for Monkeypox. Reminded that hand washing is very helpful. Don't participate in activities where bodily fluids would be shared. Typically, this is a skin-to-skin transmission. Protocols are being developed for those who change linens. Steve will send the information to the group. The Dept. of Health is working on an assessment of who would be eligible for the vaccine because they have so little of the vaccine.

What are the telltale signs of Monkeypox? Doesn't present the same as Covid. Pat Tracy called the Monkeypox hotline and Sunday Supper staff are considering adding the following questions to ONP screen questionnaire: Do you have a rash? Have you been exposed to anyone with Monkeypox?

Steve indicated a Monkeypox Team has been established at the Dept. of Health. Please call them with questions. The number is: 814-451-6700, Opt. 2. Check the meeting minutes from the last meeting for additional links with more information. He also provided additional information which will be sent with the minutes.

George Fickenworth shared the following links:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2022/08/31/monkeypox-cases-homeless-cities-take-different-approach-problem/10326741002/?gnt-cfr=1> (This may be a subscriber only link).

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/MPX/MPX-Guidance-for-Homeless-Service-Providers.aspx>

Laura Luther, Health Dept: Laura shared additional information:

Bivalent vaccine has been approved through 1st round of FDA approval. Unfortunately, in the Emergency Use Authorization (EUA), it was stated that all monovalent vaccines be halted immediately as of 9/1/2022. Therefore, all boosters must be cancelled and rescheduled when the new bivalent vaccine is available. No one knows when that will be, but both CHN and ECDH are trying to acquire this vaccine that will hopefully be more effective with the omicron variants as well as preventing new variants. Cases and hospitalizations – currently seeing a slight increase of hospitalizations, but not alarming. Case rates are steady. They are bracing for the school year and holidays (November thru January) when they typically see spikes.

Laura is working with Epidemiologist on Covid cases in relation to race. She will keep us updated on data as it becomes available so we can see where the health disparities are occurring. Currently showing there is a massive burden on our Black/Brown and Asian communities.

Sherrai Holland, Community Health Net: Followed up on the vaccine clinic on June 30th at the ECM. From that clinic, there were 9 1st doses – 6 no showed for their 2nd dose, 3 showed up for the second dose. If there is an interest in coordinating another vaccine/booster clinic, let her know. People seem to respond well to the clinics rather than following up at CHN.

Homeless Provider Updates:

Pat Tracy (Sunday Supper): No new updates at Sunday Supper. First Presbyterian Church of the Covenant is willing to hold a clinic for the new vaccine during Sunday Supper when it comes out.

Jenn Woodard (COC): Testing people for Covid before they can come in. No other changes.

Mary Viglione (CCBH): No new updates.

Danielle Brooks (CCBH): No new updates.

Josh Jaeger (EUMA): Also confirmed positive sentiments for Harvest 912. Looking to have some Gannon nursing students come into ONP – possibly on a monthly basis for foot care. Meeting on a bi-weekly basis to prepare for ONP. Josh shared a case he is working with and appreciated the team's efforts to help him deal with the issue.

Colleen shared information on the PATH program: Applicants must have an SMI. Can access through Coordinated Entry. Historically, street outreach has had different definitions from a provider perspective. Most of the formal/informal outreach is occurring through the volunteer basis. Josh asked the extent to which the outreach services work. Lisa shared: PATH does not have a street outreach, but Upper Room does. Contact Cris Taylor for more information on his program. Currently in Erie County, there is not a good street outreach program available. We do not qualify for HUD funds for this. Unfortunately, we just don't have the staff to outreach as we would like. Most of these efforts are done through volunteers.

Colleen Hammon: Is working to assist a man who was assaulted in Perry Square last Sunday to find housing. She thanked those (especially Sherrai) who have helped make this appear to be a reality. Colleen said the collaboration from this committee was instrumental in assisting this man.

Pat Stucke (MHA): MHA is on the schedule for Harvest 912 for December.

Betsy Wiest (SPH): St. Patrick's Haven will be hosting the Harvest 912 Foot Clinic on 9/13/22 beginning at 5 p.m. Reservations are required. SPH will also be reinstating our visitor's program in the coming weeks. Scheduled visitors go to the Haven on a specific evening each month to visit with our guests. All COVID protocols remain in place.

Lisa Karle (Erie County): ECCM is struggling to keep/hire people for the 814-SHELTER team. As a result, delays and callbacks are occurring.

Jokes for the day:

Mary Viglione: What do you call a factory making OK products? A satisfactory!

Josh Jaeger: What do you call a can opener that doesn't work? A Can't Opener!

The date for the next meeting is Friday, September 16, 2022, via Zoom. No meetings will be held on November 25th or December 23rd. Lisa will send cancellation notices.