

Van Buren/Cass District Board of Health

Minutes

11/09/2022

Meeting was called to order at 3 pm at the Community Center, 302 So Front Street, Dowagiac MI 49047 Roll call taken. Board members present in person were: Chairperson Dwight "Skip" Dyes, Don Hanson, Dr. Vincent Cabras, Roseann Marchetti and Robert Linderman in person and Vicki Vaughn via Google meet from Cassopolis.

Board Members Absent: Randall Peat

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

Corrections to October minutes. Actual expenditures are \$1,084,531.62. Difference of \$259,070.24. Difference due to: Office Supplies, Health Insurance premiums and employee portion, Telecommunications, Utilities, Rekey of Dowagiac Office, IRS Reconciliation Payment, Printing, Maintenance Supplies, Waste Removal and Payroll. George explained the IRS Payment. Cabras asked for clarification of the term Food Desert that was mentioned in the minutes and Danielle explained what it was. Motioned by Marchetti, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cabras to accept the minutes as amended. All voting yes, motion carried.

Cash Flow Report. PUBLIC HEALTH: COVID funding was reviewed with George stating we are not spending all that was allotted and some will need to be returned. Danielle explaining the state error that was discussed at the October meeting and the need for us to return some funding. This will be reflected in an amended budget that will be available at the December meeting. Discussed and reviewed.

Expenditures Report: Items highlighted were: Payroll figures were not available, estimated at \$360,000 for 2 payrolls. Equipment purchased for Dental were discussed and reviewed with George stating everything critically needed was purchased, holding some funding to purchase additional equipment later. George stated he is still waiting to hear about the ARPA funds from both counties. Hanson stated the Commissioners will bring this up for a vote on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday in December. Discussed and reviewed. Motion by Marchetti, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hanson to approve the expenditures as presented. All voting yes, motion carried.

Health Officer's Report: Each board member was given a copy of the proposed 2023 Employee Handbook. All revisions were in red and each revision was discussed and review. Danielle stated board approval is necessary so we can get out to the employees. Discussion took place on the cost of health insurance and if anything could be done. George stated he could get figures to board at the next board meeting. Danielle stated open enrollment is happening soon and need to get this out to the employees, can always bring information back to the board on the health insurance and make a change then if needed. Motion by Marchetti, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hanson to accept the 2023 Employee Handbook as presented. All voting yes, motion carried.

Danielle discussed composition of the board of health, reminding them of a possible turnover of County Commissioner members for the 2023 Board of Health. With those retiring and new ones joining wanted this board to be ready when selecting Chair and Vice-Chairperson. Would like to have someone familiar with Public Health into these roles. Danielle informed the board she would like to give a brief introduction of Public Health to any new members. She also mentioned the need to have the Chair or Vice-Chairperson's signature for any bank activity; sign checks, etc. Discussed and reviewed.

Nursing Activities Report for October for Van Buren. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE: There were 15 Animal bites, all non-rabid. There was 1 Suspected Arboviral Encephalitides, 4 Campylobacteriosis, 1 CP-CRE, 1 Cryptosporidiosis, 1 Haemophilis Influenzae, 1 Chronic Hepatitis C, 1 Histoplasmosis, 253 Confirmed Influenza Virus ILI, 3 Lyme Disease, 1 Aseptic Meningitis, 1 Shigellosis, 1 Invasive Streptococcus Pneumonia, 1 Yersiniosis and 320 COVID-19. IMMUNIZATIONS: Lawrence; 445 vaccines given (168 COVID vaccines and 277 others which 235 were Flu) to 434 individuals. CSHCS: 1 Nursing Plan of Care was given, 4 clients were assisted with enrollment, 6 clients were assisted with renewal. There were 5 annual assessments. 32 clients received Care Coordination of Services. 1 Diagnostic was issued. 388 Active clients. STD/HIV: There were 2 Court orders. There were 14 total clinic visits, 14 for tests and/or treatment. There were 10 STD/HIV partner notification interviews.



There were 3 Gonorrhea, 19 Chlamydia and 1 HIV/AIDS reported by private clinics. There was 1 Chlamydia reported by the Health Department. There were 11 HIV/AIDS for counseling/testing, 11 for posttest counseling and 0 Positive HIV partner notifications. Careware (Out of Care): 0. Presentations and Events: None.

Nursing Activities Report for September for Cass. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE: There were 5 Animal bites, all non-rabid. There were 52 for Confirmed Influenza Virus ILI, 1 Mumps, 1 Invasive Streptococcus Pneumonia and 158 COVID. IMMUNIZATIONS: Dowagiac; 194 vaccines given (83 COVID vaccine and 111 others which 89 were Flu) to 178 individuals. CSHCS: 3 Nursing Plans of Care were given, 2 clients were assisted with enrollment, 6 clients were assisted with renewal. There were 3 annual assessments. 12 clients received Care Coordination of Services. 0 Diagnostics were issued. 168 active clients. STD/HIV: There was 1 Court order, 10 total clinic visits, 10 for tests and/or treatment. There were 7 STD/HIV partner notification interviews. There were 6 Gonorrhea and 10 Chlamydia reported by private clinics. There was 1 Gonorrhea and 2 Chlamydia reported by the Health Department. There were 5 for HIV/AIDS counseling and testing and 5 for posttest counseling and 0 Positive HIV partner notifications. There were 0 for HIV/AIDS education. Careware (Out of Care): None. Presentations and Event: None.

Nursing/Medical Director's Report: Julie reported flu outreach clinics are completed. Still have plenty of flu and COVID Bivalent vaccine available.

Julie informed the board about a recent Infection Prevention Symposium that was recently held in Grand Rapids. She explained that the state wants public health nurses to be more involved with infection prevention in nursing homes and explained why. Dr. Wile expressed his concerns with this stating he believes will affect the dynamics of our current relationship with the Nursing Homes. Stating it may be perceived that we are regulating them. Discussed and reviewed.

Cabras asked about the increase of the flu in October. Julie stated the report shows an increase, but is for influenza like illness and explained where these numbers comes from. Dr. Wile stated flu vaccines are down and believes there is a hesitancy to the flu vaccine this year and explained why. Linderman asked how children were getting RSV and Dr. Wile reported children can get this from other family members, sports, daycare and can also be contributed to everyone getting back to doing normal routines/activities. Discussed and reviewed.

Julie informed the board that the STD/HIV staff are doing more outreach activities in the county jails and substance abuse programs. Vision and Hearing staff are busy in the schools. Julie reported that lately it seems we are getting more and more requests for immunization waivers, however ran a report and found we are only seeing a slight increase. Discussed and reviewed.

Cabras asked about the Monkeypox vaccine, inquiring how many vaccines have been given. Julie stated the request for the Monkeypox vaccine is low, had approximately 20 individuals seeking this vaccine. More vaccine is available to those that qualify.

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Wile reported that the health department staff are actively working with other healthcare providers throughout both counties, improving relationships. When asked if he reached out to the Amish community, he replied yes, have informed them of the various services the health department offers and encouraged them to reach out as needed. Discussed and reviewed.

Dr. Wile informed the board that the health department is working on the implementation of a wellness program. Dr. Wile stated that if everyone ate better, more fruits and vegetables, less process sugar and exercised more, at least 30 mins a day, there would be less chronic diseases; such as heart disease, stroke, diabetes. Small changes, have big rewards. Discussed and reviewed.

Dental Report: Danielle reported treatment services in Dowagiac are scheduled out until March 2023; Hygiene services out until August 2023. In Lawrence treatment services are scheduled out until April 2023; Hygiene services out until October 2023. Someone needing an extraction would take approximately 1 month before they can be seen. Still struggling with staff shortages and demand. Discussed and reviewed.

Environmental Health Report: Statistics were discussed and reviewed. George reporting a new Environmentalist, Ellen Carr, was hired. Ellen will be starting in the Food Service Department then will be moved to other programs as she gets acclimated.



George reported it has been at least 5 years, but there will be a beach monitoring class and staff will be attending. He also reported on the Vector Program stating it used to be called the Zika program but various health department have reached out to the state asking that the Zika Program be renamed to reflect what type of mosquitoes we have, like the EEE variant. The state agreed and the Zika Program was renamed to the Vector Program. George stated as a result, new traps would be needed.

George gave a brief update on the Hartford PFAS situation. Recently attended a Zoom meeting and reported the state has tentatively approved the license for the increase to the Type I water facility. He reported we have received the license from the railroad. Plan to go out for bids first week in December and have the bids open in January once we have the contractor picked. Still need to hold 1 more public meeting and remind those affected that this is their last chance to hook up to municipal water; if don't and something happens to their well hooking up becomes the homeowners responsibility. He informed the board that the grant for this project ends December 31, 2023. He informed the board there is a delay for the pipes needed for this project and the delay may take up to 51 weeks. As a result, received verbal approval to extend the grant 12 months. Discussed and reviewed.

George informed the board about an increase in Type II Non-Community well funding. George stated that we have 241 type II wells and have been under funded since 2000. Due to the state's clean water initiative additional funding became available. Discussed and reviewed.

George informed the board that he is working closely with Rich Conway and Danielle on the implementation of a succession plan on training another individual to help with Plan Reviews. Plan to have someone trained by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Danielle stated she is also working with staff on succession planning in other areas as well so we are better prepared when someone leaves.

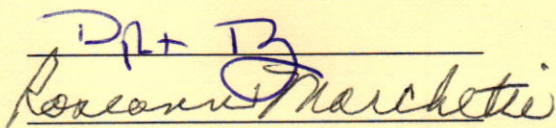
Other Business: Danielle informed the board that she has been invited to be on Bronson's Board and believes this is a step in the right direction. She stated it is not unusual that public health sit on a hospital's board and vice versa. Hopes to eventually invite them to sit on ours. Starts January 2023.

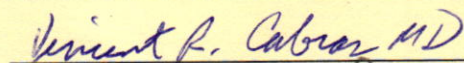
Linderman asked about Holly's involvement with other agencies and Special Needs and Danielle stated that Holly does a lot for Community Representation in each county, currently sitting on the board for the Girls on the Run. Jennifer stated she also sits on the Human Resource Collaborative Board; helping with STD/HIV staff in schools and a variety of other activities. Discussed and reviewed.

Jennifer reported that they are currently working on the 2nd quarterly report; getting in all grant material. She reported an extension from NACCHO was granted for the vaccine hesitancy grant. Expect this funding in January and to last through June 2023, another \$25,000 expected. We have entered into a contract with Southwest Michigan radio stations. This will allow us to purchase radio spots on Cozy to promote the department, shine a positive light on the agency to help us with recruiting for open positions, promote various department such as immunizations, COVID and get flu information out. Discussed and reviewed.

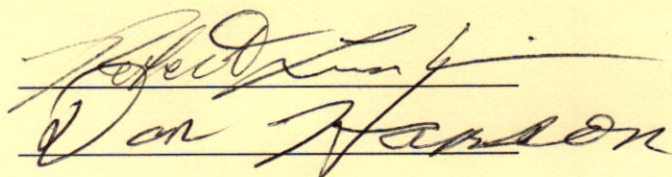
Public Comment: None

Motion by Marchetti, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Hanson to adjourn. All voting yes, motion carried. The next regular District Board of Health meeting is scheduled **Wednesday, December 14th at 3pm at the VBISD Conference Room at 490 So Paw Paw Street, Lawrence MI 49064**

  
Roseann Marchetti

  
Vincent F. Cabrer MD

  
Randall Post  
Board of Health Members

  
Don Hanson