

Van Buren/Cass District Board of Health

Minutes

8/9/2023

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: Randall Peat, Jeremiah Jones, Don Hanson, Tina Leary and Robert Linderman in person and Vicki Vaughn via google meet.

Board Members Absence: Mary Howie

Employees Present: Danielle Persky, George Friday, Larry Wile, Jennifer Zordan and Tina Cox in person and Holly Young remotely.

Others: Daniel DeWitt, Partner Warner Norcross & Judd, Russ Downing, Engineer and Roger Boyer Community Member

Corrections to July minutes. Actual expenditures are \$651,849.95. Difference of \$84,576.26. Difference due to: Annual Maintenance & Support for MIP software, Health Insurance Premiums and Employee's Portion, Telecommunications, Registration fee and passes to County Fair, Utilities, Media Campaign for Dirt on Weed, MAPLH Administrators Form, Policy Renewal to MMRMA Liability Insurance, Patagonia Health Software Services, Dental Equipment Purchase, Emergency Vaccine Coolers and Payroll. Explained why 2 new vaccine coolers were purchased. Motioned by Hanson, 2nd by Leary to accept the minutes as amended. All voting yes, motion carried.

Agenda was changed to give DeWitt and Downing an opportunity to update the board about the KLA Landfill Response Action Ground Water Restriction Ordinance. Each board received earlier as well as today a copy of the proposed changes to the Health Department's Environmental Health Code for their review. A power point presentation was presented to give a background on the situation. DeWitt explained this was originally presented to the Board of Health in 2018 and a motion approving a Government Ordinance was passed however due to COVID this was delayed and understands there is a new board now and wanted to give a presentation to bring everyone up to speed on the proposed ordinance to possibly enact a Groundwater Use Restricted Zone in Alma Township. DeWitt explained the historic impacts associated with the KL Avenue Landfill on West KL Ave in Oshtemo Township and the establishment of the KLA Group. He discussed what work has been accomplished to control the plume and the ongoing monitoring of wells or providing new wells or municipal water to those affected. He stated the plume is relatively stable however EGLE has lowered acceptable drinking water criteria, effectively expanding the affected area into Alma Township. He reviewed what is currently being done in Alma Township; installing new wells where needed, plug and abandoning old wells and resampling these wells annually. All at no cost to the property owner. DeWitt stated that Kalamazoo County established a Groundwater Restricted Zone which prohibits new groundwater wells with some exceptions. He explained that a Government Ordinance is preferred but a Restrictive Covenant is another approach. Pros/cons for each were reviewed. George stated he believed the appropriate approach would be the Board of Health approves that this be presented to each county Board of Commissioners for their approval then brought back to the Board of Health before this can be acted upon. Discussed and reviewed. DeWitt stated he is not asking for any decisions to be made today. Moving forward still plan to meet with Alma Township; send notices to property owners and hold public meetings. Peat asked George to look at the changes and to let this board know if there is anything he finds objectable and bring to the September meeting. He also asked about having legal review before the September meeting and that both the Van Buren and Cass County Commissioners need to review before anything is finalized. DeWitt stated that any costs associated with legal should be submitted to him for payment; he also asked if our legal could contact him with any questions/concerns.

Cash Flow Report was discussed and reviewed with Danielle reporting nothing out of the ordinary.

Expenditures Report: Items highlighted were: Benco Dental Supplies, Leadership Training, Manor Costerisan Audit final payment, School Health Corp for Audiometer machines. Danielle stated that a wrap up report to indicate what money was spent and what is left for any additional funding will be available at the September meeting. Linderman asked if anything is being done addressing the possibility of investing funds and was informed this is on hold until after the annual budget has been completed. Discussion took place on the rent payment for the Lawrence building. Danielle informed the board that she has met with ISD and waiting for their proposal on what our utility costs would

be. Apparently, the ISD has been paying the entire amount and it should be split with us. Working on getting our square footage to them so this is split fairly. Danielle further stated that she was never given any information involving the lease agreement for the Lawrence building and therefore has reached out to everyone involved; MI Health Foundation, Van Buren Community Health Properties, Van Buren County and the ISD to get clarification. She stated there are several agreements for this building and she has some serious concerns. Stating if we fail to pay the ownership goes to all 3 entities, doesn't include the health department; the lease agreement is for 30 years and it doesn't say what happens at the end of 30 years, among other concerns. Therefore, she plans to meet with the MI Health Foundation President and others as soon as possible. Discussed and reviewed. Will keep the board informed. No other discussion. Motion by Jones, 2nd by Linderman to approve the expenditures as presented for payment. All voting yes, motion carried.

