



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

June 25, 2021, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
555 Towner St., Room 2102B, Ypsilanti, MI 48198
Zoom Meeting

Present: Morghan Boydston, James Carty, Leon Golson, Neel Hajra, Justin Hodge, Carrie Rheingans, Katie Scott, Kathleen Stroud
Absent: Gina Dahlem, Elisabeth Vanderpool
Staff: Jimena Loveluck, Jennifer Brassow, Russell O'Brien
Guests: Marta Larson, Maria Militzer, Irving Pena, Meghan Gunnerson, Ana Trinidad, Bethany Goehmann, Marley

1. Call to Order

Justin Hodge called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

Roll-call check-in.

2. Public Comment

Marta Larson encouraged the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) to have health services provided to the underserved communities within the county.

Irving Pena spoke about blocking off roads in downtown Ann Arbor to be more pedestrian friendly.

Maria Militzer talked about the Health Department (HD) not having the proper capabilities set up for Spanish speakers to participate in the Board of Health (BOH) meeting fully.

Meghan Gunnerson talked about schools returning to in person learning. She asked when the WCHD would release its policy so that the school districts can release theirs.

Ana Trinidad (comment in Spanish, translated by Jimena Loveluck) discussed having accessible information in appropriate languages and the importance of having bilingual mental health services available.

Bethany Goehmann discussed the conflicting messages within Washtenaw County school districts. Dexter, Chelsea, and Saline all have different mask rules.

Marley commented on the mask situation and asked for some guidance on best practices for a mental health setting.

3. Board Member Response to Public Comment

Carrie Rheingans thanked members of the public for attending and making public comment. She also apologized to Maria Militzer for asking her to translate directions for public comment.

Katie Scott responded that she appreciates the desire to know what the schools are doing, the desire to have guidance from the HD, and she is a little concerned about schools dropping mask requirements.



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James Carty said the BOH needs to do better in the future to engage with non-English speaking residents and to be as accessible as possible. He also said he is concerned with schools dropping mask requirements, especially with the Delta variant.

Neel Hajra said the BOH is committed to creating more public engagement and community commentary.

Justin Hodge echoed the concerns about the BOH meetings not being as accessible as they could be.

Jimena Loveluck thanked everyone for their comments, apologized that we were not prepared for public members joining whose first language is not English, and said the HD will do better. The HD provides guidance to the schools, but it is up to the schools to put in their practices and procedures.

4. Approval of Agenda (Action)

Motion by K. Scott, seconded by C. Rheingans, to approve the agenda with corrections to dates for the Meeting Minutes and Executive Committee Report.

Motion approved unanimously with a roll-call vote.

5. Approval of May 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion by N. Hajra, seconded by M. Boydston, to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2021 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously with a roll-call vote.

6. Executive Committee Report from May 20, 2021

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes.

No discussion about the report.

7. Community Voices and Health for All Report

Maria Militzer continued the conversation about increasing the active participation from community stakeholders in the decision-making processes that impact health outcomes of vulnerable populations. Community Voices' (CV) end goal for an active partnership would include participating in the planning, implementation, and evaluation of health promotion activities. Maria asked for a follow-up on the proposed idea of including community stakeholders in the BOH.

Marta Larson discussed data on the Washtenaw County Opportunity Index. She identified the location of members of the Community Voices Team and talked about their work learning about each community, comparing issues, and strategies. Marta shared slides from the Opportunity Index comparing the general vs health opportunity index and COVID case numbers for essential workers. CV would like to be able to compare outreach event participation data to community demographic data, compare outreach event participation data to the Health Department's (HD) on-site service data, and compare their individual community efforts to the population in the community. The data will be used for identifying strengths/weaknesses in what is already occurring, verifying that the needs assessments represent the population, and identifying potential areas for improvement.

Morghan Williams Boydston said she really likes the idea of taking community representation data at community events and comparing it to data collected across the county.



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Katie Scott said there is a real issue with shift workers and people without technology being able to attend a meeting on Friday mornings. She proposed moving BOH meetings out into the community and selecting varied times throughout the year to get more community participation.

Justin Hodge said when the BOH meeting is back in person, the time and location could be changed after discussing it further. The bylaws would have to be changed before a new position could be added to the BOH. That is being investigated along with a couple other possible changes.

8. WCHD FY2022 Budget – Jennifer Brassow

Jennifer Brassow presented the fiscal year 2022 (FY2022) draft budget. Board members received the presentation through email. The presentation consisted of a fund balance review/details, items for consideration, view by function, view by expenditures, view by revenues, gross vs net budget, additional personnel services, and next steps.

- Edit Draft Budget
- Present Final Draft Budget to BOH – July 23, 2021
- Prepare Cover Memo/Resolution for Board of Commissioners (BOC) – August 13, 2021
- Ways & Means – September 1, 2021
- BOC – September 15, 2021

Questions and Comments:

Katie Scott thanked Jennifer for the thorough presentation and said she hopes a similar presentation with a fund balance discussion comes to the BOC.

Kathleen Stroud asked how the HD is planning to use the \$300,000 special allocation for Family Planning. Jennifer replied that the HD did not use the money and dropped it into fund balance because the HD did not operationalize Family Planning. All clinical staff were providing COVID support. There are conversations happening with the State and Planned Parenthood to make sure everyone is on the same page as far as providing Family Planning services moving forward.

Carrie Rheingans asked if this budget is the time to start thinking about what types of funding are needed to realize some of the community outreach discussed, adequate language accessibility, and other priorities that have been identified. Jennifer replied that would be difficult without new funding coming through. The BOC did not include a funding mechanism when declaring Racism as a Public Health Crisis. BOH members can speak during public comment at BOC meetings asking for a dedicated allocation. Jimena Loveluck said there will be funding coming though the American Rescue Plan. Some is COVID specific but some is for investment in community health workers, investment in home visiting programs, and investment in programs & services that address the social determinants of health.

9. BOC Liaison Report

Written report provided to board of health members.

10. Old Business

- **Governance in Action for Public Health Training**
Written report provided to board of health members.



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- **Mobile Clinic**

Written report provided to board of health members.

- **Legislation/Advocacy Updates**

Jimena Loveluck shared that the HD received some additional information about the Senate bills to eliminate food license fees. The letter has been drafted and BOH members can provide feedback. Carrie Rheingans said it would be good to include something about our local situation and how much revenue would be lost. Kathleen Stroud suggested sending carbon copies to our senators as well.

11. New Business

- **July 7th Board of Commissioners Meeting**

Justin Hodge said there are not enough votes to put the millage on the ballot. Instead, they will be discussing what a bigger investment in Public Health would look like without funding from a millage. BOH members can give comments at the BOC meeting for the Public Health item on the agenda. Justin will send the agenda to the BOH when it is published.

12. Adjournment

Motion by C. Rheingans, seconded by N. Hajra, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:58 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien

