

**Lancaster County Health Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**April 14, 2023**

**Council Members Present:** Diane Garber, Dr. Mike Ripchinski, Deborah Willwerth, Dr. Scott Snyder, Loren Miller, Mike Bromirski, Dr. David Gasperack, Dolores Reidenbach

**Council Members Absent:** Dr. Susanne Scott

**Guests Present:** Commissioner Ray D'Agostino, Benjamin Herskowitz, Zachary Gibbons, Tom Lisi, Judy Erb, Violet De Stefano

**Meeting called to order by Diane Garber, at 8:05 AM.**

Meeting began with the approval of the previous meetings minutes on January 6, 2023. Motion to approve the minutes by Loren Miller, seconded by Dr. David Gasperack. Minutes were approved.

Violet De Stefano discussed the health and medical preparedness activities to date for the first quarter of 2023. De Stefano pointed out that the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service hosted the final three courses of the four-part "Community Disaster Preparedness for Healthcare" certificate. DeStefano indicated that there is a community reception center exercise coming up with the Pennsylvania Department of Health on April 29, 2023. Lancaster County EMA and Pennsylvania Department of Health are partnering together to accomplish this exercise to evaluate the throughput of members of the public at a community reception center after a radiological emergency.

Lancaster County EMA Employee, Zachary Gibbons, attended the meeting to discuss hazardous materials response in Lancaster County. The discussion was in reference to the train derailment in East Palestine, Ohio. Miller asked a question regarding the materials that may be transported through the County. Gibbons indicated that there is a commodity flow study completed every five years. The previous study was completed in 2020. Gibbons also outlined the partnerships in the region in regard to hazardous materials response and emergency management planning. A question was posed by Dolores Reidenbach about planning for more vulnerable populations. Ben Herskowitz answered explaining some of the specialty planning that Lancaster County EMA assists with, especially regarding long term care facilities. This fed into conversation regarding nuclear and radiological planning and impacts on the community at large.

De Stefano presented the packet of fact sheets from the County Health Advisory Council over the first quarter. The three documents included: Train Derailment, *Candida auris*, and West Nile Virus. De Stefano presented a draft of a standard operating procedure for the County Health Advisory Council regarding the compilation of fact sheets. The Council agreed with the content of the document, providing the feedback that the fact sheets no longer be called "white papers". Going forward, all documents from the Council will be referred to as fact sheets. De Stefano clarified with the Council that it would be beneficial to share the fact sheet with individuals in their organization and subject matter experts for feedback and additional information. De Stefano will edit the document and provide a final copy to the council for a final approval.

Garber discussed the difference between a fact sheet and the colorful eye-catching document. For the purposes of the Council, a fact sheet will be created and submitted to the Board of Commissioners. Once the Board of Commissioners have approved a document, De Stefano will create a more visually appealing document for distribution to the community. De Stefano will work with Michael

Fitzpatrick, the Lancaster County Director of Communications, to get a distribution list going to promote more outreach for these documents. Other suggestions arose including providing the documents to the local media, posting on community bulletin boards and providing targeted outreach based on the content provided.

De Stefano presented the first draft of the Health and Medical Preparedness Plan to the Council. Garber explained how emergency planning works, outlining that planning is continuously happening on a day-to-day basis. Even once a plan is finalized, it will continue to evolve. Garber explained that the plan will also have annexes that are more functional to aid in the implementation of the plan. De Stefano took feedback from the Council members regarding the document. De Stefano will provide other example plans and more pointed questions to the Council to elicit further discussion.

During business from guests, Judy Erb, Lancaster County Director of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, introduced herself to the Council. Erb is slated to speak at the July 21, 2023, meeting to give a presentation on programs regarding mental health in the community.

Garber announced that the next meeting will be on July 21, 2023.

**Meeting adjourned at 9:00 AM.**