

Vaccine Education Committee Meeting Minutes  
Friday, July 22, 2022

**Present:** Lisa Karle, George Fickenworth, Betsy Wiest, Dave Deter, Gaby Reyes, Zareen Khan, Josh Jaeger, Leatrice Schoolcraft, Pat Tracy, Mary Viglione, Niken Carpenter, Cris Taylor, Steve Walters, Pat Stucke, Rita Scrimenti

**Not Present:** Lisa Boyd, Jennie Hagerty, Danielle Brooks, Barb Lewis, Mary Louis Imbrugio, Gary Horton, Lisa Boyd, Missy Niedzielski, Kathy Lamb, Liz Sackett, Sherrai Holland, Colleen Hammon, Jenn Woodard, Laura Luther, Chelsea Bates

The meeting started at 10:06 a.m.

**George Fickenworth:** Opened the meeting and greeted participants.

**Health Provider Updates:**

**Steve Walters, Health Department**

- Covid numbers are still on the increase.
- Staff met on Monkeypox this week. 15,000 cases globally. 2,200 cases in US, 58 in PA and 1 confirmed case in Erie County. Testing is not currently available. Two vaccines are available (one older they do not want to use) and one approved by the FDA but only in a limited amount. Vaccine is a 2-dose and you are fully covered 30 days after the 2<sup>nd</sup> dose. It will be for people who are high risk (unprotected or multiple partner sex, primarily in LGBTQ population). Symptoms are a fever, chills, fatigue and a painful rash. If you come in contact, the incubation period is 5-21 days. Outreach Center on Upper State is the only place currently testing.
- The organization that handled the local Monkeypox case was Central Outreach, 3104 Peach Str, 814.619.4009

**Sherrai Holland, Community Health Net:**

- Not available for the call.

**Homeless Provider Updates:**

**Niken Carpenter - City of Erie):**

- Niken participated in the Library Outreach Program yesterday. Many individuals who stopped at the table had specific questions and Niken, Gaby and Zareen were able to assist them with information. They were made aware of the need for continued outreach to people within the city.
- Top issues people were interested in were lead in homes, stormwater programs and recycling information.
- Many events coming up. Check out the City of Erie website for offerings.
- Per Niken: Redevelopment Authority of Erie ARP programs:  
The applications for the ARP LEAD HAZARD CONTROL & HEALTHY HOMES Program are now open!"The goal of this program is to promote healthy and safe housing to reduce lead poisoning, hospitalizations, injuries, illnesses, or deaths caused by preventable home health or

safety hazards. This program builds on the Authority's other rehabilitation programs to address a variety of environmental health and safety concerns, including lead, allergens, asthma, carbon monoxide, home safety, and pests."

Here's a link to the details: <https://cityoferie.mysocialpinpoint.com/city-of-erie-american-rescue-plan/housing>

Here's a link to the application form (pdf file): [https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/mysocialpinpoint/uploads/redactor\\_assets/documents/ac85de9a64e93b90f97c84c0d0e14ace01197def9753fd34cb93d09898b1687f/61386/ARP\\_HHP\\_application.pdf](https://s3-us-west-2.amazonaws.com/mysocialpinpoint/uploads/redactor_assets/documents/ac85de9a64e93b90f97c84c0d0e14ace01197def9753fd34cb93d09898b1687f/61386/ARP_HHP_application.pdf)

**Rita Scrimenti (Emmaus):**

- Numbers have been up/down and are inconsistent. The weather seems to be playing a part in this. Seeing more requests and is willing to partner with others to fill these requests. Rita looks forward to working with other providers to help those we serve. If you send someone to Rita for assistance, please call her ahead of time to let her know.
- They are doing half seating (3/table) inside as well as bag meals to go.

