

**NORTON HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD
CITY OF NORTON
Wednesday, November 14, 2007**

The Health Advisory Board (NHAB) of the City of Norton, Ohio, convened for a public meeting in the Shirley L. McGuire Community Center Boardroom. Chairman Daniel Karant called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

I. ATTENDANCE:

PRESENT: Daniel Karant, Nancy Delnay, Ken Braman

ABSENT: Dalia Spisak, Gail Hickey

ALSO PRESENT: Ed Binic, Environmental Health Director, BHD
Jill Oldham, MPH, CHES, Director of Community Health Education, BHD

II. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes of Wednesday, October 17, 2007, and Chairman Karant called for a motion. **Mr. Ken Braman moved to approve the minutes as submitted; seconded by Ms. Nancy Delnay. ROLL CALL: Mr. Braman-Yea, Ms. Delnay-Yea, Ms. Karant-Yea. The motion passed 3-0, approving the minutes as submitted. They were signed and processed accordingly.**

III. OLD BUSINESS:

None.

IV. NEW BUSINESS:

A.) Discussion regarding the following:

1.) Budget Review:

Chairperson Karant said Ms. Paulette Kline, BHD Director, wanted the Board to review the 2008 Budget. Ms. Kline was concerned if the Board had any questions or problems after their review. She gave Chairman Karant her cell phone number to call her if there were questions, as she had a previous commitment that evening. Chairperson Karant also wanted to discuss the memo regarding the proposal from the Barberton Health District (BHD) for their Public Health Service Agreement with the City of Norton. The amount of the Agreement is Eighty Thousand Three Hundred and Forty Dollars (\$80,340.00) for their services. Mr. Ken Braman advised that he attended a meeting with Mr. Rick Ryland, City Administrative Officer; Ms. Kline; and Mr. John Moss, Finance Director discussing this Agreement. The meeting went well and he was surprised that she didn't ask for more money. Chairman Karant commented that he was pleased with the amount, because it was felt that the amount came in actually Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) less than what was expected. Chairman Karant said he did not expect the amount from Summit County Health District (SCHD) to come in lower than the BHD figures. Mr. Braman stated that is what Mr. Ryland thought, but was going to ask for their amount. Chairman Karant stated that is only fair to get a competitive rate, because it should be by bid. There was discussion regarding the services that are provided by the BHD that SCHD does not provide, such as the syringe disposal program. Ms. Kline pointed out other services within the memo of the Service Agreement that BHD provides and SCHD does not. More discussion followed regarding services BHD gives per capita to the City of Green

in comparison to those given to the City of Norton, however, Ms. Delnay felt that was not an equal comparison per capita. Chairman Karant said Ms. Kline was just trying to give some meaning to the figures and she thought per capita seemed to make the most sense; more discussion followed. Chairman Karant commented that Ms. Kline wanted to give the Board something they could review on an informational basis. Chairman Karant said they would have to wait for Mr. Gene Nixon to give the proposal from the SCHD, and respond at that time. Ms. Delnay said that a 3% increase in BHD's budget was not an unreasonable request. Chairman Karant said no decision needs to be made at this point, and all agreed to wait until SCHD's proposal was submitted. They will discuss it further at their next meeting. Ms. Jill Oldham, Director of Community Health Education, BHD, wanted to add a comment made to her by Donna Fern in the Vital Statistics at BHD. Ms. Fern's comment dealt with if the City of Norton decided not to go with the BHD for their Health District provider, the public would be confused as to where to obtain birth and death records, and what years these were kept with the BHD and what years these were kept with SCHD. Discussion was had regarding the time limit to choose Norton's health provider; Mr. Braman commented that Budget talks were to begin at the next Council meeting and that Council would have the final say on the provider chosen. Chairperson Karant asked Mr. Braman to keep him informed if the SCHD submitted a proposal.

2.) Public Health Education Information:

Even though Chairman Karant had been the catalyst for community education, he welcomed Ms. Oldham to the meeting. He stated that she and Ms. Delnay were the key figures for promotion of the public/community health education forum. The Board asked Ms. Oldham to help their Board plan joint community education programs. He said Ms. Delnay had expressed interest in the past about ideas to be put on Channel 15 as well as Ms. Oldham's interest in doing some community programs. Ms. Oldham asked if the Board had any ideas concerning programs. Mr. Braman again talked about the good presentation Ms. Oldham gave earlier in the year regarding the "No Smoking Law" and still felt it was worth mentioning. Mr. Karant stated that Ms. Delnay has worked with a group that has produced something regarding methamphetamines issues. The Board has discussed nutrition and how there are programs available for this subject. His concern is with issues regarding diabetes, lack of sleep, cortisol issues, and how these affect overweight problems and Syndrome X. These are the unseen parts of poor diet. He stated that everyone blames poor nutrition for obesity, but that is just one part of the problem. Lack of sleep for adults and children, whether watching TV or on the computer at all hours of the night, etc. play into more health issues. Chairperson Karant feels these are some important items for public education. More discussion followed about what programs are already in place at the BHD with nutrition and fitness for adults, but childrens needs in these areas should be addressed also.

Ms. Delnay said as an educator, her group does a yearly "needs assessment" to figure out what the community's needs are. They follow through with planning with timely schedules of how and when these issues are addressed; she suggested the Board do something similar. Discussion was had as to what format to use, like video taping a lecture or a power point presentation, etc. Other topics discussed were Medicare Part D as well as the flu vaccine, and any trailers available through the BHD to place on Channel 15; Ms. Oldham stated that she was not aware of any pre-made video on the subjects.

Discussion was had regarding Johnson United Methodist Church's involvement in doing some things for community health and fitness. Ms. Oldham was asked if she could help with that and the possibility of getting something to place on the City's website. Ms. Delany explained to Ms. Oldham that Johnson United Methodist church has a new family life center that is to open in January 2008. It includes a full-sized basketball court, volleyball court, exercise room, and classrooms and will be open to the community to schedule times for use. Ms. Delnay had discussions with several people from the BHD regarding the "Fit Kids" program, budget restraints, the new YMCA and programs that will be coordinated with the BHD. She just wanted to advise Ms. Oldham that the church facility would be available to the community, including the BHD, if needed. She explained the methamphetamine program that she did a year ago. It was a Summit County coalition that was coordinated through Tom Teodosio with involvement from the County Sheriff's Department, to address methamphetamine issues within the community. The program was taped and shown on the Springfield's Cable Channel, and Ms. Delnay said that she could obtain copies for viewing on Channel 15 if the Board wanted. She stated there have been more issues on methamphetamines in the community this year than a year ago, and feels that there is a need for educating the community regarding this matter.

(Mr. Ed Binic, Environmental Health Director, BHD, arrived at this point in the meeting, coming from a previous meeting he had to attend.)

Ms. Oldham was asked the status of educational programs BHD has at this time and how the NHAB can be of assistance. Ms. Oldham said the major part of their funding and most of their time was spent on countywide tobacco related activities. She went on to explain their grant cycles, and that their activities were reviewed by the Ohio Tobacco Prevention Foundation. They are in the process of writing grants now for things they can apply for which would include adult cessation (which they continue to offer in the community) and youth prevention programming in the form of classroom-based curriculum (This year they have very select programs that the BHD could choose from that could be implemented in the community. Right now, the grant cycle they are in did not include this, even though BHD has continued to have youth prevention programs for the previous four (4) years.) Ms. Oldham explained the "Word of Mouth" tobacco prevention curriculum program for fourth and fifth grade classes, that BHD has provided in the past to surrounding communities, including Norton. It was developed by the American Lung Association in Cleveland along with the Cleveland Clinic; teachers loved that program. The BHD liked the program also, because it was tobacco specific and only four sessions. They have chosen one of the model programs to propose called "Project Alert" for the upcoming grant cycle, but it will be a harder sell to schools. It is an eleven (11) week session that is an all-encompassing program with education on drugs, alcohol as well as tobacco; it is similar to a life skills program. The BHD is currently talking with the school administrations in the area to find a good-fit for programs and the amount of class time it takes for the programs chosen. The BHD is only allowed to spend in salary, material, etc. no more than Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per student per year. The BHD at this time is looking at the justification of the expense, if the program is implemented for the year. The adult cessation program is similar in the fact that they can not spend more than Three Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$350.00) per adult for the program. In short, they are tightening the grants and are asking for less administrative costs to be spent and to not have any excess in spending on any one program, etc.

Ms. Delnay asked Ms. Oldham if there was anyone else in the BHD that could assist in helping with other program implementation. Ms. Oldham explained how the personnel were distributed to programs through the grant monies. Budget restraints for BHD do not favor available staff for other projects at this time; grants could be written for some programs.

Chairman Karant discussed his poison prevention program that he has done for the past sixteen (16) years in Norton schools on a voluntary basis. He suggested this could be of some interest to the BHD to have a program like this for the Barberton School District; not that he would do the program. He has assumed the cost up to this point for the presentations at the Norton Schools, but the Norton Kiwanis group wants to fund the cost of his program this year as one of their community projects they sponsor. He said it was good for kindergarten-aged children and he suggested this program might be worthy of a grant for the BHD to implement. Discussion was had about where data could be found on area poisonings in comparison to other communities.

Ms. Delnay tried to consolidate the concerns the NHAB had regarding community education from tonight's discussions. She stated the Board knows the needs of the community but the real issue was that they have no resources, no staff and no finances to help with these needs. Because of this, she was not sure where the Board could go with all of the good ideas brought forward. Ms. Oldham suggested that the best use of time and resources was to try to work with the schools and use their prospective as a starting point for education. She said it is a very defined population and there are ways to share information with the children that would filter to their parents. If there are any particular concerns by the school, it may touch on some of the ideas brought up this evening. She felt it was best to combine the NHAB efforts with school support. Ms. Delnay suggested that the NHAB draft a letter to the new Superintendent, introducing their Board and what they do, and if there are health concerns they have that their Board could assist them in any way. They could give examples of things that have been done in the past and things the NHAB have advocated in the past. They should ask in the letter if he has questions or would like to come to a NHAB meeting, and provide him with that information. She felt they need to stay productive and all agreed. Ms. Oldham commented that combining forces makes sense. Ms. Oldham added that the other discussion BHD has had with the schools was regarding the statewide smoke-free workplace that has gone into affect. The BHD has been reviewing policies of area campuses. All campuses are tobacco free for students, but not always for the adults on the campuses. They have made workplaces in the State smoke-free, but have not clearly designated schools specifically to be smoke-free areas. In reviewing Norton school policy, they still have some language that needs attention. She stated that having adults smoke on a smoke-free campus sends a conflicting message to children.

Chairperson Karant asked what needs are being met for the obesity issue. Ms. Oldham discussed the diabetes aspects of obesity. She stated coordination with the schools is needed to see how the symptoms affect how students perform in school.

Part of the Child & Health Service grant from the Ohio Department of Health is for the "Safe Sleep" program, and the NHAB wondered if they could use that video for Channel 15. The safe sleep program deals with SIDS and how second-hand smoke is related to that. Ms. Oldham suggested the fifteen minutes video on "Cover your Cough" would be another video that would be useful. She will check to see if that could be viewed, and would get back to the Board with an answer.

B.) Status of Norton Health Cases:

Mr. Binic discussed several sites with issues in Norton and reported the following:

- 1.) **3155 Hillcrest Avenue.** They had a website complaint for 3155 Hillcrest Avenue regarding burning. They made on onsite inspection and found no signs of past burning, but had no direct contact with the property owners, as yet.
- 2.) **3134 Eastern Road, Leaf case.** He discussed the ongoing situation at 3134 Eastern Road regarding open dumping of trash bags of leaves. They won the court case for open dumping, but to date there is no clean up in process. He is going to revisit the matter and there could possibly be a contempt of court order issued. He stated Mike was at the site that day.
- 3.) **Summit C & D Disposal site.** He discussed the situation at the Summit C & D Disposal site. They had a formal Environment Review and Appeals Commission (ERAC) hearing in Columbus with Norton City Law Director Mike Lyons present; progression is slow. They had a meeting earlier this year between the City of Barberton and City of Norton and they need to meet again.
- 4.) **Summit-McCoy site (Bennett, owner).** There was an inspection at the Summit-McCoy/Bennett site regarding the contour. The height of the landfill exceeds regulations. They have requested new contour and final design plans.

C.) News article regarding Stark County Landfill:

Mr. Binic discussed the article that appeared in the editorial of the Akron Beacon Journal discussing the Stark County Landfill regarding underground fires and odors from the landfill (see article attached). He has been following this situation and feels it is a major environmental catastrophe. It has been met with some slow response and difficulty on the State level. He just wanted to call this to the attention of the Board. Mr. Binic added that they depend on the State as a resource on a day-to-day basis, and is concerned by their response time.

D.) Mosquito Control Program:

Mr. Binic stated it was not time to do the Mosquito Abatement District (MAD) Control activity report because they need the West Nile virus testing results for the statistics. He did show a rough graph of activity to the Board showing the first half of the season, which had semi-drought conditions. He said they have new adulticide and new equipment this year for spraying. The graph showed that on 8/10/07 they had a rain event (not flooding stage) that expected to generate a mosquito hatch within 10 – 12 days. On 8/20/07 there was a major flood event and it showed an increase in hatching and people complained. The day after the flood, however, they did not wait to step-up the adulticide and larvacide spraying, they did this immediately. There was discussion about MAD using cheaper supplies this year for spraying, but Mr. Binic said that was not the case, their spraying showed effectiveness. Ms. Delnay said she has heard complaints from citizens about the time spraying occurs. Most soccer fields are full of activity at the time spraying occurs. She is concerned with the inhaling of the mosquito spray. Mr. Binic said that there is a time of day that is ideal to spray due to the activity of the mosquitoes, which is right at sunset and right before sunrise. It is unfortunate, but clearly their normal policy is not to spray where people congregate.

E.) Methamphetamine Contamination:

Mr. Binic was asked if there were a "methamphetamines contamination" from a potential explosion within the Norton area, what procedures are in place. He said the BHD does not get involved; discussion followed.

F.) Recent National Health Issues:

Mr. Binic discussed the recent national health issues with toys imported from China and Australia with health hazards and potential health hazards on other products meant for small children; more discussion followed.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

Chairperson Karant announced that the next NHAB meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 12, 2007. There being no further business coming before the Board, Chairperson Karant adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.


Norton Health Advisory Board ~~Chair~~ Vice-Chair


Norton Health Advisory Board ~~Vice-Chair~~ Member

1/16/08
Date

To: Norton Health Advisory Committee

From: ^{PMK} Paulette M. Kline M.P.H., M.Ed., R.N.

Re: BHD Public Health Service Agreement with the City of Norton

Date: 11-14-07

Due to budgetary constraints, it has become necessary for the Barberton Health District to request a 3% increase for services for 2008, in the amount of \$2340, bringing the amount for service to \$80,340. The **actual cost** of services based on the total budget for the health district would be **\$14.95 per capita or \$172,268.**

Based on an analysis of municipalities served by SCHD, the 2006 cost is approximately \$15.46 per capita. Public health services provided to you by the Barberton Health District present a significant savings to the City of Norton. As an example, the cost of Public Health and Welfare paid by the City of Green for 2006 was \$352,831 for their 22,817 residents.

In 2007 the BHD provided public health services to the residents of the City of Norton unduplicated by any health district in Summit County:

Only health District in Summit County who currently monitors and enforces all Ohio EPA and local regulations to prevent environmental contamination in two C&DD (Construction and demolition and debris) facilities within the City of Norton.

Health Commissioner, Director of Environmental Health and Sanitarian have extensive experience in policy development, risk assessment, and enforcement of all regulations for C&DD sites.

