

**Lancaster County Health Advisory Council**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**March 4, 2022**

**Council Members present:** Diane Garber, Mike Bromirski, Dr. Michael Ripchinski M.D, Dr. David Gasperack D.O, Deborah Willwerth, Dr. Scott Snyder M.D, Dr. Susanne Scott M.D., Dolores Reidenbach, Loren Miller

**Guests Present:** Violet De Stefano, Commissioner Ray D'Agostino, Brian Pasquale, Jackie Pfursich

**Meeting called to order by De Stefano at 9:01AM on March 4, 2022.**

Commissioner D'Agostino and De Stefano both expressed their appreciation for the group. Commissioner D'Agostino provided some context regarding the history of the County Health Advisory Council.

The council members introduced themselves to the group and provided some background on their current roles.

De Stefano reviewed the County Health Advisory Council Charter for the group. De Stefano reiterated that this group is not a regulatory body, and that the council is an advisory group to the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners. De Stefano also discussed that the council is going to be a part of the development of a health and medical preparedness plan with the emergency management department. De Stefano finally mentioned that this is a formal group to support information sharing, like the COVID-19 ad hoc group that was put together for Vaccinate Lancaster during the Pandemic.

Commissioner D'Agostino spent time explaining the Lancaster County Government structure, including discussion of the departments, various boards and services that are encompassed in Lancaster County. In addition, Commissioner D'Agostino included information about the structure of the Commonwealth.

County Solicitor Jacquelyn Pfursich discussed Sunshine Laws and Right-to-Know Laws. Pfursich also indicated that De Stefano is a point of contact for the council regarding questions from public or media. Requests for documentation should go to De Stefano and will be directed to the Solicitor's Office. Council members are not obligated to speak to the media if uncomfortable speaking with it.

Loren Miller stated that he created a separate email for his work regarding the County Health Advisory Council. He stated that he felt it would be the best way to address potential right-to-know questions.

Commissioner D'Agostino introduced the newly appointed Director of Emergency Management, Brian Pasquale, PhD, to discuss his role as an Emergency Management.

Pasquale provided background on his education. Pasquale has a PhD in Public Health and has served in the military doing international public health. Prior to his employment at Lancaster County, Pasquale worked at Montgomery County as their Chief Science Officer. Pasquale stated that there is a lot of opportunity for learning as a group and there are opportunities to develop new programs for surveillance in the County. Pasquale mentions that the emergency management agency will be looking for support and input from the Council.

The Council launched into discussion regarding the meeting schedule. It was agreed upon that meetings would take place at 8:00am on the first Friday of the month, every month. De Stefano will send a follow up email with the schedule and room reservations.

De Stefano opened the floor for discussion regarding the appointment of Chairperson and Vice Chair for the Council. De Stefano reviewed the responsibilities of the Chair and Vice Chair according to the charter. Dr. Michael Ripchinski stated that he would be interested in Chairing the Council. Dr. Susanne Scott expressed interest in a supporting role. De Stefano also encouraged individuals to reach out via email if individuals are interested in chairing.

Discussion began about planning for the next meeting. De Stefano discussed that the Emergency Management Agency would be conducting a comprehensive COVID-19 after action review. Commissioner D'Agostino emphasized that this process will help with being prepared for the next event. Garber discussed how in emergency management - planning has typically been siloed, planning was not done as a group.

Dr. Scott discussed the importance of our vision to serve the people of Lancaster County. Dr. Scott continues to highlight that while the group has their particular silos and populations, it is important to remember that we remember the unified mission to serve all people in Lancaster County. Commissioner D'Agostino followed up stating that we all have different expertise and backgrounds, and that is why the councilmembers were selected.

Commissioner D'Agostino reiterated that the council has a unified mission for health and medical preparedness at the County. Commissioner D'Agostino reminded the group that the council can work together to create a unified picture of the state of health and medical concerns in the County.

Garber expressed interest in having a share drive to share documents across the Council.

**Meeting adjourned by De Stefano at 10:00 AM.**

**Respectfully submitted: Violet De Stefano**