

**Van Buren/Cass District Board of Health**

**Minutes**

**3/8/2023**

Chairperson Peat called meeting to order at 3 pm at Community Center, 302 So Front Street, Dowagiac MI 409047  
Roll call taken. Board members present were: Randall Peat, Jeremiah Jones, Mary Howie, Vicki Vaughn, Donald Hanson, Tina Leary in person and Robert Linderman via Google meet from Mississippi

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

Others: Joan Vidic and Roger Boyer

Corrections to February minutes. Actual expenditures are \$622,220.62. Difference of \$26,338.61. Difference due to: Auditory Instruments Equipment Calibration, Health Insurance Employer Premiums and Employee Portion, Telecommunications, Utilities, Audit Progress Billing, Software Services to Patagonia and Payroll. George reported still working on the audit, hope to finish soon. Motioned by Hanson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jones to accept the minutes as amended. All voting yes, motion carried.

Danielle asked the agenda be changed to break into closed session after public comment to discuss a confidential legal opinion.

Cash Flow Report. George informed the board the negative amounts listed in this report were for the 2022 pullbacks. He explained the state gives us 1/12 of our allocations and we did not spend it in those areas listed therefore had to return. George stated this was expected. AGENCY SUPPORT: Received the Van Buren County C.A.N. Council first grant payment.

Expenditures Report: Items highlighted were: Payment to Jennifer Zordan for cell reimbursement was from November 2022 through today; Legal fees; Credit Card now through Huntington Bank; MSU for the Michigan Health Endowment Fund Grant; Training for Maintenance staff from Quality Air Heating & Cooling; Payment to US Business System is for all copiers/printer toner and maintenance. Peat asked about the difference in Board of Health members per diem and was informed also includes mileage. Motion by Hanson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jones to approve the expenditures as presented. All voting yes, motion carried.

Danielle informed the board that the revised Board of Health By-Laws has been approved by the Cass County Commissioners. Van Buren has asked her to attend their next Board of Commissioners meeting to review the changes. Once approved by both boards will make copies for all Board of Health members.

The portion of the 2023 handbook titled "Disciplinary Procedures" was distributed to the board. Danielle stated that legal council has reviewed this portion and believed the language needed to be updated and that approval from the Board of Health is needed. After review and discussion of the proposed changes, motion by Hanson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vaughn to amend the handbook as presented. All voting yes, motion carried.

Danielle informed the board about a recent situation involving the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Program. It was brought to our attention of a possible HIPAA and policy violation. She stated that as a result, our HIPAA compliance officer and HR immediately investigated and reprimands were given. New policies/procedures were written to help avoid this from happening in the future.

Each board member was given a copy of the Special Project: Dental Equipment Upgrade financial summary for 2023. She highlighted this report by giving an overview of what the agency did and what is still outstanding. She explained that ARPA funding was used since we were unable to use COVID funds. Danielle stated we began purchasing equipment in fall of 2022 and have spent \$328,044.81 to date; \$437,248.96 was budgeted and used ARPA funding of \$220,000 from Van Buren County. Total cost to the health department was \$133,469.81. Still hope to hear about ARPA funds from Cass County. This report also had pictures of the various equipment purchased. She stated the new x-ray machine does more and has cleaner images. This was discussed and reviewed.

Peat gave a brief update of Van Buren County ARPA funds. He stated the county plans to revisit their remaining ARPA funds. Their auditors are reminding them that funds need to be committed to by end of 2024 and needed to be spent by 2026. Broadband for the County is underway. Jones stated Cass is also looking at broadband. He stated the problem they are having is the township's portion to finance this and funding is difficult. Discussed and reviewed.

Nursing Activities Report for February for Van Buren. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE: There were 5 Animal bites, all non-rabid. There were 2 Cryptosporidiosis, 1 Haemophilus Influenzae, 1 Chronic Hepatitis C, 1 Histoplasmosis, 325 Confirmed Influenza Virus ILI, 1 Invasive Streptococcus Pneumonia, 1 Streptococcus Pyogenes Group A and 147 COVID-19. IMMUNIZATIONS: Lawrence; 54 vaccines given (2 COVID vaccines and 52 others) to 19 individuals. CSHCS: 3 Nursing Plans of Care were given, 2 clients were assisted with enrollment, 15 clients were assisted with renewal. There were 7 annual assessments. 40 clients received Care Coordination of Services. 2 Diagnostics were issued. 393 Active clients. STD/HIV: There were 7 Court orders. There were 16 total clinic visits, 16 for tests and/or treatment. There were 14 STD/HIV partner notification interviews. There were 4 Gonorrhea, 25 Chlamydia and 1 HIV/AIDS reported by private clinics. There was 1 Gonorrhea, 1 Chlamydia and 1 Syphilis reported by the Health Department. There were 16 HIV/AIDS for counseling/testing, 16 for posttest counseling and 0 Positive HIV partner notifications. There were 52 for group education. Presentations and Events: STD presentations given at Lawton and Hartford High Schools.

Nursing Activities Report for February for Cass. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE: There were 4 Animal bites, all non-rabid. There was 1 Campylobacteriosis, 3 Chronic Hepatitis C, 133 for Confirmed Influenza Virus ILI, 1 Kawasaki Disease, 1 Legionellosis, 1 Streptococcus Pyogenes Group A and 86 COVID. IMMUNIZATIONS: Dowagiac; 19 vaccines given (5 COVID vaccine and 14 others) to 16 individuals. CSHCS: 2 Nursing Plans of Care were given, 1 client was assisted with enrollment, 2 clients were assisted with renewal. There were 6 annual assessments. 13 clients received Care Coordination of Services. 0 Diagnostics were issued. 172 active clients. STD/HIV: There were 0 Court orders, 4 total clinic visits, 4 for tests and/or treatment. There were 6 STD/HIV partner notification interviews. There was 1 Gonorrhea, 10 Chlamydia and 2 Syphilis reported by private clinics. There were 3 for HIV/AIDS counseling and testing and 3 for posttest counseling and 0 Positive HIV partner notifications. There were 0 for HIV/AIDS education. Presentations and Event: None

Nursing Report: Julie reported there were 2 pediatric deaths in Michigan due to the flu, neither in Van Buren or Cass. However, it stresses the need for the flu vaccine. She stated that according to the CDC the efficacy of current vaccine is a good match to the type of virus circulating. Julie gave a COVID update stating our numbers continue to improve. She reported that COVID numbers have decreased as well as the number of individuals seeking the vaccine have decreased drastically. She stated that of the 147 COVID cases in Van Buren County, 13 were children. Of the 86 cases in Cass County, 13 were children. Update of COVID vaccine availability; Julie reported that the Jansen and Novavax vaccine are no longer available at the health department. Only carry Moderna in all presentations (primary series and bivalent) and Pfizer vaccine. She stated not sure what if anything will happen this fall and whether another booster will be needed.

Julie informed the board about a couple of good websites that discuss routine vaccines, one called The Diseases You Almost Forgot About. Another one called Learn the Story of Life Saving Jabs and you can also go to the Children's Hospital in Philadelphia nongovernmental website for more valuable vaccine information.

Julies informed the board about a measles outbreak from an event held in Kentucky. Stating a letter was sent across the country to inform providers what to watch for. If it becomes known that they attended this event they should be tested, or sent to their primary to get vaccinated if indicated. Post exposure recommendations indicate someone should get a vaccine within 3 days or immunoglobulin. Julie stated we are past the 21 days quarantine if you were exposed. She stated that WMU had nursing students that attended this event. All providers in the area were notified of potential exposures if someone had symptoms and reported attending large event in Kentucky. Discussed and reviewed.

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Wile stated that Measles is extremely contagious virus. Example given: if there was 1 individual with measles in a group of 10, 9 unvaccinated individuals would get. Need to keep an eye on this and he is in touch with area providers. Measles is one of the many vaccines recommended to school age children. Unfortunately, many public health Medical Directors and nurses are getting bombarded by parents requesting waivers for vaccines for their children. Schools have a deadline in order to receive funding and are sending these parents to the health department to get a waiver. It has been reported by other health departments that some parents are treating the

nurses rudely because they have already made their mind up about not getting their children vaccinated and do not want to attend the required education. Fortunately, Van Buren/Cass have not experienced this at this time.

Jones asked Dr. Wile about African Swine flu. Stating there was a briefing about this at the height of COVID and there was chaos for about a day but then seemed to disappear. However, during a recent briefing this subject has come up again in the past week. Jones asked if Dr. Wile had any news regarding this, stating many pig farmers in Cass County are nervous about this. Dr. Wile stated after COVID many weird claims of various diseases made the news. However, he is unaware of any African Swine flu cases in Michigan. Nor had he heard anything about this for both Van Buren/Cass County. Discussed and reviewed.

Dental Report: Was given earlier during Health Officer's report

Environmental Health Report: Statistics were discussed and reviewed. George reported it was an uneventful month, numbers are where they should be for February. When the weather is good, numbers increase and if bad decrease.

George stated he has good news to report. 1. He gave a brief report on the PFAS situation on the Hartford DuWell Project. He stated that bids have been opened and 3 bids for the project have come in and were under the grant amount. Wightman has recommended one of these bids and the City of Hartford should award the bid later this month. He also reported that delivery time of the 4" steel pipe is down from 52 weeks to 26 weeks and may even come in 20 weeks. Might be able to finish part of this project this fall. 2. George also gave a brief report on the PFAS situation in South Haven stating that tests were performed on 2 wells and no PFAS was detected. There was 1 with an elevation of arsenic, tracking now. Linderman stated he accompanied MDARD to these sites and was very impressed on how everything was handled.

Differences to Temporary and STFU inspections were explained.

Health Promotions: Jennifer addressed the board on how the health department handles communication involving swine flu, various outbreaks, or other public health news. She stated anytime the state issues a press release or we have news that we want to share with the public, it is placed on our website. She commented that if someone has questions regarding anything on our website or needs confirmation to reach out. Jennifer stated the MI Department of Ag website has information on swine flu or the Avian flu and this information is also placed on our website. She stated there were turkey and chicken farms that had Avian flu and those farms have been disinfected or were depopulated. Discussed and reviewed.

Jennifer reported the Strategic Planning is ongoing and there should be something to report by the end of April. Also working on our Annual Report which should be available at our next meeting.

Jennifer informed the board that this an accreditation year. The state will be here sometime in October. She stated staff are busily compiling information to get ready. She explained that this was done every 3 years and was on hold during COVID. Jennifer informed the board there is a section where the board is involved and they will be contacted if and when needed.

Other Business: None

Public Comment: None

Motion by Hanson to break into close session to under MCL 15.268(h) to discuss a confidential written legal opinion that is subject to the attorney-client privilege, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jones. Roll call vote taken; Howie yes, Jones yes, Linderman yes, Leary yes, Vaughn yes, Hanson yes and Peat yes, motion carried.

Upon returning to open session. It was motion by Hanson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vaughn, move to take action consistent with the legal counsel's opinion letter. Roll call vote taken: Howie yes, Jones yes, Leary yes, Vaughn yes, Hanson yes and Peat yes, motion carried.

Motion by Hanson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vaughn to adjourn. All voting yes, motion carried. The next regular District Board of Health meeting is scheduled Wednesday, April 12th at 3pm at Van Buren ISD Conference Center at 490 So Paw Paw Street, Lawrence MI 49064

Randall Peat  
Debi H. Vaughn  
Wendy Linn  
Ally  
Maryl Honie  
Don Hancock  
Tina Spang  
Board of Health Members