

LEPC Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2020

12:00 pm Walters State Community College – Lyceum

The meeting was called to order by LEPC Secretary Lindsey Horn. Nathan Antrican led the Pledge of Allegiance. Charlie Cook led the invocation.

Lindsey Horn gave an update on the Walmart Grants: We have received 3 of the 4 grants requested, giving us a total of \$3000. The fourth Walmart application was rejected and there has been no word on the State Farm Grant. The total in our account is \$3113.12.

There is a photo consent form that individuals can sign if they DO NOT want their photo taken and used in promotional posts for LEPC.

Our speaker experienced road trouble and was unable to attend, but Chairperson Chrissy Hicks was able to give the presentation on Hepatitis A. Hepatitis A is a highly contagious liver infection caused by the hepatitis A virus.

TDOH is charged by law (TCA 4-3-1803) with a wide variety of powers and duties that protect the public's health, safety and welfare, including:

- Regulating health care professionals
- Investigating causes of disease, especially epidemics
- Investigating causes of mortality
- Advising utilities regarding public water supply and sewerage systems
- Inspecting hospitals, nursing homes, institutions, and correctional facilities
- Publishing reports relating to the prevention of diseases and the health and sanitary condition of the state
- Administering programs mandated by the legislature (TB Elimination, TennCare, Children's Special Services, Family Planning, Substance Abuse Treatment, etc.)

Since Hepatitis A outbreaks were first identified in 2016, 30 states have publicly reported the following as of December 20, 2019: There have been 29,330 cases of Hep A; 17,801 hospitalizations (61%); 298 deaths.

Tennessee cases with similar risk factors to those seen across the U.S. began to be detected at the end of December 2017. Hepatitis A is spread by: not washing hands, eating drinking contaminated food, recreational drug use, and sex with infected partners.

Symptoms of Hepatitis A include: include yellowing of the skin or eyes, right upper side abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. Persons who have the illness may also experience loss of appetite, fatigue, dark urine, light-colored stool, headache or fever. People may experience mild to severe symptoms. Individuals with underlying health conditions, particularly those with chronic liver diseases, such as alcoholic cirrhosis, hepatitis B, or hepatitis C, may require hospitalization. A person with hepatitis A is considered contagious for two weeks before and one week after symptom onset.

Vaccination is the best way to prevent hepatitis A infection. Children are now routinely vaccinated for hepatitis A. One dose of hepatitis A vaccine will provide immunity for up to ten years. A two-dose hepatitis A vaccine series is available for adults. Immunity resulting from disease or two-dose vaccination is lifelong.

There have been 13 cases of HAV in Hamblen County, which is 2 cases/10,000 people.

Hamblen County has a dedicated jail vaccination strike team to provide vaccinations. 4,545 doses have been given since April 2019. There have also been nearly 100 events to provide education to various groups at a variety of venues including schools, churches, non-profits, etc.

After the presentation and questions, the floor was opened to training opportunities.

New members were introduced.

Quote of the day: "Preparation through education is less costly than learning through tragedy." – Max Mayfield (National Hurricane Center)

The meeting was adjourned.

The Morristown LEPC would like to thank O'Charley's for providing lunch!

Our next scheduled meeting is April 14, 2020

Invite a friend!