



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
September 7, 2011

Orientation Session:

Rina McManus and Patty Carlson welcomed the new members – Maridee Bain, Liz McLoone Dybvig, Sylvia Robinson and Karla Sand. Rina provided an overview of the Minnesota Community Health Services system and Dick Ragan described the 5 A's (Ask, Advise, Assess, Assure and Advocate) of committee participation.

CHSAC Meeting:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Maridee Bain
Patty Carlson, Chair
Liz McLoone Dybvig
David Muhovich
Regina Rippel
Sylvia Robinson
Jack Rossbach
Karla Sand
Kerri-Elizabeth Sawyer
Nancy Shier
Esther Tatley
Bob Tracy

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Dorii Gbolo
Mina Gurung
Thomas Kottke
DonEsther Miller
Corky Newton

STAFF PRESENT

Jane Berg
Zack Hansen
Neal Holtan
Rina McManus
Andrew Murray
Richard Ragan

Introductions

Esther Tatley announced The International Public Health Nursing Conference is in Saint Paul, MN October 9, 10, 11. Contact her for more information regarding the conference.

Dick Ragan mentioned the Medical Reserve Corps is hosting a lecture on September 29 titled Making Cultural Competency Count. He will send the flyer that has registration information to committee members.

Solid Waste Master Plan Revision

Zack Hansen began his presentation with an overview of Environmental Health Section programs and public health's approach to solid waste management. The focus is on prevention, protections of human health and limiting environmental risk. The task ahead is to revise the Solid Waste Master Plan. Zack described how committee members and all citizens of Ramsey County could be involved in the revision process. The department has operated the solid waste program from a solid waste master plan since 1980. Ramsey County has used the SWMP to manage risk – economic, health and environmental risk. The plan creates an expectation for waste management including the recycling of waste. Six metro counties formed the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board. The counties plan separately and together. The Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board (SWMCB), formed in 1990, is a joint powers board comprised of two commissioners from the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington, Minnesota. To enhance intergovernmental coordination, the Board also includes representation from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The mission of the SWMCB is to increase the efficiency and environmental effectiveness of the region's solid waste management system. The SWMCB has three areas of focus led by commissioners and supported by key managerial and technical staff from its member counties and the MPCA. These three areas are: Communications and Outreach; Regional Policy Development; and Collaborative Activities. The SWMCB develops regional policy and programs in the areas of waste reduction, recycling, organics management, household hazardous waste, hazardous waste, waste processing, landfilling and non-MSW management. The Board is responsible for the preparation of a long-range plan (Regional Solid Waste Master Plan), which sets forth the policies and strategies the region will implement during the next 20 years. The Board is also responsible for a short-range work plan, as well as performance measurement reports that are completed each year. The EH Section has created a portal on Facebook for public input to the planning process. It is titled "Planning Beyond the Garbage Can." Citizens can go to the website at www.co.ramsey.mn.us/ph/rt/planning_beyond_the_garbage_can.htm and provide input. Hundreds of people have already become involved. Zack distributed samples of the new apartment recycling bags used to encourage recycling by apartment dwellers.

ACTION - The committee requested that Jim Yannarely, Lead Abatement Supervisor at Environmental Health, attend a future meeting to discuss the asthma project. The funding for the project has run out, but the project's outcome was fewer ER visits as a result of the cleaner/cleaned environment. The data should/could lead to policy development.

Public Health Clinics, Tuberculosis Control and Epidemiology

Jane Berg, Section Manager – Preventive Health, praised the committee members for their past advocacy work. Jane introduced Andrew Murray, Epidemiologist, and Dr. Neal Holtan, Medical Director.

Andrew Murray presented the following information. The SPRCPH Epidemiology is part of a disease surveillance system mandated by state law. Certain diseases or conditions are reportable to MDH. Some of these diseases occur rarely, so individual cases are counted, an example being rabies. Then there are diseases that occur so often it would be impossible to report/identify each case, an example being Influenza. The main goals of infectious disease epidemiology are to prevent spread of illness and gather information to track disease trends. The surveillance for many diseases is conducted solely at MDH. The surveillance for several diseases is conducted at the local level. This involves contacting clinic/hospital, lab, and patients for information. Notable disease trends are highlighted in the annual summary report which is posted on the SPRCPH webpage. Andrew then talked about two important diseases in Ramsey County. Tuberculosis is a serious public health disease in Ramsey County with 6.7 cases per 100,000 residents in 2010 which is higher than Minnesota (2.6) and the US (3.6). The disease incidence relates in part to refugee resettlement in Ramsey County where persons born in high-incidence countries account for 80% of our active TB cases on average. Patients with active TB are seen in our clinic and their household and other close contacts are screened through the clinic.

As the Section Manager of Preventive Health, Jane Berg manages epidemiology and the public health clinics. The Title 10 Family Planning Program and STD merged in July resulting in the 555 Sexual Health clinic. She provided the committee members with a copy of the 2009 Disease Report. Chlamydia is the most commonly reported disease. There were 2,393 infections reported in Ramsey County in 2009, a rate of 473 cases per 100,000 persons. This represents an increase of 7.5% from the County's previous 5-year average. The incidence rate of Chlamydia infection has doubled in Ramsey County since 1995 and 1/6 of Minnesota's cases are residents of St. Paul. The disease impacts young people 15-25 years of age, especially women of which 75% are asymptomatic and can be infected for 2 yrs w/out treatment which can cause a wide range of health issues for women and newborns. The department no longer receives federal Ryan White funding. The Ryan White Program is the single largest federal program designed specifically for people with HIV/AIDS and provides care and support services to individuals and families. The department continues to screen for HIV infection and refers positives to metro infectious disease/HIV clinics for treatment and follow up. Gonorrhea infections continue to be the second most frequently-reported STD. Infections decreased for the second straight year to 472 in 2009, and represents a 32% decrease from the County's previous 5-year average. Expedited partner therapy is defined by the CDC as: The practice of treating sex partners of patients with sexually transmitted diseases without an intervening medical evaluation or professional prevention counseling. We are already doing this at Clinic 555.

