



**Immunization Coalition of Erie County Meeting Minutes  
August 17, 2023 - 11:30 am to 1:30 p.m.  
Erie County Department of Health**

MEMBERS ATTENDING IN PERSON	MEMBERS ATTENDING VIA ZOOM
Sharla Crockett, UNFHCC Erie WIC	Matt Abbe, Pfizer Vaccines
Kevin Louis, Sanofi Vaccines CHAIR	Andy Krug, GSK Vaccines
Carol Schuler, ECDH Secretary	
Karen Wiggers, RN PHN ECDH	

**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
  - Our newest member is Joshua Knapp, a medical student from LECOM
- II. **Icebreaker** – Chair, Kevin Louis
  - Kevin asked what our 1<sup>st</sup> job was, or our WORST job.
    - Karen, Matt and Andy all worked on farms for their 1<sup>st</sup> job. Working at either their family farms or hired at one.
    - Kevin & Sharla had similar positions as lifeguards/water attendants at a local pool or waterpark.
    - Carol reported her WORST job was working for Verizon as a 411 operator.
- III. **Review/Approval of May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes**
  - No changes were made, however Carol had an update from Heather Ryan (ECDH). Heather checked with ECDH Administration to see if the Mobile Unit could be utilized to administer vaccines at schools. Unfortunately, ECDH is currently unable to make this accommodation due to staffing shortfalls.
  - Karen Wiggers made the motion to approve the minutes & Sharla Crockett 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
- IV. **Current Events**
  - Update on Flu, COVID & RSV current trends, reported by Karen Wiggers
    - According to NEDSS, no COVID cases were reported in the county during July. 4 cases reported so far in August with 1 case of RSV reported in July.
    - In direct opposition to the above, Dr. Nadworny of Erie reports that 14 county residents were hospitalized in July
    - There are 2 new Omicron variants: EG.5 & FL1.5.1
    - The county is definitely seeing an uptick in cases, which is proven by our wastewater reports.

1. She asked if we could get her flyers to hand out for tomorrow. Karen provided them after the meeting.
- The neighborhood group, Our West Bayfront, will be hosting their annual Fall Fest in October. The neighborhood surrounds the Public Health building and this would be an ideal opportunity for ICEC and ECDH to hold outreach.
- National Night Out **8/6/2024**: Sam Brown
  - This annual event is held a few blocks north of the Health Department at Gridley Park.
  - Another opportunity that we should begin planning for now, even though it's a year away.
    1. Could we have the mobile unit there?
    2. Schedule back to school vaccines for the un/under insured?
- National Influenza Immunization Week: December 2023
  - How can we be more visible during this week?
  - How can we overcome Vaccine Hesitancy?
    1. After COVID we now see parents balking at Flu Vaccines for their children
    2. We could see the same thing with RSV
  - Can we get better info to School nurses, PTA'S or PTO's

## VI General Discussion

- Efficacy of SeaWolves game: Sam Brown, Kevin, Carol
  - Sam and Carol have been discussing this a lot. After being at the game, Sam was very aware that the population we need to reach (un/underinsured, refugees) are not the ones coming to the game.
  - Is this really the best use of the limited funding we have available?
  - Informational ads via public transportation, bus shelters etc. in the poorest part of the city or talking with groups that run ESL (English as a Second Language) classes might be more effective.
- ICEC's responsibility to PAIC
  - Carol will be sending out copies of the PAIC/ICEC 23-24 agreement.
  - This will include a list of the 9 items we, as the Coalition, are required to fulfill.
- More involvement by members outside of ECDH
  - Carol brought up the need for more hands-on involvement from Coalition members
    - Many of the "duties" and outreach are fielded by ECDH members
    - ECDH is actually only supposed to be involved in an advisory capacity
    - Having non ECDH members getting quotes, organizing events (e.g. Natl' Night Out) would take some of the burden off of ECDH
      1. ECDH would still provide Vaccine info/materials, hand-outs, do the ordering of items, and the required reporting

## VI Meeting adjournment

- The meeting adjourned early at about 12:50 pm
- **The next meeting will be held on Thursday November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, 11:30-1:00**