

West Virginia State Environmental Liaison Meeting

Date: November 15, 2013

Location: DHHR Coop Facility, Flatwoods, WV

PRESENT

Brad Cochran, Judy Vallandingham, Steve Hinerman, Tom Ong, JD Douglas, Rich Lucas, Lock Johnson, Denny Taketa, Dr. Don Thimsen, Jimmy Casdorff, Liz Greene

CALL TO ORDER

Brad Cochran called the meeting to order at 10:38 am.

NEW MEMBER

Brad introduced Rich Lucas as the new representative for the District Sanitarians on the Liaison Committee

MINUTES

Denny Taketa moved and Lock Johnson seconded and the minutes were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Environmental Health Electronic Reporting Project

Judy Vallandingham gave the following report:

- Currently working with Rick Hertges, Anna Marie Taves, Michael Kinder, and Phase I&II LHD's to finalize the fields for Land Development – Sewage Module. Questions about field calculation, and additional fields that are need for complete information (i.e. distances from property lines, and calculation square footage of septic system with a reduction)
- Currently Cabell-Huntington, Kanawha-Charleston and Monongalia LHDs are using the HealthSpace web portal to post food establishment inspections and they are uploaded to the database.
 - Cabell
http://www.healthspace.com/Clients/WestVirginia/CabellHuntington/CabellHuntington_Web_Live.nsf
 - Kanawha
http://www.healthspace.com/clients/westvirginia/kanawhacharleston/kanawhacharleston_web_live.nsf
 - Monongalia <http://healthspace.com/monongalia>

- October 2013 –
 - Working with HealthSpace to include in the Sewage module the Sewage Tank installers (using this database for PHSD staff) instead of a separate Access Database. This would give the LHD's a live database for sewage installers and could use the HealthSpace web portal to provide the public a real time listing of sewage tank installers.
 - Phase III LHD's will begin go-to-meetings with HealthSpace and PHSD staff to configure the settings for the individual LHD databases, data imports, PAC (Primary Administrative Contact) training, and getting all LHD staff user id files and passwords. During this process the LHD staff will become familiar with their individual databases. As these meetings continue the LHD will learn how to set up billing settings (including entering permit fees and fees for service), and other setting unique to each LHD.
 - Meeting with DIDE to familiarize them with the information contained in the LHD Databases – Animal Encounter module.
 - DIDE and PHSD staff met to formalize the data that DIDE will need to obtain from the LHD databases related to Animal Encounter. And in the future food illness complaints/Investigation.
 - Combined Phase I and Phase II LHD's for go-to-meetings with HealthSpace and PHSD staff.
 - Initial go-to-meeting with the Phase III LHD's, HealthSpace staff and PHSD staff.

UIC Permitting:

Brad reported that PHSD has had no response from the WVDEP regarding UIC permitting after repeated emails requesting information on guidelines for the requirements for UIC permits.

DW-17

JD Douglas reported that his staff had completed an email list and had sent notification to all the local health departments of the intent to send Notices of Excessive Sodium Results for Public Water Systems and ask for clarification of the local health department staff who should receive these notices. His staff is in the process of sending the first notices on the public water systems that are above the sodium limit for notification to the local health departments. There have been no negative comments to date.

Dr. Thimsen commented that this notification would be important to doctors who treat patients with high blood pressure.

JD added that there are approximately 400 public water systems that have sodium above the notification limit. He indicated that the sodium can be from the raw source, but can also be a byproduct of the chemicals used in the water treatment process.

Jimmy Casdorff asks if there are large fluctuations in the sodium levels in the public water systems. JD indicated that normally the water system sodium levels stay pretty consistent over time.

Steve Hinerman asks if surface water systems are influenced by road salt treatment in the winter months. JD answered that the testing results do not indicate this for sodium.

Push carts/Mobile Food Units/Temporary Food Establishments

Brad reminded the group that the new procedure with information regarding push carts/mobile food units/temporary food establishment is online at wvdhhr.org/phs/manual: F-15 Guidance for Mobile/Pushcarts/Temporary Food Establishments.

DOP Classification for Sanitarians

Jimmy was asked by Stan Mills to ask if there is an update on the new Sanitarian Classification from WV Department of Personnel – PLANS Project. Brad indicated that the project has had several target date extensions and he does not have any information on the new classifications for sanitarians.

NEW BUSINESS

WW-13

Steve Hinerman had a question submitted by Jon Welch, Monongalia County for PHS to provide more information on WW-13 Grease Traps dated May 17, 1988.

Brad informed the committee that he had discussion with Rick Hertges, On-Site Sewage Program Manager about updating the WW-13. He indicated that this procedure also is used for facilities on public sewage and would need to be reviewed by the OEHS Environmental Engineering Division. Brad indicated that he hopes to have a draft out to the members in December 2013.

