

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Friday, September 2, 2011
7:30 a.m.
Winnebago County Health Department
Conference Room

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Joanne Sievert.

ROLL CALL: Board members present were; Vice Chairman Joanne Sievert; Tom Egan; Tom Ellis; Dr. Joseph Bachman, Jill Collier and Ken Neubauer.

EXCUSED: Shiloh Ramos and Peggy Larson.

Also present were Doug Gieryn, Health Department Director; Cindy Draws and Mary Jo Turner, Public Health Nurse Coordinators; Mark Harris, Winnebago County Executive; and Ellen Hofeldt, League of Women Voters.

APPROVE MINUTES: Motion to approve the minutes from July 1, 2011. Egan/Ellis to approve. Motion carried 6-0, voice vote.

ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC: None

BUSINESS

A. Update on Health Department Consolidation

Mark Harris addressed the group regarding progress on Consolidation

- Neenah and Oshkosh are supportive and would like to include consolidation in their 2012 budgets.
- Oshkosh City Manager has agreed to use a slightly higher tax levy for Oshkosh.
- Neenah and Winnebago would see a slightly lower tax levy.
- We have an opportunity to consolidate due to two vacant directorships (Oshkosh and Neenah).
- We would plan to have a northern presence in addition to the Oshkosh office at 112 Otter Ave, Oshkosh. Neenah Health Department space would be used initially, and in the future, may relocate to the County Human Services building in Neenah.
- Existing County Health Department reserve funds would help offset levy for its original contributors. (Towns, Omro, Winneconne)
- Regarding concerns of eliminating services to the elderly in the rural areas:
 - Well aware of the Town desire to keep services to the elderly.
 - Grants are changeable making it hard to “promise” services.
 - Older Adult Services need to be redefined due to the concentration of residents within the cities. This would have to be worked out after the merge.
- There is a tight time-frame for the County Board, Oshkosh City Council and Neenah City Council to approve the merger.
- Taxes need to be figured.

Doug Gieryn addressed the group regarding details of Consolidation - handout

- The study has been extended. Baker Tilly met with officials to decide direction now that the City of Menasha has dropped out.

- Original data was drawn from 2009 statistics and targeted a tax levy of .1157 per thousand of assessed (or equalized) property value. This was based on the lowest levy assessed (Oshkosh).
- The study will now focus on a range of tax levy up to .1350.
- We are close to realizing savings by eliminating 2 director positions and holding open current staff vacancies.
- Baker Tilly will be giving presentations to the County Board of Supervisors, the Oshkosh City Council and the Neenah City Council.
- Doug has submitted a budget for 2012 that does not include Consolidation at this point.
- Chuck Orenstein will be developing an alternative budget for the Health Department that would include Consolidation that may be used as an amendment should the elected entities agree to this merger.
- Personnel issues:
 - No one is expected to lose their job, the merge would include all at first.
 - Some salaries may be adjusted
 - Some personnel may choose to leave
 - Future needs may require adjustments through job efficiencies, changes, and attrition, to be determined by the new Health Department.
 - Management may need to re-interview for positions, probably through the County Human Resources Department with input from Oshkosh and Neenah.
 - A comparison of fringe benefits between entities shows similarities with a few exceptions:
 - Retirement is the same
 - Oshkosh has a different pay-out of accumulated sick time.
 - City benefit costs appear to be the same or slightly higher than the county's.
- Baker Tilly meets again with a smaller group to go over core services and find efficiencies.
 - Sanitarian policy needs to be developed to include issues of overtime pay, inspections verses education of small non-profit events, and elimination of duplicate inspections.
 - The smaller group consists of Health Department Director/acting Directors Doug Gieryn, Paul Spiegel, and Denise Krueger; elected officials Mark Harris, Mark Rohloff, and George Schenk; and their respective financial advisors.
 - Doug will keep the Board of Health informed of progress.
- Discussion took place on Town input into the process.
 - Doug has asked the State Regional office to observe.
 - Board of Health members would like to inform the County Board Supervisors of the Consolidation process in advance of bringing it to a vote.
 - Explain why the process needed extension.
 - Explain what Public Health has to offer. Possibly offer shadowing on home visits.
 - Provide the Quarterly Newsletter and statistics as well as the Annual report to Supervisors prior to voting.
 - Explain the decision to meet with a smaller group for expediency.
 - Have Doug ask Mark Harris if others may attend to observe so meetings will not be perceived as a closed door sessions.

B. Budget Update – Doug Gieryn

Doug has submitted the 2012 Budget, and assumes there will be an amendment regarding consolidation. Budgeting was difficult and included:

- 5.9% contribution by employees to their retirement packages which was offset by increased labor costs
- 10% cuts in state grants
- Prevention funding is gone
- The state has not pursued Federal Grants resulting in less revenue for Public Health in Wisconsin.
- 55% of our budget is funded by grants and fees.
- 90% of our budget cost is labor.
- WIC is dependent upon numbers of cases, but some cuts are expected due to lower caseload and Federal restriction of funds.
- Tobacco was cut 22.4% at 3rd Quarter of 2011.
- CHIP/Rethink has seen great success and won awards. Hopefully this will continue.

The County has new financial software (Munis) and a quarterly report was not available today.

C. Budget Transfer – Doug Gieryn

Doug asked that the Budget Transfer to request funds for infrastructure be tabled. A new grant has been received for infrastructure from WIC. New lobby carpeting, furniture and equipment for the Multi-purpose room will be requested as well as a clinic chair for the lab. We may need to revisit this at the next meeting.

A question was raised regarding the ventilation in the County Administration building. Maintenance has been informed of complaints. Humidity, temperature swings, and copy machine issues due to humidity were mentioned. Mike Elder has been asked to address these issues.

D. Staff Updates

Mary Jo Turner –

- We expect 13 student nurses this fall.
- Teresa Paulus, PHN, was nominated at the PHN Conference for an academic collaboration award for her work with students on organ donation.
- WBAY TV interviewed Cheryl Laabs and Lisa Brown of the Health Department on the topic of Parents Are Key. This is a program where children make a contract with their parents not to drive under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Mary Jo has worked on a policy development tool for LEAP (Linking Education and Practice - for excellence in public health nursing).
- A co-authored infection control article was published in the Journal of Christian Nursing.
- Mary Jo and Jill Collier have developed a tool for placement of Student Nurses in the Public Health setting, soon to be published.

Cindy Draws –

- Monthly Communicable Disease report shows
 - West Nile Virus identified in a bird in Waupaca County, none in Winnebago.
 - Lyme disease is still high.
 - Chlamydia and gonorrhea are still the most prevalent diseases.
- Bat calls are more numerous this time of year.
- Promotion of safe sex:

- Went well at Rock USA. Spoke to 800 people, 371 were young adults and 449 adults over age 25. 250 information packets with condoms were handed out.
- A team has been formed to reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted disease with the help of HWLI (Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute). Partners include UWO, ARCW, OHD, Women's Care Clinic and WCHD. Rethink was developed through HWLI and has experienced great success.
- Strong Bones (Strong Women) is an exercise program developed with ADRC (Aging and Disabilities Resource Center) to address balance and bone density. A kick-off meeting is scheduled for September 8. 17 people have signed up. A media blitz is planned to promote the classes and a demonstration will be available at the Oshkosh Farmer's Market.
- The Fall Prevention program has currently stalled with the local Fire Departments.

Doug Gieryn

- Americorps – we said good bye to Laura Wilner, Americorps member, who did an outstanding job working with youth. Two new members will be coming September 26 to work with our ReThink Community Coalition. One will be based at UWO. There are plans to work in the High schools and Middle schools in Oshkosh as well.
- AHEC Student Sarah Heidorf worked at promoting fresh produce to WIC clients by developing a special farmer's market during WIC check pick-up hours in the Second Chance parking lot this past summer.
- Doug will send an electronic copy of the Baker Tilly handout to Ann Marshall, League of Women Voters as requested by Ellen Hofeldt. Doug thanked the League for their interest.

Motion to adjourn: Ellis/Egan, motion carried 6-0, voice vote. 9:25 a.m.

Next Meeting: October 7, 7:30 a.m. 112 Otter Ave, First Floor Conference Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Baeten, Recording Secretary