

CITY-COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

Board Meeting

February 22, 2023 | 7:30am

PRESENT:

Tom Overn, Chair
Sarah Hansen
Cindy Schwehr

Chelsea Traverse, Health Officer/Secretary
Dick Gulmon, Vice Chair

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT:

Theresa Will, Administrator
Marcie Bata, EHP CVHD

Evonne Johnson, Office Manager

CALL TO ORDER:

The Health Board meeting was called to order at 7:30am by Dick Gulman, Vice Chair, in the CCHD conference room or by remote.

AGENDA:

Agenda was reviewed. Addition of bed bug concerns to New Business. Motion made by Chelsea Traverse to approve revised agenda, Seconded by Dick Gulmon. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

MINUTES:

Reviewed. Motion made by Cindy Schwehr to approve previous months minutes with correction of spelling of Patagonia, Seconded by Chelsea Traverse. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

No additions or comments.

VOUCHERED EXPENSES:

Reports are different as we are waiting for Eide Bailley to generate the new reports. Eide Bailley expenses are more as they have been working on additional reports and for preparing tax forms.

Expenses for Evonne's Notary renewal so that we have a staff member able to notarize documents.

Workforce Safety Insurance, still question as to whether we are a county department or our own and can the Association of Counties help us with anything if we are not getting paid through the county. Need a meeting with WSI and Association of Counties to clarify. Wolf thinks we can still have the county be our risk manager.

Univ. of WI tuition for Katie which is paid for via grant that she is doing work for. This is contracted work that she is doing on her own time.

Would rather see more supplies bought in town rather than Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, Amazon, etc.

Reviewed. Dick Gulman made a motion to approve the January/February vouchered expenses, seconded by Chelsea Traverse. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

Tom Overn joined meeting at 7:37 am.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Again, reports will look different in the future. You will see a revised budget in the interim budget next month. We had initially put in 5 mils because that is what we requested and that had to be adjusted to 4 mils. We adjusted for some of the grants that we have received since we did the initial budget. Will noted that \$369,559.42 is unencumbered funds with a cash reserve beginning balance of \$624,874.15 for a final cash reserve 2023 ending balance of \$254,869.42

Motion made by Cindy to approve the interim budget, seconded by Dick Gulmon. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

COVID-19 public health ongoing response

Emergency Insurance is ending, may be more people losing insurance. Medicaid and Medicaid Expansion numbers increased during Covid. Testing ended in our office at the end of January. Vaccinations have had 15-20 boosters a month and maybe only 1-2 initial vaccinations.

Cindy indicated that county is still showing in the red, so they have to continue to mask.

ODC residents have been going to clinic to test and not testing at their facility. Theresa will check into it as we had the state working with them to test within their facility.

Facilities update

Evonne is working on quotes for window coverings for the south windows to prevent glare.

Evonne has updated all the maps in the building for the thermostat controls.

SCHSC is looking at a remodel project in which we will pay for initially and they will pay us back.

Single Audit update

It was submitted and accepted at the clearing house on January 27th for 2020. Still need to get 2021 completed. Required to do when Federal revenue is over \$750,000.

Parking Lot Project

Waiting for updated board minutes and then will get everything signed. City is bidding their project in March. KLJ has already been paid to do the bidding for the project.

Generator Project

Contract was sent to Board members. Was approved federally, 90% Federal 3% state and 7% CCHD so our portion would be \$6,912 instead of \$15,000. Was based on 80kw generator. Need to see if we can downsize the generator to a 60kw and need to assure that it will not affect the grant funding. Motion made by Dick Gulman for Theresa Will to sign and return contract, seconded by Cindy Schwehr. Unanimous vote, motion carried.

Environmental Health Update – Marcie Bata:

Diegel property. Have not received a response to the letter. If no response, it could be turned over to the state's attorney again. See additional information regarding bud bugs under New Business.

Amachi update

On January 27th we received a letter and a new invoice that was increased. States attorney's reply letter to Amachi was read by Theresa Will, denying payment of the invoice. They did not cash check that we sent to them as it would have been an acceptance of payment of full.

Local Tobacco Ordinance

Flavor Free Ordinance that is currently in place is requesting to be reversed. Presented to commissioners, not certain how many commissioners are in support of keeping the ordinance. Would like to get School Board's support. Josh Johnson suggested we work through the Coordinated School Health Committee which works primarily with the wellness policies. We will look to get approval and support from the committee. Vaping is already a problem in the schools. In the last compliance check, 5 out of 9 failed. City Finance meeting on March 6th, Commissioner is wanting to put the ordinance on the agenda. Theresa will ask if they can delay it to wait to hear from the school board and further information is obtained.

Cando, Linton, St Johns's, and Valley City have the ordinance. Bismarck and Devils Lake are working on a no flavor ordinance as noted by Tobacco Free ND.

It is not taxed as a tobacco product. The tax revenue is a drop in the ocean compared to the health risks and increased related costs.

Administrator/Executive Officer evaluation

Theresa has Tom's written evaluation and link was sent to remaining board members. Katie is out of the office, so we do not have all the survey results. Table until next month.

Strategic Planning discussion; approve mission, vision, values

Was shared electronically last month.

Mission: To Protect and Improve the health of all people and places in Barnes County

Vision: Health and wellbeing for all

Values: Equity, Trust, Stewardship and Integrity

Motion by Chelsea Travers to approve Mission, Vision, and Values, seconded by Dick Gulman.

Unanimous vote, motion carried.

Legislative update

Several bills went through one side of the legislature (similar bills in both House and Senate) that do not allow us to require emergency use vaccination. Businesses such as John Deere would not be able to require it. Public Health is exempt as well as hospitals and other healthcare facilities. NDPERS wanting to take \$25 million from General Fund to keep it solvent. \$2.6 million in funds requested in increased State aide for Public Health. An area of concern related to substance use and many legislators opinion is that at some point it becomes personal responsibility. Crossover from House to Senate happens next week. Theresa will be in Bismarck in first week in March to provide testimony.

CCHD bylaws; approve changes reviewed at January board meeting

Changes to bylaws need to be looked at during 2 meetings, so now and March. Motion in February is needed. On Page 3, Section 1. D: change language to read REVIEW instead of enter into (Theresa Will has authority to enter into contracts). Under Section 1, under Committees Article IV minutes of the Executive Committee meetings shall be mailed or emailed to each board member. Page 8, Article VIII heading: add Executive Officer (was board approved to add Executive Officer to Theresa Will title to satisfy federal requirements) and under Section 1, add Executive Officer. Page 9 still under Article VIII, add letter G: enter into contracts, working agreements, or statements of agreements with other agencies and organizations that may be deemed necessary or useful to carry out the functions, plans and purposes of the health unit. Motion to approve second reading and review again at next meeting made by Dick Gulmon, seconded by Chelsea Traverse.

NEW BUSINESS:

Bed Bugs

Many problems off and on with residents of the Rudolph. Have done treatment but there are several units that are hoarded and treatment likely not reaching all areas. Some feel it is an Environmental Health issue. Bed bugs are a nuisance not necessarily a health concern. Per Marcie, Valley City does not, nor does the State of ND have housing codes. City of Fargo does have codes to be followed. Public Health provides an assist but are not in charge of non-compliance issues. Ombudsman from Aging Services has contacted Theresa previously and was working with Rudolph landlords. City is also concerned about it but it is not just bed bugs, includes issues such as mold, rats, etc. as well. It would be applied to Barnes County as a whole. Regarding mold, there is not a Federal, State or local standard on how much mold is a health concern. Tenant/Landlord agreements need to be reviewed regarding rights. City would need to have ordinances with housing standards in order to enforce. Dick asked if there is anything the Health Board can do to speak to the landlords. Theresa was wondering if would be useful for the board to meet with Marcie and Carl Martineck, the City Attorney. Carl had suggested that CCHD could adopt bed bug regulations and proceed with abatement if the owner does not take care of it, otherwise the tenant may have a civil suit against the landlord that is aware of the bed bug problem and fails to do anything about it. CCDH does not have the staff to regulate. CCHD would have to put up funds for abatement process. Not just affecting the rental property, it is being carried to other places that the tenant travels to. There is Century Code in which we can adopt public health and safety rules like we do with septic systems. If they do not comply, it is then sent to the state's attorney. Theresa's recommendation would be to check into things further and obtain more information. They have only been doing spraying but until the apartments are cleaned up and all belongings are moved for it to reach every area it is not going to solve the problem. Chelsea asked if there is anything public health can do related to the hoarding situation? Marcie indicated that hoarding is not just cleaning up, but mental health services needed. In Fargo they have Environmental Health involved when issues with common areas, yards, etc. but there is a financial aspect that they city would have to absorb. Environmental health works with compliance but does not provide enforcement. Theresa will see if she can set up a meeting for discussion with Carl.

Other

Cindy Schwehr exited meeting at 8:47am.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 9:05am.

Next monthly meeting: Wednesday, March 29th at 7:30am in the CCHD conference room.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Chelsea Traverse, Secretary