

6/1/16 Statewide Call/Meeting Summary

Budget Update – Brian Skinner, Bureau for Public Health General Counsel and Amy Atkins, Director, Center for Local Health

- *Update as of 6/3/2016:* Because the Legislature had difficulty agreeing to a solution to address the \$270 million budget deficit for the upcoming fiscal year, it did not approve a state budget for FY2017 until 6/2/16. The Governor's proposed budget contained a 24% reduction to state aid for basic public health services. The budget sent to the Governor on 6/2 by the Legislature does not contain any additional cuts to DHHR nor does it include any revenue-generating measures. The budget plan authorizes \$4.088 billion in general revenue spending, closing the \$270 million budget shortfall with \$182.6 million in Rainy Day funds and \$62.4 million in one-time funds pulled from various accounts. The Governor is expected to veto the budget. The Legislature has adjourned until 6/12. When it returns it will resume work toward passing a budget for SFY2017.
- On 4/25 every grantee of DHHR received a letter from Tara Buckner, stating the following:
 - Spending units will be contacting grantees to begin development for 2017 grants
 - Some of this year's processes and timelines may vary from prior years
 - Should a budget bill not be passed by the end of May, further instructions will be provided
- Based on communications with local health departments, we are aware that many of you have plans in place to utilize reserves. We are also aware that many agencies have developed contingency plans based on multiple scenarios and that several agencies are working toward service sharing arrangements, up to and including consolidation. These are prudent steps to be taking given the current fiscal environment.
- This is an unprecedented time for West Virginia. We are 2^{1/2} to 3 months past when we usually have a budget and should all anticipate funding delays and/or challenges. As soon as we receive additional guidance and information, we will pass it on.

Emergency Fund Application – Amy Atkins, Director, Center for Local Health

- On July 1st and/or as soon as a budget is approved, local boards of health will have access to the FY2017 Emergency Fund.
- The Center for Local Health (CLH) will release updated guidance for these funds by the end of June 2016 so that local boards of health can submit applications as soon as possible for review and consideration. Agencies experiencing a financial emergency should take prompt and proactive steps to accessing this fund if needed. We will be using the feedback from this year's process, both from local health departments and from the Emergency Fund Review Committee, to update the guidance.
- Given the uncertainty of the state fiscal situation, we want to ensure that we are positioning resources as quickly and effectively as possible for local boards of health that may experience emergencies as a result of the state budget process. This is a source of funding that has the ability to be expedited above and beyond other sources of funding.

FY2017 Program Plan Update – Rebecca Schmidt, Deputy Director, Center for Local Health

- All 49 local agencies now have access to the CLH SharePoint site for submission of FY2017 Program Plan documentation and 44 local boards of health have started or completed submission of the first round of documentation due June 15th.
- Based on an initial review conducted on 6/1:
 - i. 10 agencies have submitted all forms
 - ii. 4 agencies have only submitted 1 form

- iii. 5 agencies have not submitted any forms
- iv. 5 agencies have submitted the Board of Health Acknowledgement form, which states that the Board of Health and Health Officer have reviewed all documentation, but have not submitted all required documentation.
- Local agencies are responsible for submitting all 12 documents/forms listed in the guidance by June 15th and the documents/forms must be complete. To ensure that you have completed and submitted all required documentation, that you have a record of materials for your agency, and that your board is able to review all materials as required, we strongly encourage you to:
 - i. Print off/save all documentation
 - ii. Compare documentation to the table in the SharePoint Instructions table to ensure all 12 documents/forms have been submitted
 - iii. Review documentation for completeness
 - iv. Make any necessary changes
- Agencies that believe they have completed the submission process can contact dhhrbphclh@wv.gov and request that the CLH verify that the documents have been received. However, reviews for completeness of documentation (i.e. that each text box has been completed) will not be conducted until after the June 15th deadline.
- For specific, agency questions please continue to e-mail dhhrbphclh@wv.gov or call the Center for Local Health. Any questions we receive that apply to the system as a whole will be included in updated communications/FAQs moving forward.

Questions and Answers

Budget

1. *Was the letter sent by the Department to grantees on 4/25 mailed or e-mailed?*
The letter was mailed.
2. *Because the budget is 2-3 months late, should we anticipate delays in funding?*
Yes, all agencies receiving state dollars should be planning for and anticipating delays in receiving funds.
3. *We've heard rumors about reductions in tobacco funding and the regional tobacco network -- is there anything concrete?*
We are anticipating significant reductions in funding so obviously there may some adjustments. However, no final decisions will be made until the legislature passes a budget.

Emergency Fund

1. *Is it possible that the legislature will sweep the emergency fund?*
It is possible but not likely. If the funding is available, it will be distributed according to legislative rule at the end of the fiscal year.
2. *Do we know how much money is being returned to local health departments from the Emergency Fund?*
For FY2016, approximately \$330,000 is available for redistribution. We won't have an amount for FY2017 until a budget is passed.
3. *Were there any applications for the FY2016 Emergency Fund?*
Yes.
4. *Were any applications for the FY2016 Emergency Fund funded?*
No.

5. *How many applications did you receive and why weren't they funded?*

We received two applications. They were reviewed according to the criteria released in the guidance and were not determined to meet the criteria for funding. [Note: Mid-Ohio Valley HD and Jefferson HD shared that they were the applicants and would be willing to share the applications].

Program Plan – Questions and Answers are included in the updated FY2017 Program Plan FAQ

Zika (questions received at the Association of Local Health Departments meeting on 6/2)

1. *Is financial assistance available for local health for Zika response?*

To date, the Bureau has responded to three requests for applications (Zika Emergency Preparedness and Response, Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity and Surveillance and Birth Defects) specifically to fund statewide preparedness and response capacity and specifically communities affected by Zika. The requests for application included limited funding with specific state-level requirements that must be met e.g. lab capacity and the development of the Zika Pregnancy Registry. Agencies interested in participating in mosquito surveillance may be eligible for limited funding and can contact Miguella Mark-Carew, State Zoonotic Disease Epidemiologist, at Miguella.P.Mark-Carew@wv.gov.

2. *How can I participate in the state planning process/Zika Task Force?*

For individuals who have functional expertise in the 6 categories listed in the Zika Action Plan (Communication, Surveillance, Laboratory testing, Mosquito control, Outreach to pregnant women and/or Blood safety) and the time to commit to the planning process, please contact Amy Atkins at Amy.D.Atkins@wv.gov.

3. *Is there any more federal funding expected for Zika response?*

There has been no movement on any additional funding for Zika from the federal level.

Other (questions received at the Association of Local Health Departments meeting on 6/2)

1. *How was the Public Health Services and Tracking Project (PHAST) decision made in terms of participation?*

Within the short timeframe of the invitation, the decision was made based on several factors including: 1) criteria issued in the guidance from the University of Washington, 2) agencies who had reached out to the Center to partner on special projects or submitted innovative ideas for funding in alignment with this project, 3) and agencies who are actively pursuing accreditation and have the capacity to participate in this year-long initiative.

2. *Why aren't local health departments represented in the internal weekly Bureau meetings?*

These meetings are Bureau meetings to improve our coordination and alignment to support local health departments. The meetings are internal and often involve development of policy and planning in response to individual agency requests and/or issues. It would not be appropriate to involve individual agencies or representation from the Association in these meetings. Opening these meetings to persons outside of the Bureau would require adherence to the Open Governmental Meetings Act.

3. *How can local health be included?*

We encourage all agencies to come and participate in the monthly statewide meetings/calls and/or contact the Center for Local Health for other ways to become involved in state/local initiatives.