

Ulster County Board of Health
June 14, 2010

Members PRESENT: Thomas Stellato, MD, President
Joan Authenrieth, RN, Vice President
David Clegg, Esq
Douglas Heller, MD, Medical Examiner
Dominique Delma, MD
Elbert MacFadden, MD

UCDOH PRESENT:

LaMar Hasbrouck, MD, MPH, Public Health Director
Kevin DuMond, Environmental Health Services Director
Nereida Veytia, Patient Services Director

EXCUSED: Marc Tack DO, Secretary
Marion Ostrander

ABSENT:

GUESTS: Shelley Mertens, UCDOH PH Engineer

Approval of Minutes: The May minutes were reviewed, amending the minutes to change Ms. Veytia, Mr. Clegg and Ms. Ostrander from Absent to Excused. A motion was made by Mr. Clegg to accept the amendments and approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Authenrieth and unanimously approved.

I. New Business: No new business

II. Agency Reports:

a. Medical Examiner: Dr. Heller reported on the following:

- **Monthly Calls:** There have been 17 calls, 7 autopsies of which 2 were suicides.
- **Local Funeral Directors:** Rotation schedule of local funeral homes is being developed for the ME to use. The purpose is to define which home should get called, creating equitable distribution of services.
- **Meeting with Orange County ME:** Met with representatives from the Orange County ME office. The focus of the meeting was to provide an educational overview of the operational functioning of the office and work allocation between the ME and the Assistant MEs.

Dr. Heller stated that Orange County ME office should be considered a valuable resource to Ulster. Orange County offered their work flow and electronic systems for Ulster County's use if the UCME's office were to ever consider restructuring their office.

b. Director's Update:

- **Director's Update Newsletter:** Dr. Hasbrouck distributed the June's Director's Update (see attached).
- **Healthy Ulster: A Public Health Approach:** Dr. Hasbrouck reported on the 6/9 Media Event. The focus of this event was to:

- Summarize the findings from the 3/2 Ulster Health Summit.
- Introduce the Partners in Public Health Councils (PiPH) which was a maturation of those agencies who participated in the 3/2 Summits breakout groups; Healthy Youth, Healthy Women, Health Seniors, Healthy Places (Environment). These agencies, along with others, have expressed an interest in partnering with the UCDOH to begin implementation of those areas/gaps/needs identified within the breakout groups and aligning it with the focus of the Ulster Report Card.
- Introduce the Ulster County Health Report Card which will be submitted on a biennial basis.

The following discussion took place regarding the Ulster County Report Card (FAQs):

Q: How was the foundation of the grading system determined?

Dr. Hasbrouck: An objective grading scale was created using the Healthy People (HP) 2010 targets. Given that the HP 2010 objectives establish a threshold for a "minimal acceptable standards," meeting the objective equates to a passing grade of C. Outperforming the HP 2010 objective by 20% and 40% equates to B and A grades, respectively. Indicators measured worse than the HP 2010 objective by 20% or 40% results in a grade of D and F, respectively.

Q: Where do the indicators come from?

Dr. Hasbrouck: The Healthy People 2010 objectives, NYS Prevention Agenda Goals for 2013, and community guidance influences the selection of indicators to be tracked.

Q: Is there much the UC Department of Health can do about air pollution?

Dr. Hasbrouck: The UC Department of Health's goal is to increase air pollution awareness and provide asthma education. The Environmental Health Services Division is responsible for enforcing the NYS Indoor Clean Air Act.

Q: Is UCDOH working with schools regarding obesity?

Dr. Hasbrouck: Currently the Department is partnering with Dr. Karniescwiz, UC special Health Advisor to the County Executive, and founder of the Women's Expo, to address the issue of child obesity. The Health Education Unit also continues to work with the schools to provide the educational piece.

Q: Does UCDOH have any say in what the schools serve for lunches?

