



# Washtenaw County Board of Health

---

## Minutes

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

**Present:** Felicia Brabec, James Carty, Richard Fleece (Phone), Leon Golson, Neel Hajra, Peter Jacobson, Joanne Pohl, Morghan Williams (Phone)

**Absent:** Kathleen Stroud, Elisabeth Vanderpool

**Staff:** Ellen Rabinowitz, Jimena Loveluck, Jessie Marshall, Jane Nickert, Elizabeth Adeleye, Russell O'Brien

### 1. Call to Order

James Carty called the meeting to order at 9:06 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 February 22, 2019 Meeting Minutes (Action)

*Motion by J. Pohl, seconded by P. Jacobson, to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2019 meeting. Motion approved unanimously.*

### 5. Consent Agenda (Action)

- **Executive Committee Report (02/20/19)**

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

### 6. Eye & Vision Health/Hearing & Vision Program Update

- **Paul Lee (Phone)**

Peter Jacobson introduced Dr. Paul Lee, a physician at Kellogg Eye Center, to discuss eye and vision health as a population health issue. Paul said vision is fundamental to everything going forward for both children and adults. They recently finished a Kellogg Foundation grant to work with the State and private groups to try to understand the impact of vision on children, what the State screening program had done, and what can be done to increase follow-up rates. There is no statewide database to track follow-up rates currently and hopefully the State will address this in the next few years. The big issue is the follow-up after the screening. They have found that a reminder significantly increases the rate of follow-up and resources need to be identified for people to be seen. There is a pilot program going on in Ypsilanti Community High School where students that fail the screening test can be examined and prescribed glasses. This is being expanded to the Flint area using a mobile van technique. Paul sees a lot of opportunity on the children's side to get colleagues together to provide more resources for follow-up exams. He thinks we can get people to volunteer a certain number of exams for people without insurance and then partner with Kiwanis, so the glasses are paid for.

Peter mentioned the use of technology. Paul said that there are numerous apps available to download to check vision and studies say that they work relatively well for screening purposes. This broadens the opportunities to reach people that may have cost or transportation issues.





## Washtenaw County Board of Health

---

- **Jane Nickert – Hearing & Vision Program**

Jane Nickert gave a brief overview of the Hearing and Vision Program. The health department is required to conduct periodic hearing and vision testing and screening without charge for children residing in the county. Most of the screenings are done in schools. Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) has 4 hearing and vision technicians that performed 44,008 screenings in 2018 that resulted in 2,928 referrals. The percentage of vision follow-up for Lincoln and Whitmore Lake was 21% and Ypsilanti was 20%.

Peter Jacobson asked if the data is stable over time and if WCHD has partners in the community such as ophthalmologists/optometrists or other organizations. Jane said that the rates tend to be stable and we use our link with Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) to get clients into a medical professional for a hearing or muscle problem. We also have lists of optometrists that people can go to and they send us the follow-up information.

Next Steps: Sit down with Paul, Peter, Jane, and Ellen for further discussion about potential collaboration.

### 7. BOC Liaison Report

- **CMH Budget Update**

Felicia Brabec said that the CMH 2019 budget remains at a \$10 million deficit. The PIHP has sued the State. The State is not providing enough money to do all the work required. The CMH strategic work group is meeting later today to discuss different options for the projected deficit.

Neel Hajra asked if there is a general fund implication because of the budget deficit. Felicia said the short answer is yes. The county is waiting to see the results of the lawsuit and looking at all options.

- **CMH Millage Update**

CARES, formerly Access Plus, is continuing to roll out. CMH also received a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant of \$7 million. The millage work and grant work align.

Ellen mentioned that CMH reached out to WCHD about a prevention campaign. We shared a proposal and the agreement is being worked out between the two departments. The goal is to start an anti-stigma education campaign in May or June.

- **County Racial Equity Office Update**

Administration is in talks with one of the Racial Equity Officer candidates, but it is not public yet.

- **CAP**

The Board of Commissioners (BOC) had a working session regarding the Cost Allocation Plan (CAP) last night. Ellen reminded everyone what the WCHD's issues with the CAP are. The cost of supplying central services has increased over time, but the county revenue allocation to the health department has not increased. In 1992 the health department received \$2.99 million and CAP costs were \$700,000. In 2019 the department received \$2.99 million and CAP costs are \$1.7 million. The health department is not getting a level of services that is adequate to meet our needs. We had to hire a new IT employee to oversee the work done on the new electronic medical record software and Environmental Health software because County IT did not have the capacity to assist. The health department is also responsible for paying the salary and fringe increases negotiated by the County. Commissioners are looking at these issues and we are advocating for a more equitable way to do this.





# Washtenaw County Board of Health

---

## 8. Old Business

- **Strategic Planning Update**

Ellen thanked all board members that completed the strategic plan survey. The information is being looked at with the facilitators. The leadership team has had 2 sessions so far and a third is coming up in April. They will affirm the strategic directions and put an action plan together. The April BOH meeting will be devoted to sharing work to date and getting feedback from board members.

## 9. New Business

- **Succession Planning**

Ellen announced that she will be retiring at the end of August. She is recommending separation of the Health Officer position and the WHP Executive Director. The BOH will get to weigh in and provide feedback to the County Administrator on what skills and experience they want to recommend. The County Administrator must recommend someone to the State Health Department to approve the hiring and the BOC must approve as well.

Copies of the county job description and the requirements from the Public Health Code were given to board members. James Carty asked if it would be productive to have BOH members on the hiring team. Ellen said yes, she thinks it would be productive. Joanne Pohl said meeting with the BOH could be part of the process for the finalists.

*Motion by P. Jacobson, seconded by N. Hajra, to meet in executive session to discuss the BOH's position on the hiring of the Health Officer. Motion approved unanimously.*

*Motion by N. Hajra, seconded by P. Jacobson, to end the executive session. Motion approved unanimously.*

James Carty said the board members voted and agreed that this should be an open hiring process. Peter and Leon were appointed as BOH representatives to be included in the hiring process. Neel added that board members want internal candidates to feel respected and encouraged to apply.

- **BOC Working Session – 04/18/19**

Board members are invited to attend Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm. Ellen will be presenting on successes & challenges, current & emerging issues, and budget challenges & trends.

- **New Chief Medical Executive**

Dr. Joneigh Khaldun was recently announced as the new Chief Medical Executive and Chief Deputy Director for Health at MDHHS. She is the former health officer for the City of Detroit.

## 10. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien