



Immunization Coalition of Erie County Meeting Minutes
November 16, 2023 – 11:30 am to 1:30 p.m.
Erie County Department of Health

MEMBERS ATTENDING IN PERSON	MEMBERS ATTENDING VIA ZOOM
Blount, Charlotte - ECDH Environmental	Abbe, Matt Pfizer Vaccines
Crockett, Sharla - UNFHCC Erie WIC	Knapp, Joshua LECOM Resident
Dailey, Margo - Pfizer Vaccines	Selby, Sabrina RN -ECDH Supervisor TB/IMMI
Henry, Joy - ECDH	
Louis, Kevin - Sanofi Vaccines CHAIR	
Santiago, Jacqueline - Erie Family Center	
Schuler, Carol - ECDH Secretary	
Wiggers, Karen RN PHN - ECDH IMMI	
Yohn, Jeanne - Pfizer Vaccine	

MISSION

“The Immunization Coalition of Erie County (ICEC) is comprised of organizations in the public, private and non-profit sectors and supported by the Erie County Department of Health (ECDH). The purpose of ICEC is to increase public awareness about immunizations; and seek community support to achieve and maintain full immunization of all infants, children, payers and community coalitions with technical support, public and professional education and community resources to fully immunize all Erie County citizens.”

I. Welcome and Introductions – Chair, Kevin Louis

- We welcome our newest members, all from the Health Department: Valerie Luebke, Laura Beckes, Charlotte Blount and our new Immunization Supervisor Sabrina Selby.

II. Icebreaker – Chair, Kevin Louis

- Some Thanksgiving statistics and other fun:
 - Average distance traveled is 50 miles
 - A 12 item meal costs about \$61
 - Around 87% of people stay home and host or travel to family
 - 37% travel 10 or more miles
 - 55% travel 10 or less miles
- We ALL have so much to be thankful for
- Some members were the cooks, some traveled to be with family, some include people from their community that are alone with their family celebration, one member even makes a vegan Mushroom Wellington for his meal! Family traditions are the norm for most.

III. Review/Approval of May 18th meeting minutes

- Karen asked that Carol correct National Infant Immunization Week to read National Influenza Vaccination Week
- Motion was made to accept the corrected minutes and was seconded.

IV. Current Events

- **Karen Wiggers: Recap of Professional Immunization Seminar**

Speakers:

- Tom McLeaf, director of immunization services for PADOH

1. Adults 60 & up are reporting site sensitivity when they receive the RSV shot. Childhood immunization rates are down and use of philosophical exclusions are up

- Dr. Kroger:

1. Reported on the new, updated, vaccine schedule
2. PneumoRecs app helps providers quickly and easily determine which pneumococcal vaccine a patient needs and when.

See link below:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vpd/pneumo/hcp/pneumoapp.html>

(When asked if there was ONE app that covered everything, Joy Henry, Coordinator for Northwest PA Medical Reserve Corps reported that the CDC has one. You can find the link below:

<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/schedule-app.html#download>

- Karen Wiggers:

1. She talked about the role the Immunization Department plays at ECDH. Our services, the population we reach etc.
2. She also informed attendees on our role in investigating animal bites & the Rabies program

- Other discussion:

- Vaccine hesitancy: why doesn't the individual want vaccines?

1. Provide education to resolve this

- Attendance this year was about 100 in person and +/- 15 via Zoom

- Current Trends: Karen Wiggers

- Still seeing more COVID than Flu or RSV

- Outpatient visits are not as bad as 2022

- RSV is reportable but only if someone has been tested

- Since 10/1 88 reported RSV cases

1. 0-4 yr olds are being hit hard this year

- Please refer to charts and graphs attached to the minutes

- Vaccine Manufacturer Updates:

- Kevin from Sanofi report that they have a new Immunization for RSV that can be used for infant to 2 yr olds.

1. There are 2 different dosage options based on weight.
2. The BAD news is that demand outran the supply

- Pfizer has a new vaccine called ABRYSSVO for prevention of lower respiratory illnesses caused by RSV

1. Indicated for active immunization of pregnant women at 32-36 weeks gestational age in infants through 6 months
2. Also active immunization in individuals 60 years and older

V. Upcoming Events

- National Influenza Vaccination Week

- The dates for 2023 are December 4-8
- LECOM Med student Joshua Knapp was going to look into this
- Sharla Crockett, at a meeting 11/17, was going to work with others to see how we could better strategize to reach more of the community for yearly events
- Could we have immunizations for the underinsured at events like the Diaper Depot?
 1. How would we screen for insurance?
 2. What would stop people later in line from just “saying” they have no insurance?
 3. How would we know which and how much of a vaccine to bring?

VI. **General Discussion and the 2024 Calendar**

- Increasing Visibility through Community Events
 - National Night Out 8/6/24
 - Various public events held through the summer at city parks (e.g. Gridley, Perry Square etc.)
 - Juneteenth
 - Celebrate Erie
 1. Since staffing is so tight at the Health Department and other agencies involved with ICEC the possibility of using MRC (Medical Reserve Corps) volunteers or Gannon Nursing Students that have community service hours as a requirement would be an option.
 2. If we wanted to have the Health Department Mobile Unit at an event then Joy Henry (ECDH) would be the contact person and would need a request made 2 weeks before the event. Attendance by the mobile unit would depend on the availability of a driver.
 - Could we utilize some of the health educators and the refugee coordinator to attend English as a Second Language locations to inform the refugee population of Immunization services?
- SeaWolves vs. Advertising
 - It was decided that the +\$8,000 that is usually spent on the annual ICEC night at the Baseball game is not the best use of the funds we are given.
 - National Infant Immunization Week is April 22-29, 2024. Possible advertising package for that week utilizing the Transit Authority buses and shelters?
 - A question was posed by Matt Abbe from Pfizer on website development for ICEC. This might be a better use of the grant funding. Right now if one searches Immunization Coalition of Erie County you are directed to the ECDH website and also the PAIC website.
 1. Charlotte has done some research and the PAIC site actually has listings of local Coalitions. If you go to the Erie site we could be uploading our minutes from our meetings. This was done at one time, apparently, but has not been utilized since 2018
 2. We could be adding events to a calendar on this site, and utilizing other resources there. See the link below:
<https://www.immunizepa.org/>
- PAIC quarterly meeting

- On December 14th at 1:00 pm the “all grantee” call will have a presentation by Outright marketing on strategies to employ when creating marketing and educational materials. **Control & click here to attend the phone call:**
[Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Following the presentation, PAIC will be going over a few updates. Meeting is expected to end no later than 2:00 pm
- **Another upcoming event is the National Conference for Immunization Coalitions and Partnerships (NCICP). This will be held April 9-11, 2024 in Philadelphia, PA. Early bird registration ends on 12/18/23**
 1. **Register here:**
<https://immunizepa.app.neoncrm.com/event.jsp?event=3&>

VII. **Financial Report**

- The beginning balance for Fiscal year 23-24 was \$11,350.00
- July’s spending: \$283.29 copying charge from Staples
- August spending: \$1336.22 miscellaneous items from 4 imprint
- BALANCE on 11/16/23: \$9730.49
- We have been informed by the PAIC that purchases of “distraction” items, and other such giveaways are no longer allowed.
 1. All grant monies are to be used for educational purposes, or advertising to promote vaccine awareness

VIII. **PAIC Review of obligations and guidelines**

- Tabled due to time constraints

IX. **Board Nominations for 2024**

- There were no nominations made.
- There were no volunteers to chair or co-chair the board.
- The Secretary said she would approach new ECDH member Valerie Luebke to see if she would be willing to be the incoming Chairperson.
- We will still need a co-chair
- **The following dates were agreed upon for meetings in 2024:**
 1. February 15, 2024
 2. May 16, 2024
 3. August 15, 2024
 4. November 21, 2024

- The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm
- **The next meeting will be held on Thursday February 15th, 2024; 11:30-1:00 in the 2nd floor conference room of the Health Department Building**