Administrator/Health Officer's Report: Each board member received a copy of the August Monthly Report with Danielle informing the board this will be the new format going forward. The report highlights what is happening in each department. This report will be shared with the Board of Health first then forwarded to each county Board of Commissioners through each County Administrator who will distribute to them any elected official and/or department head they deemed necessary. Danielle informed the board the departmental reports that are currently provided to the board at the day of the meeting will now be sent to each board member at least 3-5 days prior to our monthly meetings. Discussed and reviewed.

Danielle informed the board that she supports the Van Buren County's Opioid Task Force to help decide how to utilize funds. She offered to help with Cass County's Task Force if needed. She works with County Administrator and Board of Commissioners to strategize what is being done and where to use the available funding. Peat stated that Van Buren County is looking into using these funds to purchase a body scanner that will be used at the county jail. Discussed and reviewed.

Nursing Activities Report for July for Van Buren. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE: There were 23 Animal bites, all non-rabid. There was 1 Campylobacteriosis, 2 Giardiasis, 2 Acute Hepatitis C, 1 Chronic Hepatitis C, 1 Histoplasmosis, 55 Confirmed Influenza Virus ILI, 10 Lyme Disease, 1 Salmonellosis, 1 Shigellosis, 1 Invasive Streptococcus Pneumonia, 1 Yersiniosis and 23 COVID-19. IMMUNIZATIONS: Lawrence; 19 vaccines given (3 COVID vaccines and 16 others) to 12 individuals. CSHCS: 0 Nursing Plans of Care was given, 4 clients were assisted with enrollment, 8 clients were assisted with renewal. There were 6 annual assessments. 29 clients received Care Coordination of Services. 1 Diagnostic was issued. 400 Active clients. STD/HIV: There were 0 Court orders. There were 12 total clinic visits, 12 for tests and/or treatment. There were 11 STD/HIV partner notification interviews. There were 4 Gonorrhea and 19 Chlamydia reported by private clinics. There was 1 Chlamydia reported by the Health Department. There were 6 HIV/AIDS for counseling/testing, 6 for posttest counseling and 0 Positive HIV partner notifications. There were 0 for group education. Presentations and Events: Distributed STD brochures and WearOne Campaign information at Van Buren County Fair.

Nursing Activities Report for July for Cass. COMMUNICABLE DISEASE: There were 5 Animal bites, all non-rabid. There were 2 Acute Hepatitis C, 1 Chronic Hepatitis C, 1 for Confirmed Influenza Virus ILI, 1 Lyme Disease, and 21 COVID. IMMUNIZATIONS: Dowagiac; 21 vaccines given to 13 individuals. CSHCS: 2 Nursing Plans of Care was given, 0 clients were assisted with enrollment, 1 client was assisted with renewal. There was 1 annual assessment. 18 clients received Care Coordination of Services. 1 Diagnostic was issued. 169 active clients. STD/HIV: There were 0 Court orders, 15 total clinic visits, 15 for tests and/or treatment. There were 6 STD/HIV partner notification interviews. There were 16 Chlamydia reported by private clinics. There were 8 for HIV/AIDS counseling and testing and 8 for posttest counseling and 0 Positive HIV partner notifications. There were 0 for HIV/AIDS education. Presentations and Event: none.

Highlights for Nursing and Medical Director report were listed in the new monthly report. Dr. Wile stating there is nothing new to add. Danielle highlighted the items listed under "Newsworthy" on the monthly report stating the 2022 Medical Examiner's Annual Report is now available. Highlights from Van Buren and Cass County were available in the board's packet.

Dental: Statistical information was listed in the new monthly report. Danielle highlighted the Dental Outreach program. She emphasized that beginning mid-September we will be down a dentist. Working diligently to find a replacement but stated dental clinic schedules could be impacted if one is not found in time.

Environmental Health Report: George reported the sewage overflow into Dewey Lake is handled by EGLE, the health department has no enforcement authority. Information to this affect was posted on our website and/or given to local media. Linderman asked if beach testing was still being done and was informed yes.

George informed the board that the best solution for the KLA Landfill is municipal water, however this is not a viable solution in the Almena area stating Kalamazoo County did not want to extend into Van Buren County, plus Almena Township was not interested. Also, Kalamazoo does not have enough water pressure to go into Van Buren County. George stated any new lots in that area will become our problem if they want to build; need to follow EPA standards. Linderman expressed his concern with getting a legal opinion and was reminded the cost for this would be picked up by Warner Norcross. George stated that the amended code could also be used to help with the PFAS situation in Hartford or the area in South Haven, however their best solution would be to hook up to municipal water. Discussed and reviewed.

Health Promotions: Jennifer informed the board that the Community Health Department now has 3 employees and they share responsibilities on how they reach the communities for fairs, community events and migrant programs. She reported staff are now documenting what it is they do in the community to have data available.

Jennifer stated the NAACHO Vaccine Hesitancy grant ended in July. Staff attended a recent conference in Denver in which they gave a national presentation on what the health department did for this grant She stated we were 1 out of 3 agencies that were showcased at this event. Jennifer informed the board on the availability of a new NAACHO grant for Vaccine Confidence. She explained it was originally for \$75,000 and another \$75,000 was added. We applied for this grant and was awarded the entire amount of \$150,000. It requires us to do more networking and to pick 2 vulnerable communities and we picked Covert in Van Buren County and Marcellus in Cass County. We will begin networking within these communities to increase our presence as well as help the residents feel more confident about coming to us to get vaccinated. Will be working with nursing/immunizations to see what we can do. Discussed and reviewed.

Public Comment: None

Other Business: Linderman informed the board he recently did a tour of the Lawrence facility and reported that the facility has been exceptionally taken care of, is very clean, doing a great job. Areas of concern in the past have been rectified. Need to look at the ceiling tiles above the vestibule area. Happy to see emergency/security doors working appropriately now. New door security boots and panic button have been added to a few doors to avoid entry if needed.

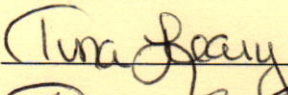
Linderman asked Dr. Wile about any new COVID variant and was informed he has not been informed of anything yet. Only thing he was aware of at this time was the leprosy in Florida. Discussed and reviewed.

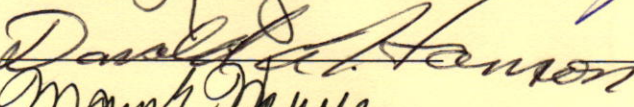
Dr. Wile stated the building does look beautiful however we still have a safety issue regarding the dental receptionist area. Stating both the nursing and dental staff are vulnerable and we still need to look at how this can be rectified.

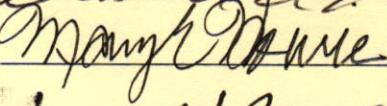
Danielle stated workforce development funds are being used to purchase new furniture. This has been approved by the state. Will bring information about this to the September meeting.

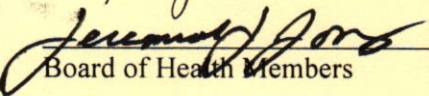
Linderman thanked the staff for helping out a fellow co-worker during his unexpected illness.

Motion by Jones, 2nd by Hanson to adjourn. All voting yes, motion carried. The next regular District Board of Health meeting is scheduled **Wednesday, September 13th at 3pm at Community Center, 302 So Front Street, Dowagiac MI 49047**









Board of Health Members

