



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

February 22, 2019, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
555 Towner St., Room 2102B, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Present: Felicia Brabec, James Carty, Richard Fleece, Leon Golson, Neel Hajra (Phone), Peter Jacobson, Joanne Pohl, Kathleen Stroud
Absent: Elisabeth Vanderpool, Morghan Williams
Staff: Ellen Rabinowitz, Jimena Loveluck, Jessie Marshall, Jane Nickert, Elizabeth Adeleye, Danielle Lehavy, Russell O'Brien

1. Call to Order

James Carty called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Approval of Agenda (Action)

Ellen Rabinowitz asked to amend the agenda to include the 11/21/18 Executive Committee meeting minutes under Consent Agenda.

Motion by R. Fleece, seconded by J. Pohl, to approve the amended agenda. Motion approved unanimously.

4. Approval of January 25, 2019 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion by L. Golson, seconded by R. Fleece, to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2019 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

5. Consent Agenda (Action)

• Executive Committee Report (11/21/18 & 1/16/19)

Motion by J. Pohl, seconded by R. Fleece, to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion approved unanimously.

6. WCHD Work on Gun Violence Prevention/Follow-up to 1/25/19 Discussion

Ellen discussed the work done on gun violence prevention by the Health Department. She talked about the resolution passed by the Board of Health (BOH) in May 2018 identifying gun violence as a public health issue. The department looked at some of the data they have access to from emergency room visits, which is limited. Program data was also discussed. We have some programs, such as the Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP), Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS), and Women Infants and Children (WIC) that develop on-going relationships with clients in which they can more easily provide prevention education. MIHP is the program that does the most concerning gun safety. They did a 3-month study where they asked 40 clients if they had a gun in the home and only 1 answered yes. For the programs that do not have the same type of relationships with their clients, Jane Nickert is putting together a packet with general information and public health prevention information. Additional handouts were given to board members that discussed what the health department could be doing with more capacity.

The feedback from our community partners was discussed. The health department is working with Sycamore Meadows, the West Willow Neighborhood, southside of Ypsilanti, the Latino community, youth,



Washtenaw County Board of Health

and Whitmore Lake. Community members have shared safety concerns about gun violence and violence in general. The residents of Sycamore Meadows invited the sheriff's office and Community Mental Health (CMH) social workers to talk about violence and its impact on families. Because of the meeting, a support group for women was started.

Peter Jacobson asked if there is a sense of political support from the state or county commissioners. The State health department has not taken this on in a major way. The health department is engaged with the sheriff's office.

James Carty suggested considering a pitch to the commissioners to get a full-time employee (FTE) devoted to gun violence. Ellen said that with the hiring of the racial equity officer, there is the opportunity to advocate for additional staff and invest more in prevention.

Kathleen Stroud suggested updating the emergency department gun violence information sheet with local information. Ellen said that it would take more work than we currently have capacity for to work to gather other data sources. Kathleen would also like to invite the sheriff's office to a future BOH meeting to let the board know what they are doing about gun violence. Neel Hajra commented that we need to be careful how deep we go without additional resources. Ellen will revise with local information and report on conversations with the sheriff and schools.

7. Environmental Health Update – PFAS, Gelman

Kristen Schweighofer gave an update on environmental health issues.

There is a new PFAS site of contamination in Saline, 232 Monroe St. Three nondrinking wells were tested with results between 3-3000ppt. The site is close to the Saline River and some testing was done on the surface water. More samples will be collected in the next week or two. There are 6-8 homes near the property that are on residential wells. They will be contacted about testing on their wells. MDEQ is looking at a do-not-eat fish advisory for the Saline River but waiting on results from the fish. The municipal water supply was tested and came back non-detect. They do not get their drinking water from the Saline River.

The lawyers are continuing to meet about Gelman. Gelman is not in agreement on any of the asks and the negotiation process is in a bit of a standstill. A polluter pay law has been introduced in the State House of Representatives and Senate to hold polluters accountable and require cleanup.

Governor Whitmer reissued an executive order reorganizing The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) into the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (DEGLE). This consolidated a few areas, put an environmental justice spotlight into DEQ, and abolished 1 of 3 oversight committees.

8. BOC Liaison Report

• CMH Millage Update and CMH Budget

Felicia Brabec reported that CMH is working on a model of Access Plus, which would expand access to mental health services. They are looking at 2 satellite sites, in Chelsea and in Whitmore Lake, and talking about a mobile crisis unit to be able to reach people faster. Overall, the millage will do crisis stabilization, outreach, expanded



Washtenaw County Board of Health

mental health/substance abuse services, expanded integrated care, supportive housing, prevention, and expanded services in general. Ellen added that the CMH team has approached the Health Department about helping with prevention messaging and a proposal is being developed.

- **County Racial Equity Office Update**

There were 175 applications reviewed for the Racial Equity Officer. First interviews have been completed and they have narrowed it down to 3 people. Everyone is invited to a meet and greet on Monday February 25th at 5:00pm at the Learning Resource Center (LRC) where the candidates will do a presentation. Looking for a lot of public input.

- **Priority Setting Process**

Every year the Commissioners go through a priority setting process. The priorities they decided on are: The Master Plan, Compensation Study, Advancing Racial Equity, Employee Engagement Survey, CMH Budget, Broadband Throughout the County, Recreation Center East, Carbon Neutral, Public Transportation, Road Commission, and Public Health/Environmental Justice.

9. Old Business

- **Strategic Planning Survey**

Ellen reminded BOH members to complete the strategic plan survey. Ellen will resend the link to the survey.

- **Huron Valley Women's Prison Health and Safety Conditions**

There are significant health and safety concerns but the Health Department's role is very limited because the prison is run by the State Dept. of Corrections. Felicia said that she has spoken with Representative Irwin who plans on speaking to the Department of Corrections.

Kathleen Stroud shared a letter written by Carol Jacobsen, University of Michigan that describes health and safety concerns. She said these issues are due to overcrowding. Richard Fleece said there are pros and cons to local public health getting involved. Ellen will connect with our State Representatives as well as people at the State Health Department. James Carty asked Felicia if she can see if the BOC has an opinion on the BOH getting involved.

10. New Business

- The Health Department has been rescheduled to go to the BOC Working Session on April 18th at 6:30pm.
- Peter Jacobson distributed 2 documents to board members. The National Academies of Sciences Engineering and Medicine report in brief: Making Eye Health a Population Health Imperative - Vision for Tomorrow and the Recommendations. Public health can make a big difference on eye and vision health, particularly in kids. He pointed to recommendations 6, 7, and 9 as potential action items for the BOH. He is happy to take the lead if the board thinks this is something they should do. Should it be reframed as sensory deprivation and combine vision and hearing? Ellen suggested a spotlight from the Hearing and Vision Program at the March meeting as a possible next step. Peter said he would be interested in collaborating with Paul Lee, Director for Kellogg Eye Center. He will invite him to the March meeting to discuss what a collaboration might look like.



Washtenaw County Board of Health

- Felicia gave an update on warming shelters. There has been a 23% increase in utilization from last year with 403 people making use of the shelters as of February 20th. The average nightly use is 80 with the highest night seeing 114 people. Additional sites have been added. There have been 6 Naloxone saves so far this year.

11. Adjournment

Motion by R. Fleece, seconded by J. Pohl, to adjourn the meeting. Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien

