

Van Buren/Cass District Board of Health

Minutes

10/11/2023

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

Employees Present: Danielle Persky, Nancy Desai, George Friday, Julie Beeching, Jennifer Zordan, and Tina Cox.

Danielle stated there was some confusion over how the minutes and expenditures are reported monthly. Therefore, reviewed the By-Laws noted that the Board needs to approve the minutes, not the expenditures. Expenditures need to be audited by the board since expenditures are already paid. Discussed and reviewed. Motioned by Jones, 2nd by Linderman to approve the minutes from the previous meeting as written. All voting yes, motion carried.

Revenue Report: Due to fiscal year end this report includes a column that indicates all the revenue taken in year to date. Discussed and reviewed.

Expenditures Report: Items highlighted were: Patagonia payment is a monthly cost and when paid up front receive 5% discount. Entered into a 5-year agreement. Julie explained Patagonia is what the agency uses for electronic medical records. Linderman questioned payment to City of Dowagiac for Electric, Water and Sewer. Nancy replied working with the city to see if this reflected the health department's use and not the other 2 tenants. Other items reviewed/explained: Lab services to Founé Well Drilling and payment to Glaxo Smith Kline Pharmaceutical Flu Vaccine preservative. Motion by Vaughn, 2nd by Linderman to except the revenue/expenditures report. All voting yes, motion carried.

Administrator/Health Officer's Report: Each board member received a copy of the October Monthly Narrative Report. Danielle highlighted her report and discussed in more detail the following: 1. The agency has completed the Michigan Public Health Accreditation Cycle 8. Are waiting for the final report. During the exit interview all mandatory requirements were met and positive remarks were received. She will share the report once received. 2. Received a grant of \$704,738 awarded from the CDC Infrastructure grant. She explained all health departments received the same amount. These funds are for a 4-year period and can be spent all at one time, or split equally. Looking at ways these funds can be spent. Will keep board informed. Peat suggested funding be used to retire some building debt. 3. Danielle stated Workforce Development funding that hasn't been used can be rolled over in 2024 instead of giving back. This is in addition to the \$110,000 we will receive again in 2024. Discussed and reviewed.

Each board member received a Board of Health Meeting Date and Time Survey. Danielle asked the board to review this document and to let her know if another date/time for the Board of Health meeting would work better. She explained that she has found that the timeline of providing departmental reports 1 week prior to a meeting is not feasible. Therefore, she asked all board members to consider picking one of the slots noted and she would go with the majority. After much discussion it was determine to keep the Board of Health meeting date the same. 1 week prior to a meeting, Board packets with reports that are available at the time will be emailed or mailed. Also looking at placing on our website. A hard copy will be available day of meeting.

Each board member received a packet with proposed 2024 employee benefits. It was decided to review each benefit offered individually and vote approval as needed. Still offering the 2 health plans; BCBS PPO w/HRA and BCN w/HSA. Nancy reported both the employer and employee costs have increased; offering 85/15 split or hardcap. Vision benefit to be paid by the employer at 80/20 split if board agreed. Motion by Linderman, 2nd by Jones to accept the Vision benefit as presented. All voting yes, motion carried. Life insurance had no changes, renew as is. Dental Insurance; looking at providing dental insurance for employees. Employees can have a choice; stay with current plan or go with Delta Dental. Need 75% of employees to sign up. If enough employees decide to go with Delta Dental will provide an amended budget. This is a benefit that can be looked at any time. Short Term Disability was reviewed with Nancy saying this could be a great benefit to help with recruiting and retaining employees. Stating both counties offer this benefit. This can also be looked at any time. It was suggested to look at what other health departments are doing; go ahead an offer during open enrollment to see how many employees actually want the dental and short-term disability. Bring back to the board the cost of what the employer/employee pays. Discussed and reviewed.

Danielle asked the board to break into a closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss a personnel issue.

Nursing Report: Julie reported the roll out of the COVID vaccine has been slow going; waiting for the vaccine. Some pharmacies have and some are waiting; a list of those that have the vaccine is available. She explained how the slow rollout affects those with private insurance and VFC (Vaccine for Children) programs. The MI Bridges program is for those underinsured or uninsured; there is some vaccine for this population. Logistics has been difficult. Julie stated they are required to provide each client with a copy of the package insert; can provide in a binder for them to view but if requested need to provide a hard copy which is over 50 pgs. Julie stated once we have received more COVID vaccine our website will be updated to include this information. Julie informed the board the health department will be offering Moderna COVID vaccine over Pfizer; easier to store/handle. An email will be sent to board members once stock has been received so appointments can be made.

Medical Director: Dr. Wile wanted to remind everyone that yesterday was Mental Health Awareness Day; plan to get a short video and educational material to staff and Handwashing Awareness Day is October 15th. He reminded everyone on the importance of handwashing.

Dental: Peat informed everyone that the county spent approximately \$53,000.00 on the Van Buren Dental Program; \$3,000 over the grant of \$50,000. He explained they wanted to make sure our veterans were able to finish any dental work that was started. It was determined that anything above the allotted grant funds would be taken from the millage. Jones stated Cass County is looking at what they can do in their county. Peat stated the Veterans in Van Buren County are very happy with the Dental grant. Danielle informed the board she has spoken to both county Veteran Services Director about her concerns regarding dental services especially since we are still experiencing a lack of dentists. She stated a shared document is now available for Cass County so they can see in real time, what money was expended. Looking at implementing in Van Buren County. Discussed and reviewed.

Environmental Health Report: George informed the board the next public meeting for the Hartford PFAS site is next Monday, at Van Buren ISD Conference Center. He stated the watermain on the north side of road has been installed, just over 50 individuals have requested hookup.

Lead situation in Dowagiac: George stated the city's drinking water found lead levels exceeding the state standards when conducting their normal testing for residential and found these testing sites were slightly above the normal amount allowed. It is believed the contamination was not with the city water but in pipes leading into the homes. The City is offering free water filters to those on city water and is also responsible for installing them. One dedicated health department employee is fielding calls; 1st couple days very busy, now slowed down. Discussed and reviewed.

Health Promotions: Jennifer stated she has been in contact with the State to discuss the Dowagiac situation. The state is taking the lead in educating the Dowagiac community. They will be doing a windshield campaign, communicate with city businesses and canvassing high traffic areas with literature on what to do. Information will also be available to someone requesting a blood lead test; the state has a blood lead testing committee that will lead this process. There are a small number of homes in Dowagiac that are over the required lead levels. A small number of filters will also be available at the Dowagiac office. Discussed and reviewed.

Campaign activities: Staff will be attending the Vet Stand Down event this Friday, putting packets together and will have information available on lead. Outreach staff remain busy; working on a grant with Julie's team of \$150,000 thru NAACHO. Also distributing Trick or Treating information.

Other Business: None

Public Comment: None

Motion by Jones, 2nd by Peat to break into closed session to discuss a personnel issue. Roll call vote taken: Leary yes, Vaughn yes, Hanson yes, Peat yes, Linderman yes, Jones yes and Howie yes. All voting yes, motion carried.

Return to regular meeting; Motion by Hanson, 2nd by Vaughn to amended Danielle's contract as proposed. All voting yes, motion carried.

Motion by Hanson, 2nd by Vaughn to adjourn. All voting yes, motion carried. The next regular District Board of Health meeting is scheduled Wednesday, November 8th at 3pm at the Community Center, 302 So Front Street, Dowagiac MI 49047 at 3 pm.

Tina Beany

Don Hanson

Mary Ann

Bill

Robert

Cliff Vaughn

Board of Health Members