**Pat Tracy (Sunday Supper)**

- Thank you to Dr. Taylor for the future possibility of bathrooms/showers.
- Have had about a 25% increase but then dropped again – due to the weather.
- Do we still have Country Fair vaccine gift cards available? She is finding that people are not interested in gift cards other than County Fair. At the current time, all funds were spent but the program is not ending. Lisa indicated that we need to reach out to other sources – possibly we could reach out to the United Way. The Home Team is unable to get money from Erie Gives as they are not a non-profit. Pat will let patrons know that the Tim Horton gift card are what is available now.
- Lisa indicated that the BA5 variant is showing to be highly transmissible and vaccine resistant.
- Pat Tracy asked if Pat Stucke has sleeping bags available. Pat S. does and Pat T. will pick them up later this week.
- Pat indicated there are showers at First Covenant and if someone comes to Sunday Supper between 4-5p.m., she can accommodate.

**Dave Deter - City of Erie**

- Working on the year-end reporting for FY 2021-2022 and ESG Cares Act Funding Quarterly report.
- Lisa asked about the Upper Room funding which is CARES Funding. If CARES goes away, can the Upper Room apply for regular ESG funding. Dave indicated that our annual ESG funding is very small, but he can apply.

**Josh Jaeger - EUMA**

- Josh is starting outreach in the broader community as it related to veterans. Please refer any veterans looking for housing to Josh.
- Our Neighbor's Place planning has begun. Josh will keep us updated on developments as they occur. They are continuing to look at infection control.

**Mary Viglione - CCBH**

- Still doing ER follow up calls. Have had an increase in the amount of positive Covid cases. Many people going to ER waiting rooms and the wait times are very long.

- Lisa indicated there are negotiations around additional hotel/motel vouchers for those in need as a result of a positive Covid diagnosis. More information will be forthcoming.

**Leatrice Schoolcraft - DHS**

- No new updates.

**Darrell Smith – ECM:**

- Darrell has Tim Horton gift cards if needed. He also has 13 Country Fair cards available.
- We should probably change our name to reflect all of the things we are doing.
- City Mission is serving sit down meals at this time. Bag lunches are no longer being offered. If the numbers change, that may change. There are multiple resource tables at the ECM for people.
- Currently have 35 beds open but they limit using them because of Covid at the ECM and have a plan to open beds when SPH shuts down.
- Darrell indicated any male at any time can ask the City Mission to use their showers.

**Betsy Wiest - SPH:**

- Preparing for our annual shutdown which will occur beginning 7/26/22. SPH will reopen on 8/9/22.
- One of our neighbors passed. She was the eyes/ears of our block and will be tremendously missed.
- 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.

**Dr. Cris Taylor – Upper Room**

- Things have been slow. No problems with Covid in the recent past. Currently averaging 20 patrons per day. They normally average 120 people per day. Dr. Taylor reports they are always down this time of year but a little more this year than previous years. It is very hot in the building, and he feels that may have something to do with the lower numbers.
- They are looking to move to a new location in the next year or so that would include toilets and showers. Lisa suggested Dr. Taylor connect with Emily Fetchko from the Downtown Partnership.
- They now have a full-time Social Worker who can assist clients – especially with ID replacement, Social Security appointments, birth certificates, etc. The suggestion was made to bring her to a Home Team meeting for greater awareness of what she is doing and to not replicate services. They are looking for internship opportunities as well.

**Jennifer Woodard - COC**

- Unable to attend in person but reported no new updates via email.

**Pat Stucke - MHA**

- Gave an update on the Peer Navigators who are currently serving those who go to the library. They work Mon-Sat and are available to help people navigate the various systems available. They also provide support to the library staff who might need assistance with a patron. MHA currently provides one full-time and one part-time staff. Their offices are located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (office in the corner behind the library staff office), but they circulate throughout the library. The library was chosen as it is a safe, comfortable place for people to go.
- MHA has been seeing an increase in patrons. This may be attributed to a more substantial lunch being provided, the ability to shower. People are staying much longer through the day. They are

looking to open at 9 a.m. in August instead of 10 a.m. They currently have 4 people who stay through the night outside as this is a place they feel safe.

**Joke for the day:**

Q: Why is Peter Pan always flying? Because he Neverlands!

Q: Did you hear about the new elevator dance. There are no steps to it!

The date for the next meeting is Friday, August 5, 2022, via Zoom.