

Van Buren/Cass District Board of Health

Minutes

1/25/2023

Danielle Persky, Health Officer called to order at 3 pm at Community Center, 302 So Front Street, Dowagiac MI 49047. Roll call taken. Board members present were: Randall Peat, Jeremiah Jones, Mary Howie, Vicki Vaughn, Donald Hanson, Robert Linderman.

Board Members Absent: Tina Leary

Employees Present: Danielle Persky, George Friday, Jennifer Zordan, Julie Beeching, Anna Delarosa, Dawn Rouse and Tina Cox in person and George Kilts, Dr. Larry Wile via google meet.

Others: Roger Boyer

Danielle asked for nominations for Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson. Motioned by Hanson to elect Randall Peat for Chairperson, 2nd by Jones. Motioned by Vaughn to elect Jeremiah Jones as Vice-Chairperson, 2nd by Hanson. Nominations closed. All voting yes, motions carried. Meeting turned over to Chairperson Peat.

Peat gave a brief narrative of Van Buren and Cass County collaborations over the years, how we became a district and a history on how we work with neighboring counties. He stated he currently is Chairperson for Van Buren County Commissioners and plans to be in the Chairperson roll for the Board of Health only until 2024 when all new members should be sufficiently familiar with what the Board of Health does and our mission. He proceeded to introduce himself discussing his background, history and qualifications. Each board member then introduced themselves and gave a brief narrative of their background and how they came to be on this board. Each staff member then introduced themselves, title and what they do for the health department.

Corrections to December minutes. Actual expenditures are \$536,507.43. Difference of \$28,260.98. Difference due to: Health Insurance, Telecommunications, Utilities, Computer Equipment from ITSavvy, Equipment Maintenance, Membership Dues, Office Supplies, Concessions at VBISD and Payroll. Motioned by Vaughn, 2nd by Hanson to accept the minutes as amended. All voting yes, motion carried.

Cash Flow Report. AGENCY SUPPORT: Local Community Stabilization received; waiting for Cass County appropriations. DENTAL: State Plan Amendment funding received

George commented on ARPA funds stating we have not heard anything from Cass County regarding our request. Jones stated he sits on that committee and will look into. Danielle stated she would be happy to resubmit if needed. She further stated that the health department's request from Van Buren County was changed to reflect actual costs of the equipment purchased and is willing to adjust the request for Cass County if needed. Discussed and reviewed.

Expenditures Report: Items highlighted were: Reimbursement to Dr. Chipman for MDA Membership dues and the payment to American Express Credit Card. Motion by Vaughn, 2nd by Linderman to approve the expenditures as presented. All voting yes, motion carried.

George informed the board that there will no longer be an entry on the Expenditures Report for the American Express Credit Card. He explained why and stated the health department has decided to go with Huntington National Bank. As a result, Huntington requested the board of health sign a resolution agreeing to enter into a contract with them for this credit card. Discussed and reviewed. Motion by Linderman, 2nd by Vaughn to enter into a contract with the Huntington National Bank and sign the resolution as requested. All voting yes, motion carried.

Each board received in their packet a copy of the Salary Study by Rose Street Advisors. George stated the salary study showed our current salaries are pretty much in line with the state average except a few. The attached page indicated what positions needed a salary adjustment. This attachment also indicated a proposed retirement contribution adjustment. He explained that our current 7% match up to \$2,500 has been in place for over 30 years and only 1% or less of employees actually get the full 7% match. Would like to proposed a change to the contribution level to a 5% maximum with a \$7,500 cap. Cost associated with the salary increase and the retirement contribution change and how

this could be paid for was discussed and reviewed. He proposed that no action be taken on this until Feb. meeting. An amended budget would be available then for board review. George stated that currently we are able to afford these changes because of COVID funding however that will not last forever and believe we may need to increase appropriations. What this increase would be was reviewed. Peat suggested that both Danielle and George make a presentation to the Board of Commission on why appropriations need to increase. Danielle again explained these documents. She stated we can afford to make these changes now however wanted everyone a chance to review and to let her know if they think we should even approach the Board of Commissioners for an increase in appropriations. She stated no decision needs to be made now however if the board decides to wait on approaching the board that would give us an opportunity to see what else we can do to make these changes happen. Danielle stated there will be upcoming changes to staff with retirements and we will need to look at restructuring. Vaughn asked if we were having any problems with turnover and was informed no. When asked about recruitment issues Danielle explained currently short staff in Dental for Hygienist but believe this is due to circumstances beyond our control. Linderman asked how the salary would be handled for those retiring and where a new employee would be placed. He also commented that if looking for replacement for those that have been here for some time the agency should look at these replacements long before they actually retire. Discussed and reviewed. George again asked the board to review these documents and contact either Danielle or himself with questions and if they could give them an idea of whether or not they should pursue an increase in appropriations.

