Van Buren/Cass District Board of Health
Minutes
6/12/2019

Meeting was called to order at 3 pm at the Hartford facility. Roll call taken. Board members present were: Chairperson Don Hanson, Dwight (Skip) Dyes, Roseann Marchetti, Vicki Vaughn, Dr. Vincent Cabras and Robert Linderman.

Board member absent: Randall Peat

Health Department Employees Present: Jeff Elliott, Dr. Larry Wile, Julie Beeching, George Kilts, George Friday, Dr. Frederick Johansen, Danielle Persky, Jennifer Zordan and Tina Cox.

Others: Bruce Zache, Project Manager and Tom Stanek Director of Kalamazoo Operations from Owen Ames Kimball and Richard Freestone.

Corrections to May minutes. Actual expenditures are $833,354.97. Difference of $5,607.27. Difference due to: HAS/FSA Plan Administration, Utilities, Telecommunications, COBRA Administration, Training, Life Insurance and Payroll. Motion by Linderman, 2nd by Vaughn to accept the minutes as corrected. All voting yes, motion carried.

Jeff asked for board approval to change the agenda to allow Owen Ames and Kimball representatives to go first. Board agreed to change the agenda as requested.

Bruce Zache and Tom Stanek were introduced to the board. Handouts were distributed showing the original budget for the VBISD project and the final budget, also listing what contractors would be notified if all requirements were met. Jeff stated the total building project with the health department came under budget at $8,790,050 and included the contingencies. Jeff stated it has been an ongoing process for the past 3 years and the Board of Commissioners has signed a resolution to contributed $1,250,000 towards the project. As a result the Health Department and the VB Commission’s will contribute $2,500,000 and $2,550,000 will need to be financed via bond issue with PNC bank. Believes closing will take place the end of June. Does not for see any problems. He thanked Van Buren County Board of Commissioners, District Board of Health, Owen Ames Kimball and Tower Pinkster for believing in this project and allowing us to move forward. Jeff stated that a motion from the board is needed if they are in agreement with the figures as listed on the documents presented.

Tom stated the bidding process for the building went well and if any board member had any specific questions to let him know. He stated it is their plan to be onsite by the end of August, wants to break ground before winter. Everything has to be done in phases due to the school schedules. Bruce stated he has met with the teachers to inform them what to expect and when. Most contractors were local contractors only 1 was from Indiana (Metal fabricators). When asked if the Amish were involved in the bidding process, Bruce reported no, not for this project. Questions and answers took place.

Motion by Dyes, 2nd by Marchetti that Owen-Ames-Kimball is authorized to issue letters of intent, in the amount indicated, to contractors and suppliers listed on the construction manager list provided, pending confirmation that all requirements of the Contract Documents have been met. Furthermore, that upon receipt by Owen-Ames-Kimball Co., of the appropriate documentation, contracts be awarded to these contractors and suppliers by Van Buren Intermediate School District. Further discussion took place. Roll call vote taken: Dr. Cabras yes, Hanson yes, Vaughn yes, Marchetti yes, Dyes yes, Linderman yes. All voting yes, motion carried.

Linderman thanked Richard Freestone, past Board of Health member and VBC Commissioner for believing in this project and for not giving up. Jeff also thanked VB county leadership for believing in this project and for not giving up by providing this unconditional gift of $1,250,000. It was suggested a resolution be written on behalf of the Board of Health to the Board of Commissioners expressing their appreciation for the additional funding to make this project happen. Jeff stated he would have this document available to be read at the ground breaking ceremony.

Cash Flow Report was discussed and reviewed. Items highlighted were: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: Food service licenses are still coming in; few outstanding. Jeff stated a considerable amount has been collected; the
increase in fees helped offset the expenses encountered in providing much needed services in both counties. He also stated that activities in both counties have increased due to the weather and the economy. Jeff stated he would have exact numbers at the July meeting. Dr. Cabras expressed his concerns with the revenue and expenditures as outlined in the financial report. Jeff explained the discrepancies and how income is reported.

Expenditures Report: Items reviewed were Accident Fund for Workers Compensation Insurance. Consultant report and how it correlates to the expense report were discussed and reviewed. Motion by Dr. Cabras, 2nd by Linderman to accept the expenditures in the estimated amount of $621,801.37 for payment. All voting yes, motion carried.

Administrator’s Report: Jeff informed the board that he was unable to provide the 2020 budget as planned due to the unavailability of any input of what they can expect from the state. Hope to get the information needed by the July meeting. Once the budget approved by the Board of Health will need to send to each county administrator.

Informed the board about an upcoming expenditure on upgrading the computer mainframe. Approximately $50,000. George Kilts and IT Administrator Israel Diaz have been very busy getting the necessary bids. Jeff informed the board that the last time this was updated was approximately 9-10 years ago. George stated the upgrade will include accounting software, training, licenses and some hardware. This was discussed and reviewed.

Jeff explained how change orders for the VBI SD building project are to be handled thru the building committee. He stated the $664,000 for contingencies, if not used has to be in the bond process and whatever is not used is given back to us and we can in return apply to the bank note.

Nursing Activities Report for May for Van Buren. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE: There were 28 Animal bites, all non-rabid. There was 1 Chickenpox, 7 Chronic Hepatitis C. 249 Influenza Virus (Flu), 1 Legionellosis, 2 Lyme Disease, 1 Aseptic Meningitis, 1 Salmonellosis and 2 Streptococcus Pneumonia. IMMUNIZATION CLINIC: Hartford: 80 vaccines were given to 55 individuals. Other locations: 0 vaccines were given to 0 individuals. Mattawan: 0 vaccines were given to 0 individuals. CSHCS: 7 Nursing Plans of Care were completed. Four (4) clients were assisted with enrollment. 22 clients were assisted with renewal. There were 14 Annual Assessments. 43 clients received Care Coordination of Services. Two (2) Diagnostics were issued. There are 361 active clients. STD/HIV: There was 0 STD Court Order for testing. There were 20 total STD clinic visits, 20 for testing and/or treatment. 9 Partner notification interviews were completed. There were 2 Gonorrhea, 21 Chlamydia and 3 Syphilis reported by private clinics. There was 0 Gonorrhea and 3 Chlamydia reported by the health department. 20 individuals received HIV/AIDS counseling and/or testing and 20 received post HIV/AIDS test counseling. 0 received positive HIV partner notifications. 102 received HIV/AIDS education in a group setting. Careware (Out of Care): There was 1 total for both Van Buren/Cass County; One (1) LinkUp located in Van Buren County and 0 LinkUp in Cass County: STD/HIV Program Educational Presentations and Events: Presentations were given at Lawton and Hartford High Schools in Van Buren County.

Nursing Activities Report for May for Cass. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE: There were 11 Animal bites, all non-rabid. There were 3 Campylobacteriosis, 1 Hepatitis A; 2 Chronic Hepatitis C, 76 Influenza Virus (Flu) and 2 Salmonellosis. IMMUNIZATION CLINIC: Dowagiac: 46 vaccines were given to 36 individuals. Other locations: 0 vaccines were given to 0 individuals. CSHCS: 0 Nursing Plans of Care were completed. 0 clients were assisted with enrollment. 12 clients were assisted with renewals. There were 5 Annual Assessments. 29 clients received Care Coordination of Services. 0 Diagnostics were issued. There are 166 active clients. STD/HIV: There was 1 for STD Court order testing. There were 19 total STD clinic visits, 19 for testing and/or treatment. 8 Partner notification interviews were completed. There were 5 Gonorrhea and 17 Chlamydia reported by private clinics. There was 0 Gonorrhea and 2 Chlamydia reported by the health department. 17 individuals received HIV/AIDS counseling and/or testing and 17 received post HIV/AIDS test counseling. 0 Partner notifications were completed. 12 received HIV/AIDS education in a group setting. Educational sessions were given at Cass County Jail and Woodlands.

These statistics were discussed and reviewed with Julie reporting on a few unusual communicable disease cases: Had a suspected measles case in Cass County which ended up not being measles. Still lots of follow-up, mileage involved by the public health nurse. Also had an acute Hepatitis A case in Cass County that cooperate originally however ended up doing a home visit, still waiting for the Geno Type to see where originated. Also reported on a Salmonella case involving Kratom Powder consumption and a recent Pertussis case.
Julie stated working with MSU Extension on Swine Flu and the importance of educating 4H leaders. Information was provided in which they distributed to all three counties (Berrien, Cass and Van Buren). She reported that all 3 counties are making it mandatory that all pigs get vaccinated. The type of vaccine was discussed and reviewed. MSU Extension also plans to have signage and handwashing stations available throughout the fairs (barns, food vendors) regarding the importance of handwashing.

Julie reported that Food Service Supervisor, Rich Conway, handed out pamphlets on Hepatitis A at Grid Life event during the Memorial Day weekend. Also, as part of the handwashing campaign, the health department will once again have several billboards up about preventing Hepatitis A. Plus staff is continuing their efforts to vaccinate inmates at the county jails with the Hepatitis A vaccine.

Julie updated the board on the recent Spring Fling late clinic where immunizations and vision/hearing was provided to the community. Lower attendance than expected. Those present put their names in a drawing to win a bike. First drawing today. Plan to hold another late clinic this Thursday and have another drawing for a bike.

Dr. Cabras questioned what Careware was as it is listed in the nursing report. Julie reports it is for HIV follow-up. This was discussed and reviewed.

Medical Director’s report: Dr. Wile reiterated on the need to improve the health of the constituents in both counties by addressing health inequalities and disparities especially for those in rural areas. It is unfortunate that health longevity can be based, on part, where you live (your zip code). There have been stats showing your zip code is more important than your genetic code when it comes to your health. Those in rural areas usually have lower social economies which lead to poorer health than those that live in urban areas. Education also plays a part in one’s health; higher educated individuals have better jobs and better health outcomes. These are just a few reasons why we need to partner with our schools and communities to address inequalities and promote better education which will lead to better jobs, better health. Dr. Wile reported he was recently contacted by Channel 3 News regarding Van Buren’s health discrepancies and the shortage of providers that will air this Thursday. Channel 3 will be compassing various areas by going door to door to talk about needs and how they are or are not met. This was discussed and reviewed.

