

**Peoria County Board of Health  
Health Protection Services Committee Meeting**

**Date:** March 19, 2014

**Present:** Joyce Harant  
Kathy Simpson  
Jennifer Groves-Allison

**Absent:** Dr. Na'Allah

**Staff Present:** Greg Chance, Public Health Administrator  
Carey Panier, Assistant Director Environmental Health  
Wil Hayes, Director of Environmental Health  
Jason Marks, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator  
Jean Bellisario, Director of Infectious Disease  
Kristin Grubb, Administrative Assistant  
Monica Hendrickson, Epidemiologist  
Meredith Littell, Assistant Director of Infectious Disease  
Randy McClallen, Health Protection Services Coordinator

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Ms. Simpson.

There were no public comments.

A motion was made by Ms. Groves-Allison to approve the January 29, 2014 minutes. Motion was seconded by Ms. Harant. Motion carried (3, 0).

In the first item of business, Mr. Hayes stated that the regulation of Open Air Dining establishments was discussed at the Committee's last meeting. A draft policy was developed and is modeled after the policy in Ventura County, California. The Food Safety Workgroup reviewed the proposed policy and did not have any issues with it; members felt it is straight forward and clear while still protecting the public's health. In response to a question, Mr. Hayes stated that the biggest issue for establishments regarding open air dining is to not create an environment conducive to flies and insects. He also stated that an open air dining establishment is one that has the ability to open windows or large doors to create an atmosphere in which outside air is being brought inside. Mr. Chance stated that this policy allows flexibility in regulatory policies with trying to recognize the difference in types of establishments. A motion to approve the Open Air Dining Regulation Policy Proposal was made by Ms. Harant. Motion was seconded by Ms. Groves-Allison. Motion carried (3, 0).

In the next item of business, Mr. Hayes stated that Onsite Wastewater Treatment Homeowner Education will begin January 1, 2015. Environmental Health staff is moving forward with an online education program. The Onsite Wastewater Treatment Advisory Committee met in January and February with another meeting scheduled in April.

In the next item of business, Mr. Hayes stated that Groundwater Awareness Week was March 9-15. Water test kits were provided to the public for free; in working with the Peoria County Farm Bureau, free test kits will be available through March. Environmental Health staff attended the Farm Bureau's Share Breakfast; information regarding well sealing was provided. Mr. Hayes stated that a press release and

magazine articles, such as for Healthy Cells, were done regarding Groundwater Awareness Week.

In the next item of business, Mr. Chance discussed collaboration with County Administration regarding Emergency Management. He stated that County Administration asked if the Health Department could provide support to the County's Emergency Management Agency (EMA) due to the retirement of the EMA director and appointment of an interim director. Mr. Marks will provide support to the interim director while County Administration is in the process of evaluating how the position will be filled permanently. The Health Department will be reimbursed for the time Mr. Marks spends with County EMA. Mr. Chance stated that it is hoped that this will allow for a more comprehensive approach to emergency management in Peoria County. Mr. Marks stated that there are three main issues that will be reviewed during this interim time period: preparations for the Country Life Music Festival in July, examining the role of emergency management in the County and how best to fill that role, and infrastructure of facilities in the County.

In the next item of business, Mr. Chance stated that the Administration & Governance Committee approved the schedule for FY15 budget development. Budget information from previous years as well as preliminary FY15 information will be provided regarding Infectious Disease, Environmental Health, and Emergency Preparedness at May's Committee meeting. Mr. Chance stated that he is hopeful the schedule will lead to a budget being adopted by the Board of health at its August meeting; the budget would then be forwarded on to County Administration. Information regarding the State of Illinois budget will not be known until possibly the end of May.

In the next item of business, Mr. Chance stated that the Ad-Hoc Committee that developed the agenda for the Legislative Breakfast also had a discussion regarding holding more productive Board meetings. There was concern regarding how many items were under Consent Agenda Items at last month's meeting as well as how little dialogue there was concerning those items. The agenda for the full Board meetings will be changed to include an agenda item for each Committee Chair to provide a report and also make motions for any action items from their respective Committee. Mr. Chance stated that another issue the Ad-Hoc Committee discussed was enhancing engagement between staff and Board members to aid the Board in becoming more active in influencing policy. An agenda item will be added to provide the opportunity for discussion of program issues of which the Board needs to be aware.

Ms. Bellisario stated that the quality assurance visits the Health Department conducts at Vaccine for Children providers are proving to be more difficult this year. Several providers have not yet enrolled in the program; standards are becoming hard to meet; and the program is becoming more difficult for compliance staff. The rules for the VFC program are making it difficult for school health clinics to meet the requirements. Mr. Chance stated that getting children immunized is promoted; however challenges are created for providers to participate in the program. He added that the quality assurance aspect puts the Health Department in a difficult position and the Board may need to review if the Health Department should be in a regulatory position with immunization providers.

Mr. McClallen stated that he has signed Memorandums of Understanding with most of the 13 Health Departments in the Peoria IDPH region for the CAPUS Grant Region 2 Disease Intervention Specialist. A survey was sent to participating counties to determine training needs for HIV surveillance. Additionally, the Reproductive Health Workgroup is reviewing potential opportunities, including presentations to community

groups. Ms. Harant added that she participates on the Workgroup and the Board should keep in mind the topics regarding reproductive health can be controversial.

Mr. Marks stated that the Country Life Music Festival, which is scheduled for July 18-20 at Ravina on the Lakes, may provide opportunities in the future for a policy stance or opinions of some county agencies regarding what needs to be in place for large scale public events. Mr. Hayes stated that Environmental Health is also working on this event and, from a public health perspective, there are a lot of challenges and concerns.

Ms. Hendrickson stated that she is finalizing reporting for STIs. In September, hospitals will start providing surveillance data via Biosense; she is working with hospitals so ensure they are submitting their data. In response to a question regarding if she has the necessary software, Ms. Hendrickson stated that for what she is currently doing, she does; however, if she were to start looking at bigger data sets then she would likely need additional software. In response to a question regarding STIs going along with teen pregnancies, Ms. Hendrickson stated that there are three zip codes in Peoria County with high STI rates and high teen birth rates; however, it is difficult to make the connection between the two. She added that what the data does show is that certain demographics are making poor decisions regarding sexual health. Mr. Chance stated that there are different reasons why young people make decisions not to protect themselves. He is hopeful that this issue is seen as that of health and not morality.

Mr. Hayes stated that there are challenges in Environmental Health regarding the current computer software and data management. There is a lot of time spent running reports, which can produce different numbers for the same report from the same data. Subsequently, other options are being reviewed. Mr. Hayes stated that the geothermal well regulations were approved by the State of Illinois. The Peoria County Water Well Code will need to be amended to incorporate geothermal well installation. Mr. Hayes stated that the food safety program review was conducted last week by IDPH staff and based on comments received; the Health Department met all program standards. The onsite wastewater treatment and water well program reviews are scheduled for April 2nd.

Ms. Groves-Allison requested a list of issues that the Health Department is having with IDPH administration.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.