Each board member received in their packet a copy of the proposed dental fee increases. George explained why this was necessary stating costs incurred are not being recouped with current fees. Discussed and reviewed. Motion by Hanson, 2nd by Vaughn to accept the dental fee increase proposal as presented. All voting yes, motion carried.

Danielle informed the board that we are currently undergoing our financial audit and even being sick, George has been busy with this audit as well as information for this board meeting. She thanked him. George also thanked his staff for helping him as well.

Health Officer's Report: Danielle informed the board that she was recently contacted by the county attorney on a lawsuit that has been ongoing since 2017 between PRN and a former employee. They want to settle and the attorney would like to present to the board at the Feb meeting his legal opinion. The lawsuit is covered under our insurance carrier but would like to discuss in closed session if possible because the board will need to sign off on this settlement. Linderman asked why the attorney felt the need to present to the board if he is only asking for a yes or no from the board to accept his legal opinion. Discussed and reviewed. Peat agreed with Linderman and asked Danielle to look into and let him know if there is more to this settlement than just a legal opinion and to let him know.

Each board member received in their packet a handout from MALPH (Michigan Association of Local Public Health) Legislative and Funding Priorities of January 2023. Danielle stated if anyone had any questions to contact her.

Danielle informed the board that she is planning to hold a Board orientation for new members on Tuesday, Jan 31st at 9am in Lawrence in her office.

Danielle announced she would be out of the office Thursday, January 26th through Monday, January 30th. However, she can still be reached if needed.

Nursing Activities Report for December for Van Buren. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE: There were 2 Animal bites, all non-rabid. There was 1 Campylobacteriosis, 2 Giardiasis, 1 Chronic Hepatitis C, 1034 Confirmed Influenza Virus ILI, 1 Bacterial Meningitis, 1 STEC Shiga Toxin E-Coli and 327 COVID-19. IMMUNIZATIONS: Lawrence; 79 vaccines given (26 COVID vaccines and 53 others) to 67 individuals. CSHCS: 1 Nursing Plan of Care was given, 1 client was assisted with enrollment, 8 clients were assisted with renewal. There were 12 annual assessments. 43 clients received Care Coordination of Services. 0 Diagnostics were issued. 384 Active clients. STD/HIV: There were 2 Court orders. There were 13 total clinic visits, 13 for tests and/or treatment. There were 11 STD/HIV partner notification interviews. There were 7 Gonorrhea and 18 Chlamydia reported by private clinics. There was 1 Chlamydia reported by the Health Department. There were 5 HIV/AIDS for counseling/testing, 5 for posttest counseling and 0 Positive HIV partner notifications. Careware (Out of Care): 0. Presentations and Events: None.

Nursing Activities Report for December for Cass. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE: There were 2 Animal bites, all non-rabid. There was 1 Campylobacteriosis, 1 Giardiasis, 1 Chronic Hepatitis C, 133 for Confirmed Influenza Virus ILI, 1 Invasive Streptococcus Pneumonia and 227 COVID. IMMUNIZATIONS: Dowagiac; 38 vaccines given (20 COVID vaccine and 18 others) to 38 individuals. CSHCS: 2 Nursing Plans of Care were given, 2 clients were

assisted with enrollment, 5 clients were assisted with renewal. There was 1 annual assessment. 8 clients received Care Coordination of Services. 0 Diagnostics were issued. 163 active clients. STD/HIV: There were 0 Court orders, 16 total clinic visits, 16 for tests and/or treatment. There were 9 STD/HIV partner notification interviews. There were 7 Gonorrhea, 11 Chlamydia and 2 Syphilis reported by private clinics. There was 1 Gonorrhea and 1 Chlamydia reported by the Health Department. There were 6 for HIV/AIDS counseling and testing and 6 for posttest counseling and 0 Positive HIV partner notifications. There were 6 for HIV/AIDS education. Careware (Out of Care): None. Presentations and Event: There was 1 offsite High-Risk Immunization clinic at Cass County jail.