Brad added that if a Public Service District (PSD) has a more stringent policy then the PSD policy would supersede the WW-13.

Port-a-Johns/Privies/Holding Tanks

Denny has a situation in Mineral County where there is a lumber company that has a site where they cut lumber. This site has access to public sewage, but the business has chosen to provide the employees with port-a-johns for restroom facilities. Mineral County's interpretation is that a port-a-john is for temporary use, not intended for use on a permanent basis.

Brad said that a port-a-john is a method of sewage disposal and that other LHD's have allowed the use of a port-a-john as restroom facility on a permanent basis.

Steve added that Harrison County currently has a BBQ facility that is a permanent mobile food unit and has port-a-johns as the restrooms, because they provide an outside dining area.

There was a discussion of the group about the use of privies and port-a-johns though out the state and that both are a means of sewage disposal by definition in 64 CSR 47.

JD Douglas stated that some of the bars in southern WV use port-a-johns as restrooms for their facilities.

Elizabeth Green stated that at Mid-Ohio Valley LHD, if port-a-johns are used the LHD requires the owner to provide a copy of the pumping contract.

Brad added that earlier in the fall a question was submitted about whether a parking lot that rented spaces on football game days would be required to provide port-a-johns, because some individuals may choose to tailgate in the parking lot (pre-game or post game). PHSD staff discussed this and decided that this would not constitute a mass gathering and the intent of the owner was to provide parking spaces and this situation would not require the owner of the parking lot to provide restroom facilities.

REPORTS

Saint Albans District Report

Jimmy - Stan Mills had submitted a question about will there be any changes in how the Sanitarians track their time in the new electronic reporting system. Brad indicated that there will be no change. The same coding will be used just like when sanitarians were keeping their time on paper or in HealthStat.

Judy added that in the HealthSpace Program the code for time tracking use the wording instead of the numeric codes that were used when keeping sanitarian time on paper or in HealthStat.

Beckley District Report

Brad indicated that JJ Rose had submitted an issue regarding the changes in the Manufactured Home Community Rule of items that were being marked on an inspection report, but were no longer in the rule. Brad reported that there had been discussion of the items that had been removed from the rule at district in-service meetings after the

passage of the rule. If any district would like PHS to discuss this rule or any other rule then just contact him or the program manager to make arrangements for a speaker. Brad stated that during the rule revision the Manufactured Home Institute did not want to abandon the rule.

Office of Laboratory Services Report

Tom reported that lab personnel have found some smaller specimen cases to be used to submit small samples for rabies testing that may meet the criteria for use in WV.

Interviews for Lab Director have been completed and they are waiting on references to finalize the process.

Brad inquired if the lab staffing was back to previous levels, Tom indicated that yes, they have been able to fill some positions, but still have other positions that need to be filled.

Brad asks if the lab had reports on the time lag with mailing specimens using the USPS. Tom indicated that the lab could not help with this mailing issue. He again stated that the prepaid mailing labels for animal specimens had been discontinued, because the grant funds had been exhausted.

Jimmy inquired about the afterhours drop off procedure. Tom stated that if the drop occurs between 4:30pm and 5:00 pm then you can enter the front gate and knock on the main door and a lab employee will answer. If the drop off occurs after 5:00pm or on the weekend then you will need to use the employee entrance, which will require you to ring the buzzer and obtain entry by the security staff.

Mid-Ohio Valley Report

Elizabeth Green reported that the Mid-Ohio Valley LHD was working on a more extensive Tanning Regulation – it would require a permit and inspection (including general sanitation) - using Ohio's Cosmetology Rule as a guide. Mid-Ohio is also looking at adding a provision to the Tattoo Regulation to add proof of age in the form of a photo ID as a requirement.

Lock Johnson ask if there would be a permit fee charged. Elizabeth indicated that there would be a fee, but it would be a fee for service.

Elizabeth reported that she checked with Anita Ray (board member with WVSBOS) about other Mid-Ohio Valley staff members (not just Sanitarians) checking food service establishments after/during an emergency for lack of power, refrigeration temperatures, and for hot water, Anita indicated that these tasks could be completed by a non-sanitarian, but no legal action could be taken by the non-sanitarian staff member.

Brad advised Elizabeth to get this opinion in writing from WVSBOS.

Fairmont District Report

Steve indicated that he had no other issues to report, but wanted the group to know that he will be off in December for medical reasons.

Wheeling District Report

Lock asks the group if any county is using the online food handler training. Steve indicated that he had spoken to Warren Elmer, Randolph County and he uses this training is pleased with the results.

Brad cautioned the group to make sure that the training that the LHD chooses is one that the content has been approved by PHS. The approved courses can be found on the PHS website on the Food Program page.

Lock indicated that he had a complaint on a national chain facility that did not have hot water and was continuing to operate. He made an initial investigation and confirmed that the facility did not have hot water at all. The facility was closed by him and numerous visits were made during the weekend, the facility was allowed to reopen on Sunday, but with still had to sanitize the dishes in the 3 compartment sink, because the automatic dishwasher was not meeting the proper temperature to sanitize the dishes.

Lock congratulated Rich Lucas on his position as District Sanitarian in the OEHS Wheeling District Office.

Lock inquired about the Administrator and Administrative Assistant that were attending Sanitarian Class.

Brad indicated that the WWSBOS Rule states that Sanitarian Class must be completed within 1 year and that the board also requires 300 hours of sanitarian work within 1 year. This means that you cannot just attend the Food Portion and the then do OJT to inspect food service establishments. Brad indicated that the WWSBOS will monitor the situation.

Environmental Engineering Division Report

JD Douglas reported that public water systems are having issues getting their boil water notices out to the public. Newspapers and other media outlets are not publicizing these on a regular basis, so the EED staff is encouraging the public water systems to use social media to publicize boil water notices. Also the new BPH public information officer is working toward a Facebook page and Twitter account for OEHS hopefully in the near future.

Brad added that the emergency services or emergency manager in your local area may have a Facebook page or Twitter account that may post the boil water notices.

District Sanitarian Report

Rich Lucas, District Sanitarian in the Wheeling District Office introduced himself to the group. He indicated that he is adapting to his new role and is looking forward to new duties and responsibilities.

Jimmy asks if there the addition to Rich in the Wheeling District will cause any changes to the St. Albans District.

Brad indicated that Mike Waugh will serve as the District Sanitarian for the St. Albans District and the only the Mid-Ohio Valley counties would be added back to the Wheeling District.

Kearneysville District Report

No other report

RTIA Division Report

Dr. Thimsen reported that they have seen the number of methamphetamine (meth) labs double this year.

He also announced that RTIA has hired a new Radiological Health Director – Jason Frame. There are also 2 vacancies for Asbestos Inspectors and that the division is in the process of filling these vacancies.

Brad added that there have been approximately 450 meth lab busts to date in 2013. The RTIA program is responsible for posting all dwellings where a meth lab was located. The division issues certifications for contractors who abate the meth contamination.

Dr. Thimsen added that methamphetamine addiction can cause life threatening withdrawals.

Environmental Update

Brad announced that the WVDHHR Secretary has appointed a new BPH Commissioner/Health Officer - Dr. Letitia Tierney, MD, JD, who began her duties on November 1, 2013. She has visited a couple of LHD's so far and plans to visit other LHD's in the near future. Joyce Spiroff, previously Acting Commissioner, will continue in the transition period.

Walt Ivey was named as OEHS, Interim Director effective August 15, 2013.

Donnie Haynes left OEHS and took the position of planning chief with BPH – Office of Treat Preparedness as of November 1, 2013.

Dona Hall was hired by PHS as an HHR Specialist working with the FDA Manufactured Food Program Regulatory Standards, funding for this position is through a grant with the FDA. She began with PHS on October 1, 2013.

Linda Whaley will be retiring on November 30, 2013, her retirement reception will be held on November 25, 2013, 1:30-3:30pm. Denny inquired if Linda will be continuing with PHS in any capacity. Brad responded not at this time. Brad indicated that PHS intends to post and fill the Food Program Manager position, before posting and filling the Assistant Food Program Manager position.

Sanitarian Training Class is currently in Week 7 in Morgantown, and there will be one more week which will cover Recreational Water Facilities. There are 12 people attending the Food portion of the training class. Judy Ashcraft, PHS Training Officer is currently working on the dates for the 2014 Sanitarian Training Class.

Brad asks that all LHD sanitarians document when a septic tank installer preforms work that is unacceptable or does not adhere to the Rules, i.e. installs a septic system without a permit, and send a report and the documentation to Rick Hertges, On-Site Sewage Program Manager. This is the only way that action can be initiated for penalizing an installer.

Brad told the committee that the future of Cedar Lakes Conference and Training Center is still unclear and that WVAS Executive committee will be looking at an alternative site for the Sanitarian Mid-Year conference in 2015. If Cedar Lakes closes OEHS will lose the site for water/wastewater operator training and PHS will lose its new On-Site Sewage demonstration center.

Legislative Report

Brad informed the committee that PHS has no bills introduced in this legislative session. WV Board of Sanitarians does have the Rule up for revision in this legislative session to change the RS exam from PES to the NEHA exam. Other topics of interest that may again be brought before the legislature in 2014 are tanning salon regulation and raw milk sales.

Meeting was adjourned.

NEXT MEETING — February 28, 2014 in Charleston, WV

Submitted by: Judy Vallandingham
Date: December 4, 2013