

**ERIE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**June 23, 2008**  
**5:00 P.M.**  
**ERIE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**

**PRESENT:**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Andy Glass  
Charlotte Berringer  
Rich Knecht  
Doug Range  
Valerie Bukowski

Kelly Kidd  
Carol Loll  
Pamela Brunner  
Joy Sadaly, ECDH Intern  
Guest – Missy Twohig

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**I. Call To Order:** Chairman, Paul Burroughs, Esq., welcomed board and guests. Minutes for April 28, 2008 were approved as recorded by a motion from Johnie M. Atkinson, seconded by Sant Ram, MD.

- Guest Missy Twohig, Owner of Sacred Piercings, presented an overview of the process of strike branding, a form of skin modification using pieces of heated stainless steel to create a “branding” effect. Pursuant to the presentation, a decision by the Board was made to revise the existing “Body Art Establishment Regulation, adopted in Erie County, ORD 126, 2006”, to change the definition of body art to include strike branding. This form of body art should be conducted in an establishment that is regulated by ECDH.

**II. Director’s Report:**

- PartnerSHIP for a Healthy Community, Annual Meeting – The PartnerSHIP’s annual meeting was held on June 19, 2008, at the Ambassador Conference Center. The PartnerSHIP has strong community support with over 100 Erie community partners. Jamal Boyd, of the Pennsylvania Health Equities Committee, is recommending the Erie PartnerSHIP as a model program for the state.
- Health Disparities Summit – A follow-up Summit on Health Disparities, sponsored by the County Executive, was held on Saturday, May 10, 2008, at the Hirt Auditorium of Blasco Library. Attendance was below expectancy. The next Erie County Executive sponsored Health Disparities Summit will be held on Saturday, November 8, 2008. Details to follow.

**III. Board Updates:**

A. Environmental:

Bathing Water Testing: Doug Range, Director of Environmental Services, stated that new measures are being used to help determine water quality more quickly and accurately. A water quality buoy located off of Beach 2 at Presque Isle State Park, funded by DCNR and the DEP, provides data such as pH, turbidity, conductivity that is recorded in real time and is displayed on the web. This information is used by the ECDH and the Presque Isle managers to determine the probability of elevated e.coli levels at the beach. The data is input into the predictive model that was developed by the USGS in a cooperative effort with ECDH.

The Park managers can issue presumptive advisories for beaches based on this information. This reduces the likely hood of having compliance advisories issued, and protects public health by forecasting e.coli levels with a statistical accuracy of 80%.

A stream gauge in Walnut Creek purchased by ECDH with EPA funds records and displays flow data and in the near future water quality data on the internet that will be useful in anticipating loading of the stream due to weather conditions that potentially would impact Presque Isle.

The links to the water buoy, stream gauge, and two weather stations data, one on Beach 2 and one at the Tom Ridge Environmental Center are on the ECDH website. In addition the status of Lake Erie Beach Advisories is posted on the ECDH website.

B. Health Education Division:

PA Smoking Legislation: Kelly Kidd, Tobacco Use Prevention Supervisor, presented an overview of the newly proposed Pennsylvania Clean Indoor Air Act of 2008, S.B. 246 (*summary attached*). Erie County had a more defined smoking ordinance, "Erie County Smoke Free Air Act of 2006", ORD 178, 2006, that would protect workers in *all* workplaces from the effects of secondhand smoke. With formal approval, local and stronger ordinances can supersede S.B. 246. Therefore, the Board of Health was asked to approve Resolution Number 2008-01 for presentation to County Council.

- Resolution Number 2008-01 – "Proposing Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Legislative Action to Allow Comprehensive Smoke Free Legislation at the Local Level" passed on a motion from Sant Ram, M.D., seconded by Richard A. Ortoski, D.O., by a vote of 4 to 0. (*attached*)

C. Public Health Preparedness:

Community Health Status: Valerie Bukowski, Health Department Epidemiologist and Public Health Preparedness Supervisor, reviewed the 2007 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) of Erie County Adults. This survey is administered locally and compared to the previous survey from 2004. Key factors are the increase in alcohol binge drinking and smokeless tobacco use in Erie County residents compared to residents throughout PA. Erie County had a decrease asthma diagnoses and nutritional fruit and vegetable consumption. The complete survey is located on the Erie County Dept. of Health website at [www.ecdh.org](http://www.ecdh.org)

IV. **New Business:**

- Tires to Energy Plant: ERE Electrical Generating Facility – The Board of Health is poised to take a position regarding the proposed facility. During a recent teleconference with area experts, information was presented concerning the public health impact the facility would have on the community. Focus is on non-regulated emissions and the impact of such emissions on the health, safety and welfare of the community. It is anticipated that additional informational meetings will be held with both industry, medical and environmental experts.

V. **Adjournment:**

- The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pamela K. Brunner, Recording Secretary

**The next Health Board meeting is scheduled for August 25, 2008 at 5:00 p.m.**