

PA Department of Health

Acting Physician General

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Governor Wolf's Budget

This budget rebuilds the middle class by investing in education to prepare students and workers for good-paying, 21st-century jobs, ensures government uses taxpayer dollars effectively and efficiently, cuts corporate taxes and improves our business climate, significantly reduces school district property taxes, and decreases the government's overall tax burden on hard-working, middle-class homeowners.

- ▮ Jobs that Pay
- ▮ Schools that Teach
- ▮ Government that Works

***The mission of the Department
of Health is to improve health
for all residents of the
Commonwealth.***

Acting Secretary of Health- Dr. Karen Murphy

What are we focusing on for 2015 and beyond?

Issues and Initiatives Overview

Opioid Abuse and Heroin Overdoses

- **Problem**

- ▮ Opiate abuse is a public health emergency.
- ▮ This “epidemic” effects every community.
- ▮ Nearly 3,000 Pennsylvania residents have died over the past five years because of abuse of heroin or other opioids.

Opioid Abuse and Heroin Overdoses

- **What are we doing about it?**
 - ▣ Enhancing interagency collaboration
 - ▣ Promoting Act 139
 - ▣ Act 139 - This legislation allows first responders including law enforcement, fire fighters, EMS or other organizations the ability to administer a medication known as **naloxone**, a life-saving opioid reversal medication, to individuals experiencing an opioid overdoses.

Opioid Abuse and Heroin Overdoses

- **What are we doing about it?**
 - ▣ Long term addiction treatment
 - ▣ Referring those who suffer from addiction to the help they need for treatment
 - ▣ Providing those addicted to heroin the medicines and therapies they need for recuperation

Opioid Abuse and Heroin Overdoses

- **What are we doing about it?**
 - ▣ Achieving Better Care by Monitoring the All Prescriptions Program (ABC-MAP)
 - ▣ The expansion of the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
 - ▣ \$2.1 million proposed in Governor Wolf's budget for initial startup costs for the first year of operation

Immunizations

- **Problem**

- Immunization rates in Pennsylvania are significantly lower than national benchmarks.
- Want to establish “herd immunity”
- Pennsylvania is ranked 42nd in the nation for MMR immunization rates.

Immunizations

What are we doing about it?

- Working with the Department of Education.
- Enhancing communications efforts to stress the importance of children being immunized before school entrance.
 - We will engage parents, school districts, school nurses, administrators, and key stakeholders to identify strategies to increase rates.
- Initiate a training and education revamp for school nurses regarding the importance of immunizations and reporting requirements.

Immunizations

What are we doing about it?

- Initiating training and education for schools regarding the importance of immunizations and reporting requirements.
- Developing strategies to remove the 8 month provisional period from state regulations.
- Creating **“Healthy schools that teach”**.

Ebola Preparedness

The Problem

- The 2014 Ebola epidemic is the largest in history, affecting multiple countries in West Africa.
- Two imported cases, including one death, and two locally acquired cases in healthcare workers have been reported in the United States.
- No cases in Pennsylvania

Ebola Preparedness

How we are working to help with this issue

- The department is in continuous contact with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), county and municipal health departments across the state, hospital and medical associations, and partners across the nation and the world.
- The department will support the investigation of any suspect cases and provide guidance and information on infection control protocols and procedures to ensure the health and safety of all healthcare workers, patients, visitors and the general public.

▶ Patient Safety

Patient Safety Authority

- Act 13 - take steps to reduce and eliminate medical errors through
- Data collection
- Problem identification
- Recommend solutions

▶ Patient Safety

Patient Safety Authority

- Principles
 - ▣ –Overall harm reporting
 - ▣ –Measurable event types
 - ▣ –Supplement with national trends

▶ Patient Safety

Patient Safety Authority

- Pennsylvania Hospital Engagement Network- PA-HEN
- HAP was one of 26 Hospital Engagement Networks for the national Partnership for Patients initiative with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

▶ Patient Safety

HENs provided hospitals with:

- Initiatives & strategies to improve patient safety
- Collaborative learning & networking opportunities

Two overarching goals:

- Reduction in preventable harm across 10 hospital acquired conditions
- Reduction in readmissions

▶ Newborn Screening

- **Newborn Screening**

- More than \$1.4 million has been added for additional screening requirements associated with Hannah's law (Act 148 of 2014)
- This expansion added certain Lysosomal storage disorders, such as Krabbe disease, to the mandatory panel of screening tests for newborns.

Department of Health Initiatives

Accelerate Health Innovation

- The department received \$3 million in federal funding from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to design a state-wide plan for health system innovation.
- Governor Wolf's budget commits another \$3 million
- The department will use this money to explore best practices to develop and implement a high quality, accessible and cost effective health care delivery system.
 - It is time for Pennsylvania to join other state governments across the country in addressing the issues of health, health care delivery, and escalating costs head on by implementing innovative strategies.

Conclusion

- The Wolf Administration and the Department of Health are working to improve the health of all the citizens in Pennsylvania.
- Accomplishing this by emphasizing public health, patient safety and health care innovation.

Questions?

