



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

February 24, 2023, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Learning Resource Center LRC
4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
Superior Room

Present: Guadalupe Cervantes, Chris Frank, Justin Hodge, Carla Pretto, Katie Scott, Dan Yordanich
Absent: James Carty, Gina Dahlem, Kathleen Stroud, Elisabeth Vanderpool, Morghan Williams Boydston
Staff: Jimena Loveluck, Ruth Kraut, Jeremy Lapedis, Peter Slutzker, Russell O'Brien
Guests: Charles Peterson

1. Call to Order

Justin Hodge called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Board Member Response to Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Agenda (Action)

*Motion by K. Scott, seconded by C. Pretto, to approve the agenda.
Motion approved unanimously.*

5. Approval of January 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Action)

*Motion by C. Pretto, seconded by D. Yordanich, to approve the minutes of the January 27, 2023 meeting.
Motion approved unanimously.*

6. Community Voices Report

Charles Peterson gave an update on Community Voices (CV). He shared that 5 members recently attended the kick off meeting of the Racial Justice Impact Assessment working group as part of the Anti-Racist Cities and Counties (ARCC) project. There are a lot of grass roots organizations throughout the county that CV are partnering with for weekly and monthly programs. They are attempting to streamline resources and help county-wide. Lupe Cervantes mentioned connecting with Charles about youth related grants.

7. Washtenaw Health Plan (WHP) – Jeremy Lapedis

Jeremy Lapedis gave an overview of the Washtenaw Health Plan (WHP), discussed the finances, and talked about Medicaid renewals. He started with how a typical WHP client story would play out. They go to receive services and might not be able to access them, so WHP helps fix insurance issues and educates on how to use the insurance. One of their main functions is to diagnose and address problems. WHP has a positive impact on their clients by helping their families become more stable and to create a life for themselves in Washtenaw County (WC). Jeremy shared some stats on the substantial unmet healthcare access needs in WC as well as stats on the number of clients provided services. WHP estimates that their insurance enrollment brings \$10.5 million to the healthcare providers in Washtenaw County. Jeremy shared the name change coming to WHP. They will become Washtenaw Health Project working on health for all of Washtenaw community.



Washtenaw County Board of Health

The WHP FY2023 projections were discussed. WHP has been spending down its fund reserve per an agreement with the core partners and Washtenaw County recently increased funding for 2 years. They are hoping this is sustained beyond 2 years and that Michigan Medicine and Trinity Health will follow this lead. Board members discussed who the correct contacts are at the two big health systems for additional follow-up.

Jeremy talked about Medicaid renewals that are starting for the first time since 2020. Many people will be at risk of losing insurance when the restart of renewals begins. Medicaid enrollment in Washtenaw County has grown 30% since March of 2020 and WHP expects to see a large increase in residents who need to renew or move to marketplace coverage. Jeremy went over the timeline for Medicaid renewal which takes place March 2023-May 2024. The first date anyone could lose insurance is July 1st. WHP is working on developing a communications plan across county departments to give key advice to all county residents.

8. Legislative and Michigan FY2024 Proposed Budget Updates – Jimena Loveluck, Health Officer

Jimena Loveluck gave an overview of the governor’s recommended budget for FY2024. She discussed the level of funding from MDHHS for Essential Local Public Health Services (ELPHS) since 2012. The proposal for 2024 includes a \$30 million increase in base funding to local health departments. Other key elements for public health preparedness and response include \$100 million to ensure the quality and safety of drinking water and \$22.5 million for environmental public health response to monitor, respond, and investigate drinking water contamination.

Concerning health access and equity, the proposed budget includes:

- \$120.7 million to increase reimbursement rates for Medicaid.
- \$4 million to expand Children’s Special Health Care Services eligibility to the age of 26.
- \$5 million to add a recuperative care benefit for Medicaid beneficiaries experiencing homelessness.
- \$18.5 million to create a neighborhood health grant program to support community-based health clinics in areas of high social vulnerability.
- \$62.1 million to fund Healthy Moms, Health Babies.
- \$6.2 million to fund the Medicaid Plan First! program, expanding access to family planning services and cancer screenings.

For public safety and community violence intervention, the proposed budget includes \$10.8 million to support the creation of the Office of Community Violence Intervention Services. The new office will partner with community-based organizations already working to reduce violent incidents.

9. BOC Liaison Report

Justin Hodge shared that there was a final reading on creating an advisory council on reparations. Next steps include appointments to the council and approval of bylaws.

Katie Scott shared that the Board of Commissioners (BOC) is working on defining their priorities.

10. Old Business

• Update on Gun Violence Resolution

Jimena Loveluck let board members know that she has received feedback from the Community Violence Intervention Team regarding a Board of Health resolution and will plan to provide a draft for consideration at



Washtenaw County Board of Health

the March meeting. Dr. Juan Marquez has been working on gathering data related to gun violence in Washtenaw County and he will be presenting at the March BOH meeting.

11. New Business

- **Resolution in Support of MALPH Legislative and Funding Priorities (Action)**

The draft resolution was shared with board members. At the January BOH meeting, legislative policy and funding priorities of the Michigan Association of Local Public Health (MALPH) were shared. It was suggested that the BOH do a resolution in hopes that it would serve as a model for other counties that might also pass resolutions. The resolution is not specific to Washtenaw County, but it would be a great benefit to see these priorities come to fruition for WC and public health in Michigan in general.

Motion by K. Scott, seconded by G. Cervantes, to approve the Resolution in Support of MALPH Legislative and Funding Priorities.

Motion approved unanimously.

- **CDC Public Health Associate Program**

Jimena Loveluck shared information on the CDC Health Associate Program. They are individuals that are college graduates and are interested in public health careers. They get placed at local health departments and are paid for by the CDC. The two current CDC associates' assignments are coming to an end in September, so the WCHD reapplied for two more associates for the next 2 years. The plan is for one to work with the Community Health Assessment/Community Health Improvement Plan and the other to work with emergency preparedness/environmental emerging issues.

- **Opioid Awareness Campaign**

Jimena Loveluck gave an update on the Opioid Awareness Campaign. This was developed back in 2018/2019 and launched right as COVID-19 was starting. The HD received funding to do a next phase from the Community Mental Health Partnership of Southeast Michigan. More to come.

12. Adjournment

Motion by G. Cervantes, seconded by C. Pretto, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:51 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien