



SAINT PAUL – RAMSEY COUNTY
COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO THE SAINT PAUL CITY COUNCIL AND THE RAMSEY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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MINUTES
COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
January 5, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT

Patricia Carlson
Catherine Croghan
Mina Gurung
Marissa Hendrickson
Thomas Kottke
Christopher Mullin
Paula Robinson
Jack Rossbach
Karla Sand
Kerri-Elizabeth Sawyer
Nancy Shier
Esther Tatley

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Dorii Gbolo
Barbara LeTourneau
David Muhovich
Regina Rippel
Robert Tracy

STAFF PRESENT

Emily Brennan
Robert Einweck
Jane Norbin
Richard Ragan

Director's Report

Jane told the committee that public health is often asked to articulate the official position of the department in response to issues which there are several different viewpoints. The Department has developed position papers to explain our perspective on these issues. The positions are based on current science and research as well as what we believe to be the most effective approach to achieve the mission of the department. Here is a list of the current position papers found on the department's web site: Breastfeeding, Children's Oral Health, Childhood Vaccines and Autism, Definition of and Commitment to Prevention, HPV Vaccine, Immigration Status and Health Services, Physical Activity, Protecting Children from Environmental Toxins, Reproductive Health, Sexual violence screening and Smoke-free Communities.

The job description for the Director of Public Health will be posted by January 15, 2011. The opportunity to make application will remain open until the first week in February.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness Update

Robert Einweck gave an update on the recent influenza vaccination campaign (Fall 2009 and Winter 2010)

Ramsey County's H1N1 Response by the Numbers:

- ▶ 9,000 H1N1 vaccinations given by Public Health, of almost 120,000 given to Ramsey residents
- ▶ 16,000 H1N1 doses reallocated to RC partners (clinics, colleges, schools)
- ▶ Almost 25% of Ramsey residents vaccinated; 3rd ranked of 7 metro counties; 34th of 87 MN counties
- ▶ Almost 75% of Dept staff fulfilled a response role, investing almost 8,000 hours
- ▶ Over 200 Medical Reserve Corps members and other volunteers assisted at Public Health's H1N1 vaccination clinics

Ramsey County's H1N1 Lessons Learned:

- ▶ Stay in your swim lane
- ▶ Things always take more time than planned
- ▶ Today's solutions created tomorrow's problems
- ▶ It is very difficult to counter-message risk perception
- ▶ The Incident Command System works!
- ▶ It takes days, not hours, to plan a clinic
- ▶ People follow directions
- ▶ 500 people form a very long line when they all show up at once, and will wait for something free
- ▶ Vaccination clinics: consider both "push" and "pull" strategies
- ▶ Without an emergency declaration, H1N1 wasn't everyone's priority

Emily Brennan gave an overview of the Twin Cities Metro Pharmaceutical Cache.

The Regional Pharmaceutical Cache System (RPCS), was developed by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to respond to the need for timely access to

pharmaceuticals for mission critical personnel. The Minnesota Metro Region Pharmaceutical Cache (MPC) contains pharmaceuticals for mission critical personnel (and potentially their household members) in the seven county metro region. In the event of a severe infectious disease outbreak or a terrorism event, pharmaceuticals may be distributed to exposed (or those who have the potential to be exposed) mission critical personnel (emergency medical services, law enforcement, public safety, fire service, hazardous material response, emergency management, health care, public health, Public Works/Utilities, government administration, and any additional staff needed to operate any component of the Strategic National Stockpile plan) to ensure the continuation of emergency services and to maintain public safety.

Activation and notification of the Metro Pharmaceutical Cache would occur in the approximate order: governor requests Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) authorizes release of MPC cache, mission personnel are notified of plan activation, distribution and dispensing operational plans are activated, and then, dispense medication to personnel.

Chair's Report

The County needs to appoint up to 5 new members. They will be advertising this month and will work with Dick to secure the appointments. Please share the announcement of vacancies with your friends and colleagues.

Next month, Feb 2, 2011, the meeting topic will be preventing sexual violence. The speakers will be Patty Wetterling and Chuck Derry on the Winona Initiative. Both speakers work for the Minnesota Department of Health. Commissioner Jim McDonough is very interested in using recommendations from this committee to design and pass some policy not only within Ramsey County but all counties in Minnesota. Staff and interested individuals are welcome to attend this meeting.

Dick and staff met with assistants to 4 City Council members. There will be a letter from at least 5 council members to the Executive Director of the Saint Paul Housing Agency encouraging development of a plan to implement smoke-free apartments. Dick and staff will be meeting with Commissioner Toni Carter in the near future to draft a letter from the County Board to the Agency Director also.

Next meeting is February 2, 2011.

The guest speakers will be Patti Wetterling and Chuck Derry from the Minnesota Department of Health. They will be presenting the Winona Initiative which functions to prevent sexual violence. Please feel free to invite friends and colleagues interested in this topic and in hearing these speakers.