

Vaccine Education Committee Meeting Minutes
Friday, August 5, 2022

Present: Lisa Karle, George Fickenworth, Betsy Wiest, Josh Jaeger, Leatrice Schoolcraft, Mary Viglione, Laura Luther, Emily Fetchko (Erie Downtown Partnership), Pat Stucke, Jenn Woodard, Rita Scrimenti, Dave Deter, Pat Tracy, Alyssa Jaeger-Calcaterra

Not Present: Niken Carpenter, Danielle Brooks, Gaby Reyes, Zareen Khan, Cris Taylor, Steve Walters, Lisa Boyd, Jennie Hagerty, Barb Lewis, Mary Louis Imbrugio, Gary Horton, Lisa Boyd, Missy Niedzielski, Kathy Lamb, Liz Sackett, Sherrai Holland, Colleen Hammon, Chelsea Bates

The meeting started at 10:03 a.m.

George Fickenworth: Opened the meeting and greeted participants.

Health Provider Updates:

Laura Luther, Health Department

- Vaccine rates for County – 16503 who was the only zip code in Erie under 40% but has now entered into the 40% range – an approximate 20% increase over the past year.
- Every age is eligible for vaccine at this time.
- Calendar is updated on County Website.
- Novavax is different from Pfizer/Modern – not an mRNA vaccine. This is a protein vaccine and brings a comfort level to some who have not received the vaccine. All three health systems are in the process of ordering Novavax for their facilities, so you need to get it from your PCP.
- Covid cases are starting to increase again at this time. Because of the rapid testing, the Health Dept. does see the true number of cases. Hospitalizations are also starting to increase.
- Masking in congregate settings is still highly recommended as well as vaccine and testing as needed. Laura recommended that the KN95 or N95 are the preferred masks of choice and has been proven to be the most effective. However, any mask is better than no mask.
- Questions for Health Dept:
When should we get both flu and upcoming COVID boosters? Together or separate?
What is the best timing for the shots? Last year the advice was to get vaccinated for both and then get flu vaccine. Some PCP's are spacing vaccines 4 weeks. Laura will follow up with Dr. Nadworny.
If you have been immunized against smallpox as a child, does this immunization cover you for Monkeypox? Laura will check with the Monkeypox team about this and the ability to get the Monkeypox vaccine for those who need it.

Sherrai Holland, Community Health Net:

- Not available for the call.

Homeless Provider Updates:

Mary Viglione - CCBH

- Still doing Emergency Room outreach. They are making sure those with whom they work have a PCP and coordinate with MH providers, so they get the care needed.

Rita Scrimenti -Emmaus

- Emmaus is still offering eat in and take out for meals. They are busy.
- They continue to do what they can to support those they serve and partner with other shelters in the area.
- Lisa asked us to let our clients know that if they are approved for the hotel and get banned at the hotel, there is no other place they can go.
- Jenn asked if the current process could be made available to the team.

Pat Tracy - Sunday Supper

- Pat will work through Angela at Mercy Center to pick up the Country Fair gift cards sometime next week.

Dave Deter – City of Erie

- Working on the CAPER report for HUD. Please be sure to get your paperwork to Dave who will review and then let you know if there are any errors needing to be corrected.

Josh Jaeger – EUMA

- Josh shared that last year he received Covid and flu at the same time and had no ill effects.
- During Season 10 at ONP, both vaccines were offered to help our population. ONP is currently in the planning stages for this season in terms of testing, isolation, etc. Josh will keep us posted.
- No changes for Liberty House.
- As they have positive cases this season, they will report to HMIS, so we are all in the loop.

Leatrice Schoolcraft –DHS

- No new updates.
- Is seeing many of her friends who are vaccinated contract Covid. Suggested we all remain diligent about mask wearing.

Alyssa Jaeger-Calcaterra – CCBH

- Currently do not have rapid tests at facility. Was advised to contact CHN, Sherrai Holland at 814-454-4530, Ext 1 then option 268. She is the Homeless Liaison.

Betsy Wiest – SPH:

- SPH will reopen on Tuesday, August 9, 2022.
- The Sisters of St. Joseph donated \$500 toward the purchase of Country Fair Gift cards to be used as vaccine incentives. The cards were purchased and will be given to Pat Tracy for her Sunday Suppers.
- As a group, can we write letters to ACL with our concerns about how their new appointment policy affects the homeless, as well as the elderly, handicapped and new Americans. Send your email to Kathy Veith, Customer Solutions Specialist at ACL: Kathy.M.Veith@questdiagnostics.com

Jennifer Woodard - COC

- COC has 2 men/2 women who are isolating from Covid. Is grateful for funds to allow them to isolate at hotel.

Pat Stucke - MHA

- MHA are currently mask optional.

- Number of members coming in have increased significantly over the past couple of months – numbers have doubled. Looking for additional space in the building to provide for Covid mitigation efforts.

Updates per Lisa:

- CHN is now participating with HMIS so they will be able to use this platform to reach people.
- There are currently funds available for the hotel if needed for Covid isolation. The provider will be ECCM. The process is to call Coordinated Entry – daytime only - to get the referral. The provider is required to provide food for the 5 days of isolation. The hope is that this funding will carry us into the winter.
- Lisa asked if Laura heard if the booster requirements will be open to more people. Laura has not yet heard from the CDC but will keep us updated. The 55+ age groups are seeing a decrease in cases – partly because of the booster. The concern is for those who are younger than 55 years. The focus has been to be able to vaccinate children. She anticipates we will hear more in the fall.

Emily Fetchko Update:

- Emily is grateful for the work we are doing. She can use the information from our meetings to negate false information about social services.
- Downtown is seeing an increase in homeless individuals in front of businesses.
- The partnership is interested in updating their Hospitality Program – can they help or refer them to a service that may help them. Emily gave example of how personnel is trying to gain trust and connect with the homeless population to help them. Emily is looking at hiring people for part-time positions as Ambassadors.
- Looking for funds to create a downtown outreach team.
- Seeing more instances of prostitution downtown.
- Their mission is to make downtown safe and welcoming for everyone and figuring out what their role is in this.
- Josh Jaeger indicated a new NOFE is eligible that might help her and to check with the Home Team for more information.

Joke for the day:

Q: What does a house wear? A dress!

Q: Why does the Swedish navy put UPC barcodes on the side of their ships? So they can Scan Da Navy in Them!

The date for the next meeting is Friday, August 19, 2022, via Zoom.