



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

January 27, 2023, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Learning Resource Center LRC
4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
Superior Room

Present: Guadalupe Cervantes, Gina Dahlem, Chris Frank, Justin Hodge, Carla Pretto, Elisabeth Vanderpool, Morghan Williams Boydston, Dan Yordanich

Absent: James Carty, Katie Scott, Kathleen Stroud

Staff: Jimena Loveluck, Ruth Kraut, Russell O'Brien

Guests: Charles Peterson, Lindsey Thatcher, Paul Fleming, Whitney Peoples

1. Call to Order

Gina Dahlem called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

2. Welcome and Introductions

3. Public Comment

None

4. Board Member Response to Public Comment

None

5. Approval of Agenda (Action)

Motion by E. Vanderpool, seconded by C. Pretto, to approve the agenda.

Motion approved unanimously.

6. Approval of December 9, 2022, Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion by J. Hodge, seconded by G. Cervantes, to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2022 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

7. Approval of Board of Health 2023 Meeting Calendar (Action)

Motion by C. Pretto, seconded by M. Williams Boydston, to approve the Board of Health 2023 Meeting Calendar.

Motion approved unanimously.

8. Board of Health Officer and Appeals Subcommittee Election (Action)

Gina Dahlem – Chair

Elisabeth Vanderpool – 1st Vice Chair

Morghan Williams Boydston – 2nd Vice Chair

Appeals Subcommittee

Jim Carty – Chair

Morghan Williams Boydston

Dan Yordanich

Elisabeth Vanderpool - Alternate



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Motion by J. Hodge, seconded by C. Pretto, to approve the Board of Health Officers and Appeals Subcommittee as presented.

Motion approved unanimously.

9. Community Voices Report

Charles Peterson gave an update on Community Voices. At the January meeting they talked about advocating for more resources for youth mental health and social support. The team is planning neighborhood projects for later in the year and talked about the need for more funding. Neighborhoods include West Willow, Southside Ypsilanti, and MacArthur Area. Anti-Racist Cities and Counties (ARCC) team provided an update on the project working to address institutional racism. Community Voices members met with a University of Michigan student group to discuss collaboration on community projects.

10. ARCC for Justice Project Update and Discussion – Dr. Paul Fleming, Dr. Whitney Peoples, and Lindsey Thatcher from University of Michigan School of Public Health

Jimena Loveluck shared what has been done so far on this project and how it relates to the declaration of Racism as a Public Health Crisis. Dr. Paul Fleming, Dr. Whitney Peoples, and Lindsey Thatcher provided an update on the ARCC towards justice project. They discussed the key takeaways from the staff survey and focus groups. Most staff think the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) is moving towards more equity while hiring practices are a concern for the focus groups.

Board members split up into groups to discuss a couple question from the ARCC team. How does this data help you think about your role as a Board of Health (BOH) member in helping move the Health Department (HD) towards anti-racism? What specific areas do board members have influence or direct control over individually and as a board that could help support WCHD staff? Board members shared their answers.

Next steps include the co-creation of a Racial Justice Impact Assessment Tool by working with groups that include Community Voices and WCHD Staff. The goal of the tool is to help examine WCHD processes, programs, and policies for alignment with anti-racist principles. The co-creation of the tool will occur February-April and it will be used with existing programs after it is developed. The tool will be adaptable for different aspects of the organization. The dissemination of the tool will occur in the summer to staff, community leaders, and organizations.

11. BOC Liaison Report

Justin Hodge shared that the board leadership positions were elected at the first meeting of the year. At the second meeting, a first vote was done establishing an advisory council on reparations. Justin also discussed the recent implementation of new salary tables and job classifications developed after the Management Advisory Group (MAG) study. He would like to discuss a strategy to accelerate the full implementation of MAG.

12. Old Business

• Community Health Assessment

Jimena discussed the Community Health Assessment (CHA). Board members received an updated copy of the workplan. She gave a brief background on the project and shared the last one was completed in 2015. It is typically done every five years but it was delayed because of COVID19. The new assessment will not include a large community survey and will instead focus on using the data that is currently available to identify gaps where more information is needed. Part of the additional funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)



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will go to support an additional epidemiologist that will specifically focus on the CHA work. A subcommittee has been formed that includes BOH members and Community Voices members. A more comprehensive presentation will occur at a BOH meeting in the spring. The goal is to have the CHA completed this year that will then inform the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) where specific strategies to support priorities will be identified.

13. New Business

- **Public Health Infrastructure Funding**

Jimena shared that the State of Michigan received \$80 million from the CDC for Public Health infrastructure funding opportunity that was available to State and City health departments. It is required that at least 60% of the funding has to be allocated to local health departments and Washtenaw is waiting to find out what that amount will look like and the parameters will be. It is a five-year funding cycle. More will be shared as the WCHD finds out more details.

- **MALPH Legislative and Policy Priorities**

Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) has identified specific policy and legislative priorities that they will be working on this year. Board members received a printed copy of these materials. WCHD is in the process of identifying legislators that they will be meeting with to share the priorities. MALPH has a Day at the Capitol scheduled for early April where more individual meetings with legislators will happen.

- **Updated – [Michigan's Guide to Public Health for Local Governing Entities](#)**

Jimena let BOH members know that the resource listed in the link above has been updated and is a helpful resource. It includes information on the role of BOH members, Public Health Code, and the authority of Health Officers. It will temporarily be unavailable as the state makes some final corrections to the document, but Jimena will notify BOH members when it is available again.

14. Adjournment

Motion by J. Hodge, seconded by C. Pretto, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien