

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Friday, August 7, 2009
7:30 a.m.
Winnebago County Health Department
Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joanne Sievert at 7:37 AM.

ROLL CALL: Board members present were Chairman Joanne Sievert; Vice Chairman Jim Koziczowski; Tom Ellis; Dr. Joseph Bachman; and Dr. Shiloh Ramos.

EXCUSED: Peggy Larsen; Jill Collier; Tom Egan.

Also present, Laci Giese, Accelerated RN Student.

APPROVE MINUTES:

Moved and seconded Ellis/Koziczowski to approve the minutes. Motion carried 5-0, voice vote.

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

BUSINESS

I. Director's and Staff Report

Introductions: Doug introduced Laci Giese, student RN from UWO in the Accelerated Program. Laci is working with Mary Jo through August. Introductions were made around the table. Doug and Joanne explained the dynamics of the Board of Health for Laci.

Reappointments: The County Executive has reappointed Jill Collier, Dr. Joseph Bachman, and Peggy Larson to serve another two-year term on the Board of Health. Doug thanked them for their continued service to the Board of Health.

6 Month Review: The State has just completed their 6-month review of our consolidated grants. These would include Radon, MCH, Immunization, Prevention, Lead, and Public Health Preparedness. We are doing well.

DFC – TFC Coalition: The Drug-Free and Tobacco-Free Communities Coalition of Winnebago County was chosen for a year-long leadership training grant offer through the Medical College of Wisconsin – Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute. Coalition leadership team members Dori Willner (Oshkosh Police Dept), Chris Deulius (UW-Oshkosh), Barry Busby (Coroner), Doug Gieryn, Lisa Brown and Emily Dieringer will be attending three offsite meetings to help enhance coalition leadership.

Ordinance: Doug asked the board if they would be willing to support the introduction of a youth tobacco possession ordinance that would allow law enforcement to cite a youth for possession of tobacco products. A similar ordinance was introduced by the Sheriff's Department but not passed in 1998 when another ordinance prohibiting the sale of tobacco to youth by retailers was passed. Discussion took place. Smoking seems to be accepted in the military. It's OK for 17 year olds in the National Guard, but not for others. The prevalence of tobacco was much worse in WWII or Viet Nam than it is today, but still an issue. The State is going smoke-free and has imposed a huge cigarette tax. This ordinance would be another tool to help stop tobacco use. Ramos said he would support such an ordinance if it included a diversion class for juvenile offenders.

County Buildings are smoke free and the new State Law states smoking must be “a reasonable distance” away from the workplace. It will be up to the local governments to decide what “reasonable” is, and who will enforce it. Signage will have to be used. The law goes into effect July 5, 2010. Doug will send the ordinance language to Board of Health members and put it on the agenda for the next meeting. There are plans to run it by Corp Counsel and the Sheriff’s Dept.

Communicable Disease

The incidence of HIV has gone up in Winnebago County. As many as 57 cases are being followed in the surrounding counties. We are doing follow-up for partner referral. The increase is seen in 20 to 40 year olds, men to men partners.

STDs continue to be high. We have had an AHEC Student working with us doing research on STD prevention. Check out our website (www.co.winnebago.wi.us/health) for her work on STDs. We are promoting “Get Tested.”

The active TB case we have been following is improving, as sputums are showing up negative. We are also following a new latent TB case, ensuring that he takes his medication.

Personal Care

We are looking to connect with ADRC – Lakeland District regarding prevention practices. Our goal is to find out what they will be doing or not doing to see how Public Health can fit in.

Back To School Fairs

Mary Jo reported we are involved in Back to School Fairs in Neenah, Menasha, and Oshkosh but may not be able to provide vaccine this year. There are an estimated 820 children in need in the Neenah/Menasha area. We don’t know how many are in Oshkosh. The Fairs will offer backpack, school supplies, etc.

Health Care Forum

Mary Jo attended the Health Care Forum at Trinity Episcopal Church. Many Health partners were represented. The topic was in regard to gaps in the Health Care system. Personal stories were offered, and Mary Jo spoke about Public Health. Some issues high on the list were transportation, dental care, medication set-up for the elderly. Mary Jo felt the forum was very well done. The next one will be in August and will address the Lakeland Care District.

Special Populations

Special Populations have been identified through the Public Health Preparedness grant. A letter and brochure has been developed to send to agencies that deal with these populations in regard to their emergency preparedness plans. A 30-45% response came back. The Neenah/Menasha Red Cross will call those that did not respond.

Flu

Mary Jo reported Seasonal Flu vaccine (not H1N1) will be offered through the County’s Wellness Committee to all County employees for no charge. Family members are not eligible. A survey will take place to determine the amount of vaccine needed. Our accelerated student, Laci, will provide promotional material. County Board Members would be included. The goal is to reduce insurance costs for the County.

Faith Community Infection Control

Mary Jo reported on the progress of the Emergency Preparedness objective for the Faith Community. A tool kit was developed to help area churches understand the importance of safe practices to

prevent communicable disease including issues with sharing the “common cup” and handshake. It has been challenging to find churches to agree to pilot the tool kit, however, five have agreed. They will review the materials and report back to us. We are working with a professor from UWBG, and hope to publish the results. The binder is large. Jim K suggested putting the information on a CD or a website so people could watch a presentation, rather than wade through a written binder.

Public Health Preparedness

Jeff reported that the PHEP (Public Health Emergency Plan) has been revised again, and will cause us to re-do some of our plans and activities. We will be doing performance measures in regard to: contacts, media alert, radio contact with fire and police.

Volunteer management issues are being address by partnering with the local health departments of Oshkosh, Neenah & Menasha. Cheryl Laabs, PHN, is leading this on-going effort to develop a pool of volunteers.

Just an environmental note: A mercury spill happened at the Orrin King building in July. Doug, Jeff and hazmat were involved. 400 square ft of carpeting in the basement had to be removed.

CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan)

A community needs assessment has begun. We are partnering with the Oshkosh Health Department and in the process of involving the community.

- An internal planning team has been developed involving WCHD, OHD and the Oshkosh Senior Center.
- An invitation went out to approximately 30 people from various agencies in both jurisdictions to attend an introductory meeting to introduce our goals.
- From that group we hope to invite others and expand to 100 people for a visioning meeting regarding improving the health of our citizens.

The goal is to identify needs and begin addressing plans to improve.

II. 2010 BUDGET PLANNING UPDATE

Tom Geske provided a handout of the 2009 six- month report. We are at 50.3% of our budget which is good for mid-year.

A second handout described the proposed 2010 Budget. We are allowed a 3% increase in levy by the County Executive. As in the past, 3% doesn't cover our cost of living increases in labor. Our reserve fund is approximately \$700,000. No mention of tapping this fund was made at this point. We may need the money for moving the Health Department. Next Wednesday, the Facilities and Property Management Committee will meet to further discuss plans to move to the Oshkosh B'Gosh building.

Doug mentioned that the city of Oshkosh may not be the best location for the County Health Department, however we may be able to co-locate with WIC at the new site.

Overall, the Budget looks good. We expect more funding for this year into next due to H1N1. Federal stimulus money has not been included as that availability is not clear at this point.

Doug mentioned the County has cut funding for Living Healthy from \$141,000 to \$89,000 due to an expected reduced need as a result of Badger Care Plus. Doug has asked for a reinstatement of these funds as there is still a great need. He would appreciate support from the Board of Health. Jim K asked for more information. Doug will send. Doug explained barriers to eligibility for Badger Care. He sits on the Advisory Board for Living Healthy, Leona Whittman is the Director. Living Healthy is staffed by volunteers and a few paid staff.

The Health Department preliminary Budget for 2010 will be reviewed with the County Executive and Finance on August 24th at 10:00 am in the County Executive's office. Joanne is invited to attend.

The only area we are unsure about is the Tobacco Free Grant money. Cuts are expected. Area Coalitions will be difficult to sustain. We are not sure who will become the fiscal agent. We have already been asked to cut some of our activities such as the WI Wins compliance checks. We will continue thanks to the Drug Free Communities grant. We may not have additional information before August 24th. Our Tobacco Coalition Coordinator grant funded position may be lost.

III. NEW STAFF – TEMP STAFF

We have an open RN position due to a staff resignation. In the short term we have hired a Temporary RN to fill in for the rest of the year for H1N1. We may even need to add more staff if H1N1 clinics develop. However, due to the expected loss of Tobacco funding which includes the loss of the Public Health Educator position paid for by tobacco funds, Doug would like to rearrange the staffing structure in 2010 without affecting the levy. Doug felt we would probably receive some tobacco funding, but not enough to cover the position. Board members reasoned that technically, we would have to end the Educator position and come back to the Board with a new position.

Breast feeding counselor, Katherine Noll-Arias has been hired as a Temporary Public Health Aide at WIC. She will continue her counseling duties and help at the desk. WIC will reassess their staffing situation at the end of the year. A permanent PHA position remains open. WIC may receive stimulus money.

IV. FLU SEASON PLANNING

H1N1 is still present in the community, and we can expect extra funding this fall. Seasonal Flu and H1N1 will require two separate vaccines that can be given simultaneously. H1N1 priority groups at this point have been identified as >6mo thru 24 years of age, pregnant women, 25-44 yo with chronic disease issues, health care workers, first responders, all those household and care giver contact to those < 6 mo old. Only a small percentage (~1%) of those 65 and older have been affected by H1N1. The CDC restrictions for return to work/school have been relaxed and they are backing off on school closings. There is much planning to be done for the County Employee clinics and the school aged clinics.

NEXT MEETING: September 4, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT: 9:15 am

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Baeten, Recording Secretary