Dr. Wile stated that Danielle, Health Promotions Director has been very busy addressing these health inequalities and disparities by working with various health agencies and the community.

Health Promotions Report: Danielle distributed a report “Life in Rural America” that was based on a survey conducted for NPR, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Harvard T.H.Chan School of Public Health. The report is a two part series of rural America’s experience with health, social, civic and economic issues in their lives and how state and local communities can work together to help. Danielle stated there are great national studies on these issues that affect rural life however doesn’t show the true picture. Current needs assessments being done now are trying to push a shared understanding of not only public health but what goes on in the communities. Looking at how we perceive the issues and how we deal with them at local, state and national levels. She stated that our rural numbers may be smaller however we still impact the grand scheme of things. She recently sat is on one of these virtual series and informed the board that this report is just a small portion of the original report and highly recommended the board to google it. Various barriers were discussed and reviewed.

Danielle informed the board that Van Buren/Cass Counties have partnered with Berrien on an opioid prevention program specifically design for seniors. Berrien will educate the seniors on what to do with their expired and/or old prescriptions. Seniors will be given a tool kit with a Charcoal black bag that will be used to disintegrate the drugs. The health department plans to involve public health nurses to go to senior homes to consult with them about their meds, safety and other needs. The first trial of this endeavor should be done by September 30th. This was discussed and reviewed.

Dental Report: Jeff reported dental continues to be busy. Currently advertising for a dentist with the Michigan Dental Association. Have a few dentists going to 4 days/week. Need another dentist to fill the gap. Hygienists currently have a waiting list out 6 months. Dental emergencies are usually seen right away.

Recently implemented the Vet Program. $40,000 grant given to Van Buren County. To be eligible veterans must have a DD214 form and prove they are a Van Buren County resident. Money is available until September 30,
2019. Discussed the need to have the county develop a flyer that can be distributed to various agencies. This was discussed and reviewed.

Dental Lab Report for May: There were 42 Starts, 36 Finishes, 11 Repairs, 4 Flippers, 10 Resets, 6 Relines and 87 Priors.

Environmental Health: Jeff gave a brief update on the PFAS/PFOS situation in Hartford. He thanked George Friday, Interim EH Director, his staff, Nursing Director and Dr. Wile for their help. Funding of $27,000 from the state has been awarded. This will cover the cost of the filters, plumber’s expense for installing and field work. Everything went very smooth.

George Friday went over the activities staff has been involved in during May. Now have an intern doing necessary beach testing, mosquito collecting/testing for ZIKA and conducting tick drags. Trying to be more efficient by instructing staff to conduct pool and campground inspections at same time instead of doing separate inspections as was done in the past.

Each board member was given a copy of a spreadsheet explaining what efforts the health department put forward in addressing the PFOS issue in Hartford. George Friday explained the color codes: when the filter was installed, total number of PFOA and PFOA&PFOA. Those in red showed a higher number of PFOS than what is acceptable. Everyone received a filter regardless of what color the dot was, along with replacement cartridges. Installation of these filters are being done by area plumbers and residents are being contacted to make sure the filters have indeed been installed. Filters are usually good for 6 months. The cost of the filter and installation is covered by the state. Page 3 of this handout was explained with George informing the board these dots indicate the total PFAS sample result from the additional round of testing: those in red are higher than 70 ppt (the recommended limit). Worked with EGLE on pulling well logs to try and find a pattern. However it is not easy to find a pattern with PFAS. George reported that everyone on this document has been contacted, filters installed and results have been given. A total of 73 contacts have been made. On the next page (pg 4) of this handout George explained the green line where EGLE has expanded the testing area; most of these are on municipal water. Also expanded to area where it was known DuWel used as a dumping site. George explained this site has been cleaned up with a superfund over 20 years ago. There were 15 parcels to be tested, 5 done last week, trying to get a hold of the other 5 this week. Left flyers with contact information and none of the 5 have called yet, so EGLE is planning to go directly to these homes to talk to someone. EGLE is also planning to conduct service water testing in area ponds, creeks. This was discussed and reviewed.

Other Business: Linderman requested the board break into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue.

Roll call vote taken to break into Executive Session: Dr. Cabras yes, Hanson yes, Vaughn yes, Marchetti yes, Dyes yes, Linderman yes.

Roll call vote taken to return to regular session: Dr. Cabras yes, Hanson yes, Vaughn yes, Marchetti yes, Dyes yes, Linderman yes.

Motion by Hanson, 2nd by Dr. Cabras recommending Jeff take ½ day off each week for 1 year to be used at his discretion. Roll call vote taken: Cabras yes, Hanson yes, Vaughn yes, Marchetti yes, Dyes yes and Linderman yes. Motion carried.

No other business. Motion by Dyes, 2nd by Vaughn to adjourn. All voting yes, motion carried. The next regular District Board of Health meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. at the public health department facility in Dowagiac, Cass County.

[Signatures]

Board of Health