Dr. Hasbrouck: Despite the misconception that State Ed oversees school lunches, it is actually the State Department of Health who is responsible for monitoring. On a more local level, the UC Health Education Unit sits on the UC BOCES Advisory

Committee to monitor the school food program to provide information and guidance.

c. Patient Services:

Ms. Veytia reported on the following:

- **Saugerties and New Paltz Satellite consolidation:** A timeline for the satellite consolidation project has been provided by the County Executive.
Saugerties Clinic: The closing of the Saugerties site is scheduled for 6/30/2010. UCDOH officially made the transition on 6/11/2010. Office staff have been relocated to 300 Flatbush. The Saugerties Reformed Church will be the alternate site for WIC and Immunization clinics for a monthly stipend of \$165.00. Currently working with the Health Education Unit to create PSAs to be launched using the IfbyPhone mass phone notification system to notifying community agencies and families of the site change. Dr. Stellato inquired as to why the Department is using churches for clinics vs. the local schools. Ms. Veytia stated there were privacy issues with the schools as well as, school environments are not conducive to clinics as it the volume of clients seen on a regular basis would interfere with the normal flow of the school day.
New Paltz Clinic: The plan is to close the New Paltz site and provide treatment to those clients at a permanent site in Kingston. Currently, Buildings and Grounds is looking for a site in mid-town Kingston which would fit the needs of the program. The WIC program and the Immunization and STD clinics will be held at this site. UCDOH would still need an alternative New Paltz site, such as the Saugerties site, to hold monthly clinics to continue to provide the level of service to those within the New Paltz region. NYS WIC has specific requirements which will need to be met before a site can be approved.
- **Sale of Long-Term\CHHA license:** Currently working with the County Attorney, along with UC Purchasing to put together the intent to sell and the NYSDOH transition plan agreements. A phone call with NYSDOH has been scheduled for 6/15 to review the details of the transition plan. There was discussion about WillCare purchasing the license and being the holder of two out of four medallions. To avoid this, Willcare is proposing that UCDOH retire their medallion and Willcare will request an increase in slots to their current program from the State. Mr. Clegg asked if this would create a monopoly of home care services, however, Hudson Valley Long Term Home Health still holds 1 medallion.
- **Lead Cases:** Ms. Veytia reported there were 1,139 lead tests conducted in Ulster County, January 1, 2010 - Current. Both an Environmental Health site review, as well as, educational information by a Public Health Nurse are provided to those individuals/families whose test results were 15 or higher in lead value.

d. Environmental Health:

Mr. DuMond reported on the following:

- **NYS DOH Audit:** The findings from the 4/27 & 4/28 NYSDOH Audit were reviewed. The overall review found UCDOH Environmental Health Division has significantly improved and is in substantial compliance with NYSDOH program expectations. The report noted that the division is meeting the municipal health services plan requirements.

Specific areas of improvement were noted as follows:

- o Operational permit issuance, enforcement actions and violation writing have been adequately addressed.
- o Electronic data entry, records management and enforcement actions have all improved in the Public Water Supply Program.
- o Children's Camp files were found to be in compliance

The identified areas of improvement are as follows:

- o Data Entry Errors in which the State expected to see due to the transition of staff within the department were noted.
- o Certain Enforcement Protocols were identified as not being consistent with the NYS enforcement guidelines. The State recommended and UCDOH has agrees to re-visit its protocols for complying with these guidelines.
- o Public water supplies were noted as not submitting their monitoring operational reports or submitting them late. The State recommended and UCDOH agrees to re-evaluate its enforcement policies regarding the above.

- **Wawarsing Update:** There is a PACC meeting scheduled on 6/24/2010 in Napanoch. Commissioner Halloway from NYSDEP is expected to attend. UCDOH will also have presence at this meeting.
- **Kingston High School Cockroach Report:** UCDOH received a complaint from the public about a cockroach issue at the High School. Upon inspection, UCDOH PH Sanitarian confirmed the presence of both dead and live roaches. However, this was not resulting from the kitchen being unsanitary. The High School agreed to close the kitchen and have it treated. The next day inspection report confirmed the issue had been resolved.

Next Meeting: The July 12, 2010 Board meeting is cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for August 9, 2010.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Clegg and seconded by Dr. MacFadden.

Respectfully submitted by:

Katrina Kouhout
Secretary to the Public Health Director
On behalf of UC Board of Health