

Allegheny County Council

*County of Allegheny
436 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone (412) 350-6490*



Meeting Minutes - Approved

Wednesday, June 25, 2014

5:00 PM

Conference Room I

Committee on Health & Human Services

*John Palmiere, Chair; Thomas Baker, James Ellenbogen, Nick Futules, Robert Macey,
Sue Means, William Robinson*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:17.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA-County Manager or Designee

Karen Hacker, MD, MPH-Director, Health Department, or Designee

Renee Cox- Executive Director, Prevention Point Pittsburgh

Mr. McKain was present from the Office of the County Manager.

Dr. Hacker, Dr. Harris and Mr. Thompson were present from the Health Department.

Ms. Cox and Ms. Acker were present from Prevention Point Pittsburgh.

Mr. Barker and Mr. Szymanski were present from the Office of County Council.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 4 - Nick Futules, Bob Macey, Sue Means and John Palmiere

Members Absent: 3 - Tom Baker, Jim Ellenbogen and William Robinson

Members 3 - Heather Heidelbaugh, Michael Finnerty and Ed Kress

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

[8348-14](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Health and Human Services committee meeting of Allegheny County Council held on December 11, 2013

Passed

IV. Agenda Items

Ordinances

[8314-14](#)

An Ordinance of the Council of the County of Allegheny ratifying amendments to Allegheny County Health Department Rules and Regulations pursuant to Section 12011 of the Local Health Administration Law, 16 P.S. §12001 et seq.

Sponsors: Chief Executive

At the request of the Chair, the clerk read the title of the bill and Dr. Hacker summarized its provisions and the rationale underlying the proposed amendment, and discussed the proposed change in the context of public health issues attendant to drug use within the County.

Dr. Hacker noted that the proposed change would only eliminate the 1500 foot exclusionary zone within the City of Pittsburgh, while preserving the exclusionary zone outside of the City and requiring the municipal approval for any new needle exchange locations in any municipality.

Ms. Cox briefly discussed Prevention Point Pittsburgh's activities and described the approval requirements for new exchange locations.

The Chair and Ms. Cox discussed Prevention Point's referral services.

In response to questions from Mr. Kress, Ms. Cox noted that some government funding is provided for counselling services, but that the syringes themselves are purchased with foundation and other private funds, and described the procedures employed for enrolling individuals in the program. Ms. Acker described the steps taken by the program to interact effectively with individuals who participate, noting that approximately 22% of the individuals who visit the program enter some sort of rehabilitation program each year.

Mr. Macey expressed support for the program's goals, and in response to a question, Ms. Acker described the reasons that often drive individuals to seek out Prevention Point's services.

Mr. Futules and Ms. Acker discussed whether a smaller exclusionary zone might be workable within the City, with Ms. Acker suggesting that population density would make even a smaller exclusionary zone difficult to administer.

Ms. Means and Ms. Acker discussed the range of drugs that are sometimes injected and dirty needle disposal methods.

Mr. Finnerty expressed support for the program's efforts.

In response to a question from Mr. Kress, Ms. Cox noted that individuals who have other needs for syringes, such as diabetics, do sometimes use their services.

Affirmatively Recommended

Enactment No: 09-14-OR

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:36.