The department used community partners for the screening of refugees. The system then puts the refugees into primary care. Ramsey County has the highest number of new refugees N=845. Hennepin County is second in the state with only 204 new refugees.

Concerning Pertussis, the department promotes the tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine by using “cocooning.” The strategy protects tiny unvaccinated infants by encouraging Tdap immunizations among all adults and children who have close contact with newborns. The immunizations thus wrap the baby and family members in a protective “cocoon” against pertussis.

The Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Program case manages hepatitis B positive pregnant women, their infants, and household contacts. It ensures that the mother is educated on her disease and what the immunization schedule will be for her newborn, that the hospital has given the birth dose and the hepatitis B immune globulin (HBIG), and there is a clinic that the family will be taking the newborn to. The subsequent shots are reported to MDH after the clinic reports that they have been given. At 9-18 months, post-vaccination serology is tested on a blood sample to assure that the child is immune. The case is then closed.

Dr. Neal Holtan, Medical Director and TB Physician for the department, provided the committee members with an overview of Tuberculosis disease in Ramsey County. He described how a physician comes up with a diagnosis of active TB. In the public health clinic at Juenemann (555 Cedar Street), assessment – the evaluation of individual patients and the investigation of close contacts is conducted. The department follows policy developed by the American Thoracic Society/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that includes treatment recommendations, regimens of medications, duration of therapy and special considerations. Isolation and the use of masks and actions taken with non-compliant individuals are also considered. TB treatment at the Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health Department assures quality of care and completion of treatment. Direct observed therapy is used universally. There is special coordination of care for persons co-infected with HIV. The Minnesota Department of Health monitors the treatment of all cases of active TB in the State.

Chairperson’s Report

Violence Prevention

Bob Tracy updated the committee on the issue of preventing sexual violence. On February 2, 2011 the committee invited Patty Wetterling and Chuck Derry to address the committee on the topic of the Winona Initiative called the Clean Hotel’s Bill. The committee worked on constructing a resolution in support of the Clean Hotel’s Bill as a result of the presentation. The department will continue to investigate this initiative and how best to accomplish its goals.

Smoke-free Public Housing

Dick Ragan updated the committee on the issue of smoke-free public housing. During 2010, the Committee heard presentations regarding the SHIP Grant (Statewide Health Improvement Program). One of the grant objectives was to promote smoke-free public housing in Ramsey County. The chair of CHSAC and public health staff met with the Executive Director of the Saint Paul Public Housing Agency in August of 2010. Since

that time there have been several attempts to encourage the SPPHA to plan for smoke-free apartments. The Department has applied for a grant from The Community Transformation Grant that would continue to fund tobacco initiatives including smoke-free public housing.

Director's Report

Budget Update

Rina McManus reported that it was a challenging budget to develop, given the interest in minimizing levy impacts and uncertainties with state and federal funding. At this time, Public Health's proposed 2012-2013 budget largely reflects a continuation of programs and services we have been providing in 2011. Levy funding for Public Health is proposed to increase by approximately \$480,000 over the next two years. While there is an overall increase in levy funding, there are still areas within Public Health where change will occur. Closely managing vacancies and reducing other expenses has allowed us to minimize impact on current staff. A number of positions were lost due to grant funding.

Over the coming months, with review and action by the County Board, there may be additional changes needed to the Public Health budget. Managers will be making recommendations to handle any reductions that may occur. The department also awaits notification of several grants that have been submitted, and remains hopeful for additional funding.

Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) \$15 million for 2012-13 biennium. This funding will allow MDH to continue its efforts to curb obesity and tobacco use and remain focused on chronic disease prevention. The Statewide Health Improvement Program has a few significant policy changes as well. The Commissioner has the authority to use tobacco and health disparities grants to support SHIP activities. The Commissioner and local public health will work with hospital and health plans to determine how to incorporate SHIP activities into community benefit and collaboration plans.

Saint Paul - Ramsey County Public Health has applied for funding from the Ramsey County Community Transformation Grant and proposes funding to achieve multi-unit, public housing and other tobacco-related strategies. The department should know the last week in September whether or not we get the federal grant. TANF funding for home visiting was maintained.

The Department is working on a quality improvement initiative which will help position the department for applying for national public health accreditation. The process is very involved and costly (fees and staff time). The cost benefits are under analysis. The question is what will SPRCPH get for it? Is it worth the cost and effort? Will an accredited program get extra points for grants and/or get a pass on reporting requirements?

Bob Tracy asked about the Affordable Care Act and asked what are the implications for public health in Ramsey County? He also asked for information regarding HIV referrals out of 555 Cedar and mentioned that La Clinica has lost Ryan White funding.

The next meeting of the CHSAC will be November 2, 2011, 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. The location of the meeting will be the Juenemann Building/Public Health Center at 555 Cedar Street in the 2nd floor library.