

TOWN OF ISLESBORO

ISLESBORO HEALTH CENTER
TICK-BORNE DISEASE PREVENTION COMMITTEE (T-BDPC)

MEETING OF TUESDAY, JULY 14, 2015 - TOWN OFFICE, 4:00 PM

Present: Linda Gillies, Derreth Roberts (chair), Douglas Welldon, Alison Wood, PA-C
Also attending: Marina Conner, Alexandra Gillepsie

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 pm.

Approval of draft minutes for the meeting of June 9, 2105. Upon MOTION made and seconded, the minutes were approved as written.

Update from the Health Center. Allie Wood reported on the following:

- From April 18 - through July 14, 2015, there have been 81 tick-related visits to the Health Center.

CIRCUMSTANCE	TREATMENT	NUMBER OF CASES
Tick bite, tick attached for less than 24 hours	No treatment, monitoring	15
Tick bite, tick attached for more than 24 hours. Suspicion of infection.	One-time dose doxycycline.	42
Confirmed diagnosis of Lyme disease according to CDC guidelines as evidenced by rash or lab test.	14-21 day course of antibiotic (doxycycline for adults, amoxicillin for children)	19
Lyme disease highly suspected as evidenced by symptoms.	14-21 day course of antibiotic (doxycycline for adults, amoxicillin for children)	5
		TOTAL - 81

- There are differences of opinion among medical professionals as to the clinical management of tick-borne disease, particularly the length of time that antibiotics should be prescribed. The Health Center continues to consult with colleagues, including Deb Moskowitz at Camden Whole Health, and to monitor information put out by the Infectious Disease Society of America (IDSA) and the International Lyme and Associated Diseases Society (ILADS). Because Health Center procedures are determined by the supervising physicians, Allie is working with them on these issues. She hopes to attend the ILADS conference in Fort Lauderdale in October.
- Having been questioned on the accuracy of the Health Center's tick-borne disease numbers during summer 2014, the Health Center has refined the “circumstance” and “treatment” categories in the chart used to report tick-related visit data and has developed a tight numbers management system. Allie is confident that the numbers put forth by the IHC are accurate.

Doug asked if comparative numbers for the Mid-coast region were available. Linda replied that due to staff cuts at the State level, those numbers were not available when she looked for them earlier; she will check again to see if they have been updated.

- The administrative and technical steps necessary for the IHC's participation in the Lyme & Tickborne Diseases Research Center's tick-borne disease diagnosis study have been taken, and as of July 14, 2015 the IHC will begin enlisting patients to take part in the study.

Response to recent comments on Facebook. Linda reported that Marina Conner and Alexandra Gillespie had expressed to her their concerns about inaccurate tick-related information being circulated on Facebook, and as a result, she had encouraged them to attend this T-bDPC meeting. Of particular concern is the perpetuation of false information about the tick life-cycle and the transmission of tick-borne diseases. In particular, people are posting the notion that mice are the culprits that transmit Lyme disease, not deer. Lively discussion ensued about the challenges of communication via social media and the question as to whether or not it's the responsibility of this committee to respond to such inaccuracies. Marina said that many who post on Facebook have their own little "echo chamber," and bad information doesn't get corrected. The consensus of committee members was that the T-bDPC should respond, not via a Facebook battle, but rather, by publishing research-based information in the Bulletin, the IIN, and in posters. Derreth suggested that a title for the next Tick Bulletin, might be, "Mice, the Rest of the Story." Others shared ideas. Alexandra said that she would draft some text for the Bulletin and IIN, as well text and design for posters. She thought that a graphic showing the life cycle of the tick would be effective.

Content of the August Bulletin. There was consensus that the Bulletin should include :

- updated tick-borne disease figures.
- an announcement that the IHC is now ready to actively participate in the Lyme disease diagnosis study with information for prospective patients.
- accurate information about the role of mice and deer in the tick life cycle, including a graphic.

Town Summer Information Meeting. Marina asked who would be reporting on the deer/tick/Lyme disease issue at the meeting. Linda said that because she was a member of both the DRC and the T-bDPC, she could give a brief update. Derreth asked how many sites are participating in the Lyme disease diagnosis study; Allie said she would find out.

After motion made, seconded, and approved, the meeting adjourned at 5:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Gillies, Secretary

Follow up:

- Tick-borne disease statistics in the Mid-coast region: Linda to research.
- "Mice: The Rest of the Story:" Alexandra to draft text for IIN article and Bulletin, as well as text and design for a poster; circulate to committee
- Lyme disease diagnosis study: Linda to draft text for August Bulletin and IIN.
- Updated tick-borne disease figures: Linda to draft text for August Bulletin and circulate to committee.
- Number of sites that are participating in the Lyme disease diagnosis study: Allie to ask Center.

C: Janet Anderson, Sandy Oliver, Cindy Gorham, Tina Pendleton, Owen Howell, Andy Borghese, Rhonda Shand, Peggy Pike, Maggy Willcox

Approved 8/18/15