

Van Buren/Cass District Board of Health
Minutes
6/14/2023

Chairperson Peat called meeting to order at 3 pm at Van Buren ISD Conference Center, 490 So Paw Paw Street, Lawrence MI 49064 Roll call taken. Board members present were: Jeremiah Jones, Mary Howie, Vicki Vaughn, Tina Leary and Robert Linderman.

Board Members Absence: Randall Peat, Don Hanson

Employees Present: Danielle Persky, Nancy Desai, George Friday, Julie Beeching, Dr. Larry Wile, Jennifer Zordan, Kelly Adkins and Tina Cox.

Others: Roger Boyer

Corrections to May minutes. Actual expenditures are \$568,764.03. Difference of \$31,977.45. Difference due to: Workers Compensation Insurance, Health Insurance, Telecommunications, Utilities and Payroll. Motioned by Howie, 2nd by Vaughn to accept the minutes as amended. All voting yes, motion carried.

Cash Flow Report. NURSING: State Immunization COVID 19 funding that was returned. Danielle explained why.

Expenditures Report: Items highlighted were: School Health Corporation for Titmus T3 Vision Machine calibration; ROE-COMM for 2-way radios and how they are used; Altamont Handpiece Repair for Dental; Merck Sharp & Dohme for restocking immunizations for private vaccine; mileage for employees explained. Motion by Vaughn, 2nd by Linderman to approve the expenditures as presented. All voting yes, motion carried.

Administrator/Health Officer's Report: Nancy Desai was introduced as the new Finance Director. Nancy gave a brief bio of herself and her education.

Danielle informed the board last week Van Buren County implemented an opioid committee which she chairs. They met to establish a schedule and will be working on a plan on how state opioid funds will be used. They will be meeting monthly.

Each board member was given an equity and inclusion statement. Danielle explained that United Way is requiring this in order for us to receive funding for the Eat Well Be Well grant. Board approval was necessary. Discussed and reviewed. Motion by Linderman, 2nd by Vaughn to accept the statement as written. All voting yes, motion carried.

Danielle informed the board that the state budget is still in limbo. A letter has been sent to the state encouraging them to finalize this budget. Will likely see an increase in essential services. Danielle stated even though both Van Buren and Cass are contributing more of their share to the 50% required by law than the state, we are still underfunded compared to where we should be. Will affect appropriations. She will keep the board informed. Discussed and reviewed.

Danielle asked the board to break into closed session at the end of this meeting to discuss a personnel issue and asked that Nancy and Tina attend.

Nursing Activities Report for May for Van Buren. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE: There were 9 Animal bites, all non-rabid. There was 1 Campylobacteriosis, 4 Chronic Hepatitis C, 243 Confirmed Influenza Virus ILI, 2 Lyme Disease, 3 Salmonellosis, 3 Invasive Streptococcus Pneumonia, 1 Streptococcus Pyogenes Group A and 27 COVID-19. IMMUNIZATIONS: Lawrence; 34 vaccines given (11 COVID vaccines and 23 others) to 21 individuals. CSHCS: 4 Nursing Plans of Care was given, 5 clients were assisted with enrollment, 7 clients were assisted with renewal. There were 13 annual assessments. 50 clients received Care Coordination of Services. 0 Diagnostics were issued. 395 Active clients. STD/HIV: There were 4 Court orders. There were 15 total clinic visits, 15 for tests and/or treatment. There were 11 STD/HIV partner notification interviews. There were 3 Gonorrhea, 21 Chlamydia and 1 Syphilis reported by private clinics. There was 1 Chlamydia reported by the Health Department. There were 12

HIV/AIDS for counseling/testing, 12 for posttest counseling and 0 Positive HIV partner notifications. There were 39 for group education. Presentations and Events: STD/HIV program educational presentation at Lawton High School.

Nursing Activities Report for May for Cass. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE: There were 17 Animal bites, all non-rabid. There was 1 Chronic Hepatitis C, 72 for Confirmed Influenza Virus ILI, 1 Lyme Disease, 1 Streptococcus Pyogenes Group A and 22 COVID. IMMUNIZATIONS: Dowagiac; 9 vaccines given (4 COVID vaccine and 5 others) to 9 individuals. CSHCS: 1 Nursing Plans of Care was given, 1 client was assisted with enrollment, 4 clients was assisted with renewal. There were 5 annual assessments. 14 clients received Care Coordination of Services. 1 Diagnostic was issued. 173 active clients. STD/HIV: There were 0 Court orders, 6 total clinic visits, 6 for tests and/or treatment. There were 8 STD/HIV partner notification interviews. There were 5 Gonorrhea and 17 Chlamydia reported by private clinics. 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. Presentations and Event: None.

Nursing Report: Statistics were discussed and reviewed with Julie stating staff have been busy with usual communicable disease investigations.

Julie gave kudos to the Environmental Health staff on the work they did on a recent possible foodborne illness case.

Julie informed the board that immunization staff will be taking a different approach with our area schools on increasing immunization rates. Plan to be in Mattawan August 8th to work with school nurses and staff. Will be scheduling Paw Paw, Hartford, Edwardsburg and Cassopolis schools soon.

Working with MSU Cooperative Extension on distributing Swine Flu information to exhibitors at area fairs. Need to get educational information out to those who need it. Also discussed with MSU Extension leaders with area fairs on the importance of having handwashing stations. Need to raise awareness of the importance of washing hands after touching animals.

Julie stated that June 27th is National HIV Testing Day; plan to hold special events and outreach in both counties.

Julie gave a brief report on rabies. Stating there are currently no positive rabies cases in either county. There have been multiple cases reported on the east side of the state involving skunks. She stated rabies is deadly and asked everyone to inform their families to not touch a wild animal. Shots are available but are very expensive. Human cases are rare. Exposures to wild animals should be reported to public health and the animal should be captured. The animal doesn't necessarily have to bite a human to be considered an exposure. Simply being in the same room or touching is considered an exposure in specific situations. If the animal is euthanized, need to make sure the brain was not damaged, it's the brain the state will test. Julie stated that recently quite a few animals have been sent to the state lab for testing, mostly bats one raccoon. She stated the animals must be kept cool in order for accurate testing and unfortunately the raccoon was not kept in a cool place before being sent, but wanted to try. However, the state said it was unable to test due to the condition of the raccoon. Julie stated animals have to be euthanized in a process that will not damage the brain for testing. We work with animal control, or staff on hand to get these animals processed as well as the Paw Paw Veterinary Clinic. Julie commended Dr. Baker and staff at Paw Paw Veterinary for euthanizing bats for us. They have never charged us a fee for this service. Their help has been a tremendous service to us. Discussed and reviewed.

Medical Director's Report: Dr. Wile stated public health is very much involved in harm reduction to individual health, population health and system policy change. We need to work directly and inadvertently to facilitate harm reduction and ensure health and safety to everyone. A list of the various programs public health is involved in for this purpose, or plans to work on, was distributed to the board for their review. Discussed and reviewed.

Each board member also received a handout from Washtenaw County Health Department's asking for support of ending the sale of flavored tobacco and vaping. Dr. Wile stated this is an example of the type of thing public health can be involved in. Discussed and reviewed.

Dental: Danielle stated both locations are extended out to November for dental treatment and June 2024 for Hygiene appointments.

Danielle gave a brief report on the Veteran dental service grant stating Van Buren has used the maximum allotment. Served 110 veterans and their spouses. She stated that the VA office in Cass County has informed us we have

exhausted our grant money but according to our records we have seen 22 veterans and \$10,800 was used from the \$22,000 contract. Asked if Cass County was aware of this, in which Jones stated he was. He explained the difference was transferred to another pot and explained why. Discussed and reviewed.

Danielle reported that Emily, Dental Outreach Coordinator, will be using our trailer for Project Nomad and will be holding dental cleaning clinics for the migrant community. Will be using the trailer in both counties. Discussed and reviewed.

Environmental Health Report: Statistics were discussed and reviewed with George informing the board this is a busy time of year. He reported on the following: beach monitoring has begun, did twice, nothing found; long term monitoring program is completed for year; campground inspections have less than 10 to complete; pool monitoring almost done; tick dragging done for the year, report has been sent in. 17 Black legged ticks were sent for testing however problem with the program is we will not get the report until March 2024; he explained why.

George reported there are 3 new subdivisions going up, however just received notice of another one. Also have 1 new campground going in Geneva Township. George highlighted that FOIA numbers are extraordinarily high due to Van Buren County Drain Commission doing work around Huzzy Lake and they requested all well and septic information on all parcels with lake frontage. Expect FOIA requests to be lower when this project is completed.

George informed the board that Decatur is under a boil water advisory. He explained that Decatur is one of two locations that have an untreated water supply in Van Buren County. They are not chlorinated. Therefore, an untreated water supply has to be flushed numerous times before they are cleared for use. Takes longer. Discussed and reviewed.

Vaughn asked how many Food Service employees there were. George state that we now have 4 employees that work in Food Service, 3 fulltime and 1 1/2-time employee. George stated there have been a few incidents in Cass County for festivals where we were told there would be numerous vendors there for testing and when staff showed up there were only a couple. Became a waste of time for staff, especially if on a weekend. Therefore, everyone was told we would no longer conduct testing until they applied for a STFU license. Discussed and reviewed.

Health Promotions: Jennifer introduced Kelly Adkins to the board. Kelly is our new Health Promotions Specialist and will be working primarily on the United Way Eat Well Be Well grant. She will be addressing nutrition and how everyone can access healthy food. Kelly informed the board about her background and experience. Will be working with local farmers, schools and community members on this endeavor. She also teaches yoga. Danielle stated that nutrition is a requirement for accreditation, something the health department has been lacking in years past.

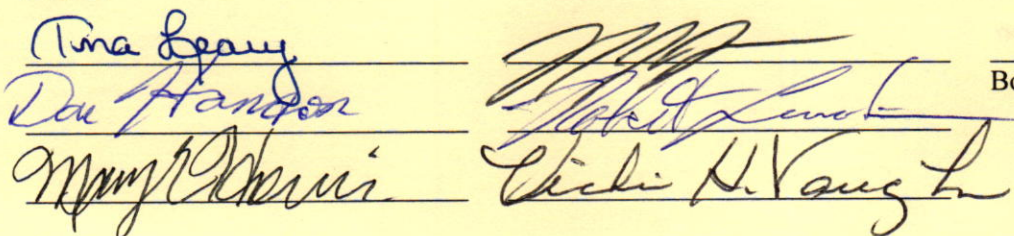
Jennifer informed the board that Kelly will be part of the strategic planning team. Will be working on all community-based programs to determine what we are doing and how they are funded, make the best use of our time so we can make the best use of our resources. She also discussed the end of the vaccine hesitancy grant from NACCHO. Ending radio campaigns this June/July. Need to work on ways to inform the public on everything we do. Discussed and reviewed.

Other Business: Motion by Linderman to break into closed session to discuss a personnel issue. 2nd by Vaughn. All voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by Linderman, 2nd by Vaughn to return to regular session. All voting yes, motion carried.

Public Comment: None

Motion by Jones, 2nd by Howie to adjourn. All voting yes, motion carried. The next regular District Board of Health meeting is scheduled Wednesday, July 12th at 3pm in the Community Center, 302 So Front Street, Dowagiac MI 49047.



Board of Health Members