Maricopa County Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Administration Building
301 W. Jefferson Street, 10th Floor
Board of Supervisors Conference Rm
Phoenix, Arizona 85003
March 24, 2008
3:00 p.m.

Ms. Adamic called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. with a quorum present.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Audrey Adamic
Susanne Cook, RN, PhD
James Giangobbe, M.D.
Zuhdi Jasser, M.D.*
Maricopa County Supervisor Andrew Kunasek, District 3
Brian F. Spicker*
James Vandeventer
Pam Wight

Member Excused:

Don Cassano

Ex-Officio: Bob England, M.D.

(* Denotes members arriving after Roll Call)

CALL TO THE PUBLIC:

No one from the public was present.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

Request for Approval of the January 28, 2008 Board of Health Meeting Minutes:

Mr. Vandeventer made the motion to approve the January 28, 2008 meeting minutes. Dr. Giangobbe seconded the motion. The Motion passed unanimously by six votes.

Request for Approval for Environmental Services Fee Waivers from Interfaith Housing Emergency Lodging Program and Lucy Anne's Place:

Dr. Giangobbe made the motion to approve the fee waiver request for the Interfaith Housing Emergency Lodging Program for the Plan Review Fee of $615.00 and the Eating & Drinking 10+ Seats, Class 4 fee of $775.00.

The fee waiver request for Lucy Anne's Place was not approved for the Plan Review Fee of $615.00, Eating and Drinking 10+ Seats, Class 4, of $775.00 or the Plan Review fee of $615.00 and the Catering, Class 5 fee of $415.00. The fee waiver request for Lucy Anne's Place was denied because they receive revenue from sources other than donations and this does not quality as a hardship.

Supervisor Kunasek seconded the motion as presented. The motion passed unanimously by six votes.

Public Hearing / Request for Approval of Environmental Health Code Revisions in (Chapters I, II, VI, & VII):

Dr. Jasser arrived at 3:13 p.m.

Mr. Spicker arrived at 3:14 p.m.

Mr. Vandeventer made the motion to accept the changes to the Environmental Health Code Revisions in (Chapters I, II, VI, & VII) as presented today. Dr. Giangobbe seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by eight votes.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Director's Report:

Dr. England, Director, Department of Public Health, presented the Director's report with a focus on the current budget situation.

Infrastructure:

Facilities

Glendale WIC Clinic – renovation completed, clinic open and operating

Thomas WIC Clinic – on target to relocate soon with the St. Mary's Food Bank

Mesa WIC Clinic – delayed due to construction difficulties – currently remains on a month to month lease at the old Mesa site waiting to relocate

Funding

Every department in the County has prepared 5%, 10%, or 15% General Fund budget reductions. Thus far, the Department of Public Health has been instructed by OMB to implement reductions for fiscal year 2009 at approximately the 5% level. How potential changes within the State budget will affect funding passed from the State to our department is not yet fully known.

Funding from ADHS for our tobacco program will be changing dramatically. ADHS' Bureau of Tobacco Education & Prevention (BTEP) has undergone a strategic planning process and is redirecting its activities. For example, local health department tobacco cessation programs will be nearly eliminated in favor of one statewide tobacco "Quitline" to provide cessation counseling by phone. School based tobacco education programs will also be downsized. All of the proposed changes are supported by CDC direction. We will endeavor to fully support this new direction while attempting to maintain the most successful aspects of our existing programs. However, significant funding reductions to the Department and some loss of staff positions is anticipated.

Strategic Planning:

Dr. England will attend an initial meeting at ADHS on April 2nd to begin the process of an assessment of the statewide public health system. The primary functions of public health departments are assessment, assurance and policy development. Our Department will need to focus on assessment in the future.

Programs:

Disease Control

A brief review of activities related to the Superbowl was presented. The amount of effort that went into the Superbowl was phenomenal, but the interagency cooperation worked very well.

Clinical Services

The Board of Supervisors approved the adult immunizations fee increases ratified by this Board at the last meeting.

Our electronic billing system is beginning to operate at the clinic. The additional revenue to be gained through this billing program will help to offset funding reductions in other areas of the Department.

Disease Updates:

We have a positive confirmation for the first human case of West Nile Virus this season. We expect to issue a press release tomorrow.

A national rabies vaccine shortage is anticipated due to manufacturing issues.

We are following up an active case of TB at one valley high school. The Department is following the guidance of the CDC and ADHS regarding contact tracing and testing. We are currently in our second round of testing, and these results will direct our next steps.

A local high school is in the news due to a perception of some cancer cases among staff being possibly linked to environmental conditions at the school. Thus far, we have not played a role in this issue as the state has taken jurisdiction for the health response.

Announcements and Current Events:

Ms. Adamic inquired about the new Animal Care & Control facility. Supervisor Kunasek said the ribbon cutting ceremony was last week. The new center provides traditional services from kennels, to clinic facilities, adoption facilities, get acquainted areas, and attitude adjustment areas with re-socialization. The entire operation was paid for from fees such as animal registrations and licensing. Ms. Adamic asked Board members to notify Dr. England's assistant if members were interested in touring the new facility.

Dr. Cook expressed concern over guaranteed quorum status for the monthly meetings. Dr. Cook asked Supervisor Kunasek for assistance to appoint two new members to bring the Board to a full complement. Supervisor Kunasek mentioned that former board member, Mr. Brian McNeil, just returned safely from active duty in Afghanistan. Supervisor Kunasek is not sure if Mr. McNeil would consider rejoining the Board of Health at this time, but will ask if that could be a possibility.

The March 24, 2008 Board of Health meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Audrey Adamic, President

Bob England, MD, MPH, Director

The minutes were transcribed and edited by Susan Attlah.