Comprehensive Sharps Container Program used by local pharmacies, residents, Barberton Citizen's Hospital, and long-term care facilities.

Immunization of Norton Middle School students with Menactra vaccine to prevent bacterial meningococcal meningitis.

Monthly meetings between City of Norton health advisory Board and senior management of BHD.

Differences aside, school officials worked closely with City Hall on two successful campaigns for operating levies to shore up the district's finances. The city and district are engaged in a remarkable collaboration. Together, they persuaded voters to increase the city income tax in 2003, drawing down state funds for the massive \$800 million facilities project.

interest in the direction of the school system.

Small's legacy is a district primed for higher achievement. It will be up to new leadership to consolidate and build on the gains. The task will take the commitment and calm confidence Sylvester Small has brought to the job plus the dynamism to engage more deeply the public as partners.

AKRON BEACON
JOURNAL
11/7/2007

Waste of time

As the Ohio EPA squabbles, the Countywide landfill burns

At a time when the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency should be ordering a final remedy for underground fires and persistent odors at a sprawling landfill in southern Stark County, friction between the agency's Twinsburg and Columbus offices appears as hot as ever, resulting in an unacceptable delay in addressing the problems.

The latest evidence surfaced last week, when officials of the waste management district with responsibility for the Countywide Disposal & Recycling Facility unanimously called for federal help. District officials based their decision on longstanding frustration - and disturbing information from a whistleblower inside the state EPA.

The whistleblower cited continuing conflict within the agency. The Columbus office views the 258-acre landfill as an "imminent threat" to human health and the environment. The Twinsburg office balks at tests for benzene and other toxic and cancer-causing gases (suggested by the federal EPA) and denies strong evidence of underground fires.

Disturbing is earlier evidence that the Twinsburg office has relied almost exclusively on data provided by the landfill operator, Republic Waste Services.

The internal debate was raging as early as August 2006, according to documents.

Residents of Pike Township deserve a better performance from state officials. Chris Korleski, the Ohio EPA director, expressed disappointment at the release of information from the whistleblower. He argues the landfill is not a threat to human health or safety. The real disappointment is the lack of EPA unity and thus aggressiveness in assessing the landfill troubles and fixing them so nearby residents will be spared both the smell and the worry.

Korleski is expected to address these concerns at an EPA-sponsored public meeting set for Thursday. Those who live near the dump should demand, and Korleski should deliver, assurances that the agency is proceeding with a vigorous, complete and independent approach, holding the company accountable and searching for a way to extinguish fully the fires.

Residents living near the landfill have suffered from odors since the spring of last year. Korleski, new on the job at the start of this year, declared the landfill his agency's top priority. What hasn't been evident is the resolve to get the situation under control, assuring the public its protection is paramount.

All wet

The president postures at the expense of the Great Lakes

Both the House and Senate approved the Water Resources Development Act with veto-proof majorities. The hope is, each will hold firm, overriding the president's veto of last week, the \$23 billion spending bill becoming law. On Tuesday, the House did its part. Proponents rightly noted the critical priorities, including the hurricane-battered Gulf Coast, the troubled Everglades and Great Lakes.

Ohioans should be alert to the investment in the region's most valuable natural resource. Among other things, the legislation authorizes spending for needed dredging and improved barriers to the invasive Asian carp. Akron would benefit from \$5 million to repair overflows into waterways from its combined-sewer system (a \$425 million project in all).

Sen. George Voinovich rightly argued that the country faces "a water infrastructure crisis," investment failing to keep pace with economic growth. In other words, the country must act in this realm to fuel greater prosperity and protect the environment.

President Bush contends the bill is wasteful. The legislation could be stronger, especially in overhauling aspects of the Army Corps of Engineers. Worth emphasis is that the bill doesn't actually spend a dime. It sets priorities, appropriations coming later.

Truth be told, the president is posturing and little more. He joined a Republican Congress in spending at a pace similar to Lyndon Johnson in the 1960s. Now Democrats command Capitol Hill, and the White House has discovered fiscal discipline?

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