Nursing Report: Julie reported that COVID, Flu and RSV numbers are lower this month compared to December stats. However, the flu usually peaks in February. She also reported that spring is a time for staff training. TB update for nurses will be held in March. Communicable Disease conference will be held in May. Julie stated that she and two other nurses will also be involved in some upcoming virtual training of infection control for long term care facilities and nursing homes. Discussed and reviewed.

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Wile commented on a recent obesity report that showed Van Buren County as one of the top counties in the state with high obesity. Working with the Health Department's Health Promotion team on how to address this topic by possibly incorporating a wellness program. Also plan to work with Bronson, other health entities and VBISD on first rolling out this project in Van Buren County then implement into Cass County. Dr. Wile informed the board that he is available if anyone has any questions and they can contact him via his cell.

Dental Report: Anna reported that dental continues to be busy. Lawrence is scheduled out to July for restorative services and Hygiene out for 1 year (end of Dec). Treatment services will be scheduled out further due to maternity leave for a dentist in May. Dowagiac is scheduled out to June for restorative services and September for Hygiene. Still short a hygienist in both counties.

Anna reported on the sealant program stating Dental Outreach has been in 29 schools this year to provide screening and sealant services to children. She stated with Medicaid expansion on sealants and can now see individuals 20 years and younger for anyone with Medicaid or in the Healthy Kids Program.

Jones inquired about the Veteran's Dental Program and asked if there were any problems in Cass County Dental seeing veterans with the shortage of staff and was informed Dowagiac has just reached the amount allotted from Cass County and will therefore not see any more veterans. Linderman inquired about Van Buren County and Danielle stated that due to Lawrence's scheduling issues and shortage of hygienists and a dentist to go on maternity leave they will need to look into this issue for next year, possibly offer services beyond the grant period. Peat stated that Van Buren County has a millage and a veteran's grant and they have found they can put the entire grant amount into office administration and can then determine where it goes. The millage is for 3 years with no stipulations on how it is spent. Discussed and reviewed.

Discussed the possibility of trying to recruit a part time hygienist, get with area dentists to see if they have someone that would like to earn additional income. Also discussed recruiting KVCC Hygiene students and was informed they complete their clinicals at the health department, however upon completion they have stated don't want to work in Lawrence, too far from Kalamazoo area.

Environmental Health Report: Statistics were discussed and reviewed. George reported things had slowed down but are beginning to pick up again. Will be starting indoor pool inspections next week. Have completed inspections of tattoo facilities. Have received another plan review for another tattoo facility.

George gave a brief update of the PFAS issue in Hartford stating the grant was to expire in May 2024 however has been extended to January 2025. Constructions bids for this site did not go out as planned, will need to get everything completed by next year. Retesting private wells in this area next month.

George informed the board of another PFAS site in South Haven; industrial district. This doesn't affect more than 10 wells. MPART is looking into testing wells. City water is nearby if hook up to them is necessary. Discussed and reviewed.

Other Business: Linderman inquired if the Amish were seeking services in Lawrence and was informed periodically come in for a dental emergency. Linderman asked that an area be established where the Amish can put their horses.

Jennifer informed the board that her department will be going to Denver in July as part of the Vaccine Hesitancy Grant. Funded by NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Organizations). This is a national presentation to discuss what we and others are doing to address vaccine hesitancy. 15 communities participated in the NACCHO Vaccine Hesitancy. Only 3 of the 15 programs will be featured in the national presentation. We are one of those 3.

Jennifer discussed the United Way Grant Eat Well be Well. This goes until the end of June. Offering nutritional based services. Working with hospitals, schools and area clinics. She stated that currently some Dollar Generals offer fresh fruits and vegetables. She expressed what we can do on making more healthy foods available. Jennifer stated her department looking into how we can incorporate fitness into this program. Working with other counties on this.

Jennifer informed the board that she is involved with Emergency Preparedness and plans to attend a training/conference on homeland security in May. Also works with FEMA on employer compliance. Also, busy working with established government organizations, schools and the HSCC Council. Doing various presentations throughout the counties. Plan to present at the Rotary next week and with retired teachers in July. Discussed and reviewed.

Public Comment: None

Motion by Hanson, 2nd by Jones to adjourn. All voting yes, motion carried. The next regular District Board of Health meeting is scheduled Wednesday, February 8th at 3pm at the Van Buren ISD Conference Center, 490 So Paw Paw Street, Lawrence MI 49064.

Don Hanson
[Signature]
Marjorie Harris
Tina Leary
Randall Peat
Vaughn, Luke

Board of Health Members