



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

January 25, 2019, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
555 Towner St., Room 2102B, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Present: James Carty, Neel Hajra (Phone), Peter Jacobson, Joanne Pohl, Kathleen Stroud, Elisabeth Vanderpool, Morghan Williams

Absent: Felicia Brabec, Richard Fleece, Leon Golson

Staff: Ellen Rabinowitz, Jimena Loveluck, Jane Nickert, Dayna Benoit, Russell O'Brien

1. Call to Order

James Carty called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Agenda (Action)

Motion by P. Jacobson, seconded by J. Pohl, to approve the agenda. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Approval of December 14, 2018 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion by J. Pohl, seconded by P. Jacobson, to approve the minutes of the December 14, 2018 meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

5. Consent Agenda (Action)

• Executive Committee Report (11/21/18)

Motion by J. Pohl, seconded by P. Jacobson, to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion approved unanimously.

6. Election of Board Officers (Action)

The Executive Committee recommended a slate of board officers that keeps current officers:

James Carty – Chair

Joanne Pohl – Vice Chair

Richard Fleece – Secretary

Motion by K. Stroud, seconded by P. Jacobson, to approve the recommendation from the Executive Committee.

Motion approved unanimously.

7. Plan of Organization (Action)

Jane Nickert presented the Plan of Organization and provided board members with a checklist. State accreditation, every 3 years, requires that we submit a Plan of Organization. It outlines the legal responsibilities of the Health Department. It has not changed significantly since the last edition. Enhancements have been made to the attachments that get sent to the state, highlighting the performance management/improvement work we do and the additional work we do as per the strategic plan. We need Board of Health (BOH) approval before presenting it to the Board of Commissioners (BOC) in February.

Peter Jacobson asked about the relationship between this and the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), national accreditation. Jane replied that there are a few crossover pieces but State Accreditation is all about



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operations: policies and procedures, Minimum Program Requirements (MPRs), Public Health Code, and what the comprehensive agreement says we must do. It is a contract compliance review. Jimena Loveluck added that there are discussions to align State and National Accreditation standards and review cycles going on in the Governor's Public Health Advisory Council.

Joanne Pohl asked about responses to audit findings and asked for an example. Jane replied that there was only 1 audit done, for the Women Infant Children (WIC) program, during the current accreditation cycle. No corrective action to report.

Motion by P. Jacobson, seconded by J. Pohl, to approve the Plan of Organization. Motion approved unanimously.

8. Strategic Plan Update

- **Progress to Date**

Jimena gave an update on the Strategic Plan and provided board members with a paper copy of the progress through quarter 4 of fiscal year 2018. The different strategic directions and strategies were discussed. All strategies are either in progress or have been completed at this point. The current Strategic Plan goes through the end of fiscal year 2019.

Questions and comments:

Peter Jacobson asked if the health department has started to assess the strategies that have been completed in terms of what has been achieved and how that would influence the development of the next strategic plan.

Jimena replied that Lily Guzman has started meetings with program directors and managers to review what has been accomplished and think about the coming year.

Elisabeth Vanderpool asked what exactly the "increase" means for some of the strategies and about the benchmarks used to establish the increase percentage/rate. Jimena replied that information is detailed in the complete Strategic Plan but not included on the progress sheet. James Carty and Joanne Pohl said they would like to have the detailed numbers included with the progress sheet. Elisabeth added that there should be incremental goals because this is a multi-year plan.

Jane will email a copy of the Strategic Plan with more detail to the Board of Health members.

Peter commented that we have talked about the tension between the mandated services and the reality that where we would like to go is much more cross cutting. Will the Strategic Plan be used to tease that out more and how it might affect negotiations with the State? Jimena replied that Public Health 3.0 has a big focus on cross sector partnerships, which we do a lot of already, but there's benefit to thinking about how those partnerships can be used to leverage resources and maximize our efficiency.

- **New Strategic Planning Process**

The current Strategic Plan runs through 2019 and a new process has begun. The health department reached out to Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI) for help with the new strategic planning process that will start in late winter. BOH members will have opportunities to be involved.



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9. WCHD Work on Gun Violence Prevention

Jane gave an update on current work in the Health Department, and what needs to be done concerning gun violence prevention. The Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) is currently the only program that does any assessment around weapons in the home. Jane and staff are considering having Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) staff use the same set of questions that MIHP uses. None of the clinical services or the WIC program currently ask about guns in the home.

Staff have concerns that they do not know what to do with a "yes" answer. They do not feel trained enough to be able to provide meaningful intervention. The Health Department would like to partner with the Sheriff's Office and get an educational tool to give better responses to families. The tool is currently being developed.

Kathleen Stroud would like this item on the agenda for the next meeting under something other than "Old Business." She said the time has come to take on this issue. She would like the resolution passed by the BOH in May 2018 brought back for discussion.

Peter suggested it would be helpful if staff could put together a briefing for BOH members including what data the department does have. Has the problem in the county increased, decreased, or remained stable and what do we know about the epidemiology side of it. Jim added it should include the data from the MIHP questions.

Morghan Williams said that in some populations safety is to have a gun and an act of civic engagement because it is a constitutional right. The National Rifle Association (NRA) is an organization some people count on as their voice. How do these things get put into the questions we ask clients? People do not answer truthfully because they are afraid of the consequences.

At the next BOH meeting, staff will share:

- the Gun Violence as a Public Health Issue Resolution, including the action items and data that relates to them.
- Compile the data from MIHP for the last 5 years.
- Community level data.
- Information from the Sheriff's Office and other law enforcement agencies
- Any input from recent Community Conversations

10. BOC Liaison Report – Ellen shared this info because Felicia was not at the meeting

● CMH Millage Update and CMH Budget

- Planning is continuing. Public Health staff had a conversation with CMH about prevention. We are putting together a proposal for a prevention and stigma campaign, and we will be meeting again with CMH on this in February.
- CMH is working with colleagues around the state to advocate for better reimbursement rates and more funding. A lawsuit concerning reimbursement rates has been filed against the State.

● County Racial Equity Office Update

Ellen is on the hiring team for the new racial equity officer. Over 60 applications were received. Five candidates with a wide range of experiences have been interviewed. There will be second interviews that will be open to the public. More to come.



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11. Old Business

- **Board of Health 2019 Meeting Dates (Action)**

2019 BOH proposed meeting dates: January 25, February 22, March 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, September 27, October 25, and December 13. No meetings in August or November. All meeting times are 9-11am and located in Room 2102B at 555 Towner, Public Health.

Morghan suggested a BOH retreat in 2019.

Motion by K. Stroud, seconded by P. Jacobson, to approve the 2019 BOH meeting dates.

Motion approved unanimously.

- **Impact of Federal Government Shutdown**

The Health Department has 4 programs that are federally funded. Building Healthy Communities, Getting to the Heart of the Matter, and the State Innovation Model (SIM) project are fully funded through the end of the fiscal year. The WIC program only has funding through the end of February. It would cost roughly \$570,000 to fund the WIC program from March 1 through the end of the fiscal year. Ellen has received assurances from county administration and the BOC, that the County will find a way to fund the WIC program.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits runs out of funding at the end of February. The State has started distributing February benefits early. In response, Food Gatherers is increasing their food distribution. At Wednesday's BOC meeting, \$80,000 in funding was granted to Food Gatherers to provide additional food during this time. The Health Department is working with Food Gatherers to host additional on-site food distributions during the month of February.

- **Huron Valley Women's Prison Scabies Outbreak**

Kathy Stroud had asked for information about the scabies outbreak at Huron Valley Women's Prison. Washtenaw County does not have jurisdiction over the prison. The Health Department does not follow up on communicable disease issues inside the corrections system. Health care is provided by a private contractor, Corizon Health Inc. An independent review was going to be done on how the rash investigation was handled but then the diagnosis was made. Jane said it is unusual it took so long to diagnose scabies. Felicia Brabec is in contact with Jeff Irwin about the issue so that he can follow up. A treatment protocol is now in place.

12. New Business

None

13. Adjournment

Motion by J. Pohl, seconded by P. Jacobson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:38 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien