

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

**Minutes**

**4/10/2024**

Vice-Chairperson Tina Leary called meeting to order at 3 pm at the VBISD Conference Center, 490 So Paw Paw Street, Lawrence MI 49064. Roll call taken. Board members present were: Don Hanson, Tina Leary, Mary Howie, Robert Linderman and Vicki Vaughn.

Board Members Absent: Randal Peat and Jeremiah Jones

Employees Present: Danielle Persky, Nancy Desai, Tina Cox and Kelly Adkins.

Others: Roger Boyer, Karen Tan and Mark Howie

March meeting minutes were reviewed. Linderman asked on the status of the 5-year graph that was requested by Don Hanson for Dental and Danielle stated the audit has been extended and there have been other priorities that have required both her and Nancy's time. This is on her priority list. Motioned by Hanson, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Howie to approve the March meeting minutes as written. All voting yes, motion carried. Nancy stated she will work on the 5-year plan however reminded the board that 5 years ago we had more locations so will not be a true comparison to what is going on now. Will provide at May's meeting. Linderman also questioned if Danielle had looked into Skip Dyes request during public comment at last month's meeting in which Danielle stated she doesn't have an answer yet and will get with Dave Mason at the ISD and will let Skip know. No further discussion of the minutes.

Finance Director's Report: Nancy informed the board that due to the audit report being extended March's Financial Report was unavailable, but did have a list of expenditures. Each board member received a copy of the expenditures. Items highlighted were: Expenditures higher this month due to 3 pay periods, also discussed the purchase of 2-way radios for the Safety Committee. Tina explained how they would be used. Motion by Linderman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Howie to except the expenditures report. All voting yes, motion carried.

Administrator/Health Officer's Report: Danielle reported that last week, Dr. Wile, Julie Beeching and herself met with Bronson Healthcare Group and gave a presentation on vaccine hesitancy and discussed communicable diseases within our communities. Danielle stated the presentation went well and would like to offer it to the board if interested. She will have Dr. Wile and Julie Beeching present this at the May board meeting, if time allows, to discuss this and how to improve vaccine confidence. Discussed and reviewed. Due to time constraints, Leary suggested this presentation be given at another time than at the May meeting.

Danielle informed the board that on Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 11 am, Jeff Mills, past ISD Superintendent, Dave Mason, current ISD Superintendent, and herself plan to meet to discuss the possibility renting/sharing the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor clinic at the Lawrence facility. Danielle explained that Jeff Mills is now working with SET-SEG (School Employer Trust, School Employers Group). They are a nonprofit to help support employee benefit solutions that are accessible and affordable. They work with Plum Health. Each board member received a pamphlet "Member Services Guide" from Plum Health. She explained they would provide medical services that could be used by staff and the public. They provide staff, we provide the space. This meeting is to discuss if this could even be a possibility, need to look at liability and logistics. Danielle extended the invite to board members to attend if interested. Discussed and reviewed.

Each board member received the staff report regarding Northwood Proposal for website design and development. This information was provided prior to this meeting to give the board plenty of time to review. Danielle explained why this was needed. Received 3 proposals and believe Northwoods proposal for website design and development was the proposal that was believed could revamp our public website and implement a new employee intranet. Kelly Adkins and Jennifer Zordan were in charge of reaching out to vendors and conduct interviews. Believes Northwoods has the experience that can lead us in the direction we need to go to improve our current website. Danielle stated they seem to understand our vision in terms of connecting with the community and create a website people can easily access. Kelly discussed the process; monitor our website, track issues, what works and what doesn't. The need to be ADA compliant was addressed as well as internet and WIFI access in rural areas. Discussed and reviewed. Danielle stated that a motion from the board was needed to move forward and accept the proposal for \$44,050 total. Funding would come from Workforce Development funds. Motion by Linderman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Vaughn to accept the proposal from Northwoods for \$44,050 as presented. All voting yes, motion carried.

Nursing/Medical Director Report: Dr. Wile stated we are hearing more about measles. Going to meetings, trying to stay on top of. Can be serious to newborns and pregnant women.

Dr. Wile reported Syphilis cases are being monitored. Communicable Diseases cases are declining and respiratory viruses should decrease now that everyone is outdoors more.

Dental Report: Danielle informed everyone that another dentist has been hired. Dr. Malsbary will begin Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Plans to work 1 day/week chairside until June when he will become the full time Dental Director and will continue to work chairside 3 days a week. Will be working at both offices. He will do quality control on charting procedures. Both Anna Delarosa, Dental Supervisor and Dr. Malsbary will be working as a team with Anna managing the office and clerical with Dr. Malsbary managing dentists and oversight of dental procedures. Dr. Malsbary will be an advocate for dental and will communicate with the board as needed. Dr. Malsbary also has contacts that he will reach out to for employment opportunities at the health department.

Each board member received a copy of a final appeal letter from Delta Dental. Danielle explained this is a random audit they conducted and originally stated we owed them \$80,000 for not having appropriate notes in the client files. Twice Dental reviewed the information they requested and documentation was sent. However, they now say we owe \$12,559. Payment is due within 30 days. We have now incorporated their recommended language. Dr. Malsbary will oversee this process once he becomes the Director. Linderman questioned the statement from Delta Dental which indicated there is an "estimate" refund due. Need to make sure that the \$12,559 is a final payment, not an estimate. Danielle will reach out to them.

Danielle reference the email she sent to board members on April 1<sup>st</sup> regarding the Dentrix Server crash. She stated that for 3 days patient data was lost. She explained what happened and stated no patient information was leaked, never left the server, though it could have been worse. The data was recovered but now the team has to manually input the lost data. As a result, she explained we needed to look at our vulnerabilities and look at ways to protect our private information. Reached out to the county IT Department and have a meeting scheduled with John Faul, County Administrator, and the county's IT Department to see how they can help us to make sure we are protected. Need to look at increasing our IT Team since Israel is the only IT employee with IT education on staff. We need to build sustainability. Discussed and reviewed. Linderman asked if Chuck Peak, IT Tech, could receive some type of education so he can be Israel's support and Danielle stated we can not pay for an IT degree but can send him to various conferences that become available.

Environmental Health Report: Available in the written report

Health Promotions: Available in the written report

Other Business: Danielle informed the board that while she was in Lansing, 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment auditor's were at the Lawrence facility. Since it seemed to be a scene when it was happening, we have since reassured our staff about what can be done if this should happen again. Can accept their presence in our public spaces as long as not disruptive. Not allowed to go into any area where patients are receiving services. She asked Tina to inform the board of her experience. Tina stated they came in and began filming/recording and did not introduce themselves. When asked what they were doing or if they could inform me who they were. Said "no", "I don't have to". Felt they were rude. After that interchange it became apparent who they were. These two individuals went upstairs and filmed staff and clients, making everyone uncomfortable. We had concerns about HIPAA but learned later that HIPAA is not a concern because no PHI was released. She stated staff were fearful because these individuals were not forth coming about their purpose. Staff felt like they were trying to intimidate them, trying to provoke them. However, because our policies indicate that whenever staff feel someone is acting suspicious or they feel threatened to contact the police, which dental did. Had these individuals told her who they were when first asked Tina stated she would have been glad to give them information and take them on a tour.

Linderman passed a news paper article from the Herald Palladium regarding the Berrien County Health Department's Strategic Plan. Very similar to ours. This was discussed and reviewed.

Hanson commented on the article from the Michigan Dental Association of Michigan's Revised Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Law. Asked how it was handled. Danielle explained Emily Flowers, Dental Outreach Supervisor, is in every school in Cass and Van Buren County and almost all schools in Berrien County. Emily does a true visual

assessment, no cleaning, so potential issues could be flagged/noted and parents are informed so they can seek a dental home. Paperwork is completed by Annie Burgett, RDA. It is preferred these assessments happen before entry into kindergarten however can be done during the kindergarten year. This was discussed and reviewed.

Public Comment: Karen Tan commented on vaccine hesitancy presentation that Danielle commented on earlier and ask why it was felt they needed to do this type of presentation. Is there hesitancy in the county? Danielle explained we were asked to give a presentation on vaccine uptake in our communities and what we were learning about the numbers decreasing and why that was happening. Danielle stated we are shifting the conversation from Hesitancy to vaccine confidence to reach those individuals that are unsure about vaccines to give them the confidence they need to make an informed decision. Karen asked where the data came from. Danielle stated data comes from Michigan's county immunization report card which takes information from MICR immunization registry. The vaccine confidence component comes from our team getting out to the community and doing assessments. Would be glad to share this data with her. This was discussed and reviewed. Karen asked if the data she was referring to were for children or for all populations and was informed all populations, however children is where the biggest decline is at. Karen referred to the resources she was aware of in which Danielle stated she was unaware of that data but would be happy to look at those resources. Leary asked the board if they were interested in putting the presentation on the agenda. Howie asked if part of the presentation could also include vaccine side effects and explained why. Danielle stated she would get with Julie and Dr. Wile to see when they would be available to give this presentation. Discussed and reviewed.

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, May 8th at 3pm in the Van Buren/Cass District Health Department's Community Center, 302 So Front Street, Dowagiac MI 49047

Randall Peat  
Don Hanson  
Mark Howe  
Tina Leary  
Robert [unclear]

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board of Health Members