# Bethlehem Bureau of Health

Board of Health Meeting Minutes

October 8th, 2021

1.0 Call to Order

A meeting of the Bethlehem Board of Health was held at 7:30 a.m., Friday October 8th, 2021, A205 in City of Bethlehem located at 10 East Church Street, Bethlehem, PA.

The following Board members were present for this meeting. The meeting was called to order at 7:30am.

2.0 Attendance:

Board: Dr. Bacak

Dr. Marcincin

Dr. Alia

Dr. Bieber

Excused

Staff in attendance: K. Wenrich

Dr. R. Goy

Y. Gonzalez

3.0 Approval of Minutes- Meeting minutes from September were approved by Dr. Marcincin and Dr. Alia.

1. Chairman’s Report - No Report to give.
2. Director’s Report-Kristen Wenrich

County Health

* Kristen was invited and did attend a meeting in August with Lehigh County officials to talk about a County Health Department. At this point, Bethlehem is opting out of the conversation but Kristen will continue to receive updates. Northampton County is not looking at developing a health department at this time.
* There are currently ten county/municipal health departments in Pennsylvania. Delaware County just formed and several other communities are talking about creating health department.
* Kristen is concerned about how this will affect our Act 315/12 funds as well as grant funds with the Department of Health. There is no commitment from them to increase monies in the future.

General Business

EPIC

* We might be a little delayed with the go live date due to staffing changes in our department.
* The Lehigh Valley EPIC team has been great with keeping us on track, but it’s been a lot of work. The system should be fully implemented by mid-January 2022.

GIS

* Staff are currently participating in GIS training. The trainings are focused on the creation of maps, surveys and dashboards. The plan is to store all data in GIS moving forward.

Grant Updates

* We have submitted a grant to the Two Rivers Health and Wellness Foundation for Project Lifesaver to continue to support training for police departments.
* We received a grant in 2020 and were able to train three new police departments and now we have submitted a renewal.
* We are also receiving a fairly large grant through United Way to be able to purchase bands. We’ve been involved in the Age friendly Coalition that focuses on services for dementia and Alzheimer’s patients.
* Injury Prevention Grant that was submitted to the Department of Health in July is still pending.
* Jessica submitted a grant for the Lead & Healthy Homes Prevention grant to HUD.
* We are excited about potentially purchasing a mobile medical van. We were using St. Luke’s van for our Family planning clinic at Liberty High School. We didn’t use the van in 2020 due to COVID. Then in September 2021 we started to use the van and they contacted Kristen and stated we are not allowed to use the van any longer. Kristen is unsure of what happened. We can use the van in the community to reach more people in the community. We will be able to offer immunization and other services. Right now we are mapping our STD data to see where we can go in the community.

We are meeting with our Purchasing Director to go over some options on the medical van to see if we can purchase one before the end of the year.

Budget

* Kristen submitted the Health Bureau’s 2022 budget. From 2018 to 2022 our budget has increased. Last year, our budget was over $6 million and now for 2022 our budget will be over $8 million. This is due to COVID funding.
* Kristen is hoping that miscellaneous revenue monies increase. Revenues were down last year because some restaurants closed and clinics weren’t fully operational.
* We will have budget meetings coming up in the next few weeks and then the Mayor will release his final budget in the beginning of November.

COVID Update

* We have seen a decrease in our incidence rates over the last two weeks, but within the last three days the numbers have gone up slightly.
* We started to run our booster clinics for the Pfizer vaccine at ArtsQuest. We have been averaging about 150 people per clinic.
* We are going to need to find indoor space once the Moderna booster is approved. We have a meeting this afternoon to discuss indoor locations.
* We are preparing for the Pfizer vaccine approval for 5-11 year olds. We think it will be approved in November. These clinics will be held in the middle schools for this age group. Dr. Alia asked if we expect a lot of kids to be vaccinated. Kristen was unsure.

Program Updates

Highway Safety-

We did a large car seat check at Target with a local law firm.

Safe and Healthy Communities-

The farmer’s market is still running till the end of this month. Our Story walk program is still up and running.

Matter of Balance – We are doing Matter of Balance classes. We are back to doing our in person classes for the elderly.

We will be starting a nutrition program at the Bethlehem YMCA for after school kids.

Opioid Grant –

We had a Task Force meeting last week. We were meeting quarterly, but due to the pandemic it’s been less, but we hope to go back to our normal schedule.

We did start our partnership with the prison and family planning clinic.

MCH-

We are training new two new staff in the MCH and Immunization Program.

Communicable Disease-

Jose is back working part-time to train the new person that will be in the HIV program.

Environmental Health-

We are meeting with Community and Economic Development to discuss ways to improve efficiencies with the Lead and Healthy Homes Program.

No other business to discuss.

Motion adjourn made by Dr. Alia. Meeting adjourned at 8:15am.

Next meeting is on November 12th, 2021 at 7:30 a.m.