

Allegheny County Council

*436 Grant Street
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Phone (412) 350-6490*



Meeting Minutes - Approved

Wednesday, May 27, 2015

4:00 PM

Conference Room 1

Committee on Budget and Finance

*Michael Finnerty, Chair;
Nick Futules,
Amanda Green Hawkins,
Heather Heidelbaugh, Terri Klein,
Bob Macey,
Sue Means,
John Palmiere and
Jan Rea
-Members*

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 4:03.

Invited Guests:

William D. McKain, CPA - County Manager or Designee

Mary C. Soroka - Director, Office of Budget and Finance or Designee

Dr. Karen Hacker - Director, Health Department

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

Ms. Soroka and Mr. Cox were present from the Department of Budget & Finance.

Dr. Hacker was present from the Health Department.

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: 4 - Sue Means, John Palmiere, Jan Rea and Michael Finnerty

Members Absent: 4 - Amanda Green Hawkins, Heather Heidelbaugh, Bob Macey and Nick Futules

Members 1 - Tom Baker

Non-Members:

III. Approval of Minutes

[8980-15](#)

Motion to approve the minutes of the Budget and Finance Committee Meeting of Allegheny County Council held on April 29, 2015.

Passed

IV. Agenda Items

Discussion Topic: Allegheny County Board of Health

At the request of the Chair, Dr. Hacker provided an overview of the composition, role and function of the Board of Health and the Health Department. Dr. Hacker discussed the Department's rulemaking process pursuant to the terms of the Local Health Administration Law, described the recent reorganization of the Health Department, and discussed recent actions undertaken by the Department.

The Chair thanked Dr. Hacker and Mr. McKain for their attendance.

In response to questions from the Chair, Dr. Hacker noted that the Department would not be administering any new medical activities at the County Jail, but that she personally had been consulting with the County Manager regarding new health care activities at the jail after the current provider's contract expires.

The Chair and Dr. Hacker discussed air quality within the County, and the recently issued American Lung Association air quality report, with Dr. Hacker noting that the ALA report relies on data that is two years old, and that there has been a trend toward significant air quality improvement within the County.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Dr. Hacker discussed the finalization of the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny, noting that new revisions are underway, and offering to provide a final copy to the committee via e-mail. Dr. Hacker also discussed success criteria for the Plan's target areas, as well as strategies for addressing those target areas.

In response to a question from Ms. Rea, Dr. Hacker discussed the Health Department's activities as they relate to the County's senior population, and discussed how those activities interface with other agencies like the Port Authority and the Department of Human Services.

Mr. Palmiere expressed concerns about the quality of nursing home care, as well as issues of overcrowding in those environments. Dr. Hacker noted that regulation of long term care facilities is done by the Commonwealth, but that the Health Department does work with those facilities with regard to communicable disease prevention.

Mr. Palmiere and Dr. Hacker discussed the Health Department's anticipated activities to educate the public with regard to the rollout of the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny.

In response to questions from Mr. Baker, Dr. Hacker described success metrics for Live Well Allegheny activities, as well as how the Health Department uses what data is available that bears on Live Well Allegheny activities and her hopes for increasing community participation in Live Well Allegheny.

The Chair and Dr. Hacker discussed the establishment of baseline conditions for the Plan for a Healthier Allegheny.

The Chair suggested that perhaps some non-regulatory activities might be undertaken locally in order to inform the public about various facilities' quality of care.

In response to a question from Ms. Means, Dr. Hacker discussed the Health Department's resources for locating free or reduced cost health care providers within the County.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:57.