

Lancaster County Health Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes
April 1, 2022

Council Members present: Diane Garber, 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

Council Members absent: Mike Bromirski

Guests Present: Violet De Stefano, Commissioner Ray D'Agostino, Brian Pasquale, Dr. Gregory Martin, Richard Myers

Meeting called to order by De Stefano at 8:04AM on April 1, 2022.

Commissioner Ray D'Agostino opened the meeting by thanking everyone for participating. Commissioner D'Agostino thanked everyone who has expressed interest in being the Chair of the Council Health Advisory Council. Commissioner D'Agostino also congratulated Dr. Michael Ripchinski for his appointment to the State Medical Board. Commissioner D'Agostino announced the appointment of Diane Garber as the Chairperson for the County Health Advisory Council.

Review and approval of meeting minutes was postponed until the following meeting as requested by De Stefano.

De Stefano introduced Dr. Gregory Martin from the Penn State Extension office. Dr. Martin has been a Lancaster County resident for 20 years and serves as a volunteer in the Emergency Operations Center for the Emergency Management Agency. Dr. Martin is also a leading expert in the poultry industry and spoke to the group regarding the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI).

Dr. Martin began his presentation establishing what the Penn State Extension is and how they support their agriculture community. Dr. Martin explained that HPAI is not a foodborne illness. Humans are not able to contract Avian Flu from eating eggs or meat. Dr. Martin continues to discuss that Lancaster County is the fourth largest producer of table eggs in the United States. Dr. Martin explains the clinical signs and symptoms that are found in infected birds. Dr. Martin continues to explain the humane techniques utilized by the USDA to minimize the amount of spread of disease.

Dr. Martin explains the process of how HPAI is transferred between flocks, or via wild-bird to commercial flocks. Dr. Martin mentions the recent case of HPAI in Chester County involving a wild bald eagle. Dr. Martin goes on to explain that while HPAI is primarily an issue for our agricultural communities, it is also a public health issue. Dr. Martin includes that the mental health of farmers is of concern, especially if a farm is affected by HPAI. Dr. Martin highlighted the HPAI task force that is organized by the Secretary of Agriculture for Pennsylvania to discuss the current situation and other measures to communicate to the community about biosecurity.

Dr. Martin highlighted that HPAI does not typically affect humans. Dr. Martin explained the diagnostic process.

Dr. Martin gave permission to post the PDF and supporting documentation on the County Website.

De Stefano then introduced Brian Pasquale to discuss the Health and Medical Preparedness Plan. Pasquale requested that the council begin to think about and discuss some of the most prevalent threats across Lancaster County. Once the committee has identified the prioritized threats, those will be put into the threat and hazard identification and risk assessment model. Pasquale discusses that this will assist in identifying the groups that may need to be engaged for the planning processes.

De Stefano led a discussion regarding what groups may be of interest to the council regarding guest speakers. Dr. Ripchinski offered up groups such as Let's Talk Lancaster and the South Central PA Opioid Task Force. The council further discussed how the group will be able to hear from individuals in the community. De Stefano established that there will be an email inbox for individuals to correspond with the Council, with De Stefano as the primary email holder with the Chief Clerk.

De Stefano then ends discussions to Mr. Richard Myers, a resident from Lancaster County, to give a presentation regarding the threat of 5G. Myers takes the time to illustrate his research on the effects of 5G, and discusses how 5G is affecting Lancaster County Residents. Myers states that he has given this presentation in front of many groups. Myers asks that the council consider advocating for fiber optic as opposed to 5G. Myers states he will check back with the council at a later date to discuss next steps.

De Stefano thanks Myers for his presentation. At the end of the meeting, De Stefano discusses that the County has decided to take a different approach for the COVID-19 After Action Report. This report will be an internal document, with an executive summary that will be presented to the council at a later date. De Stefano states that the emergency management agency is currently working to compile the data.

Meeting adjourned by De Stefano at 8:58 AM.