

ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
April 28, 2008
5:00 P.M.
ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PRESENT:

Paul F. Burroughs, Esq., Chair
Sant Ram, MD
Johnie M. Atkinson
Reza Nassiri, D. Sc.
Richard A. Ortoski, DO

IN ATTENDANCE:

Andy Glass
Charlotte Berringer
Rich Knecht
Doug Range
Sean Wiley

David Bruce

I. Call To Order: Chairman, Paul Burroughs, Esq., welcomed board and guests. Minutes for December 17, 2007 and February 25, 2008 were approved as recorded by a motion from Reza Nassiri, D.Sc., seconded by Richard Ortoski, DO.

II. Director's Report:

- Health Disparities Summit, May 10, 2008 – Andy Glass reported that a follow-up Summit on Health Disparities, sponsored by the County Executive, will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2008, at the Hirt Auditorium of Blasco Library. The agenda will include a brief summary (attached) of the September 2007 Summit with progress reports and actions addressing the PartnerSHIP for a Healthily Community, The Erie Community Foundation, Access to Care, and the Body and Soul Program
- PartnerSHIP for a Healthy Community – The PartnerSHIP for a Healthy Community has completed their strategic planning process and has revised its primary initiatives to include Disparity Health Education/Health Literacy and Access to Care as the focus issues. When finalized, a summary will be shared with the Erie County Dept. of Health, Board of Health. The PartnerSHIP annual meeting will be held on June 19, 2008, at the Ambassador Conference Center. Erie County Board of Health members are invited to attend.
- Data Updates – The Health Status of the County and the Behavioral Risk Factor reports are in the process of being updated. The Youth Behavioral Risk Factor Survey will be completed soon.

III. Board Updates:

A. Environmental:

- Tattoos: An overview of the Body Art program, since the adoption of the Department regulations in September 2006, was provided to the Board. (see attached) The number of establishments currently certified by the Department in Erie County, the incidence of complaints received by the Department, and the staff time spent in enforcing the regulation was presented.

Tattoo Branding – The Board was provided with information on the practice of branding in local body art establishments; heating pieces of metal to make third degree burns in the skin. One local establishment is currently offering this form of body art in Erie County. Included was a description of the methods of branding. A discussion among Board members resulted in a request that the State Medical and Osteopathic Licensing Board be consulted on the issue and that the Department would impose a moratorium on the practice until a response was received from the State, and reviewed by the Department and Board.

Implants, consisting of slitting the skin and inserting objects under the skin, will also be discussed with the medical boards.

Roar On The Shore – July 2008, will have mobile, temporary tattoo and piercing establishments.

B. Community Health Services:

- Disease Investigation Process: The general process for conducting disease investigations was reviewed with an emphasis on the multidivisional participation within ECDH. Environmental and Epidemiological staffs are all vital to the process, in addition to the nurses.

Adult Hepatitis B vaccine has been made available to ECDH through PA DOH immunization program. This vaccine will be targeted to homeless shelters, in particular Mercy Center, The Refuge, The Lodge, and Hope House. One-hundred-fifty (150) doses of Hep B vaccine and 50 doses of Twinrix (combination A & B vaccine) are available.

Dr. Ortoski stated that he read an article that stated there has been a rise nationally in females diagnosed with sexually transmitted infections. He was wondering if ECDH has seen the same trend. ECDH will look at this when final 2007 STD numbers are out, hopefully in May.

IV. **New Business:**

- Tires to Energy Plant: ERE Electrical Generating Facility - The Board was informed that a teleconference had been arranged with area experts who are knowledgeable regarding the facility for May 2, 2008. Members of the Board were invited to participate in the discussion. This is the first attempt to receive information so that the Board may make an informed decision regarding the public health impact that the proposed facility would have on the community. Additional informational meetings will be held with both industry, medical and environmental experts.

V. **Adjournment:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pamela K. Brunner, Recording Secretary

The next Health Board meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.