

**BENZIE-LEELANAU DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Thursday, September 27, 2018 4:00 p.m.
Connie Binsfeld Resource Center,
7401 E. Duck Lake Road
Lake Leelanau, Mi 49653**

Chairperson Melinda Lautner called the meeting to order at 4:03pm

Present were:

Carolyn Rentenbach, Leelanau County Member at Large
Casey Noonan, Leelanau Board of Commissioners
Gary Sauer, V. Chairperson, Benzie County Board of Commissioners
Melinda Lautner, Chairperson, Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Roger Griner, Benzie Board of Commissioners – Arrived at 4:15pm
Dr. George Ryckman, Benzie County Member at Large

Staff Present

Lisa Peacock – Health Officer
Dodie Putney – Director of Administrative Services
Eric Johnston – Environmental Health Director
Michelle Klein - Director of Personal Health
Dr. Joshua Myerson – Medical Director

Excused- none

Absent-none

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes:

Motion by: Sauer to approve the Regular Board of Health Meeting of July 26, 2018.

Seconded by: Noonan

Voice vote: 5 yeas 0 nay 0 absent Motion carried

Approval of the Agenda

Motion by: Noonan to approve agenda as presented.

Seconded by: Ryckman

Voice vote: 5 yeas 0 nay 0 absent Motion carried

Public Comment - None

Roger Griner arrived at 4:15.

Health Officer Update – Lisa Peacock - report attached to these minutes

Distributed copies of the Strategic plan 2019-2020 At-A-Glance, Public Health Concerns Related to the Availability and Use of Marijuana.

Discussed Agency Strategic Plan, Netsmart Update, Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation Region- CHIR- Northern Michigan Supportive Housing has been selected to receive funding to implement this project on raising homelessness awareness. The Leelanau County Substance Abuse

Prevention is still meeting regularly to work on several projects to raise awareness throughout the community.

Agency Strategic Plan

The first year of our strategic plan is nearly complete and we are happy to report that we have finished much of the activities that were planned for year 1. As we approach the second year we are planning to review the current status of the plan and update the timeline of activities at our all staff meeting on 12/7/18. Plan will be reviewed at the meeting.

Netsmart Update

Negotiations have continued with an in person meeting in Traverse City with the Netsmart executive team and a subsequent written response from their attorney. A meeting is set to discuss our response to the latest correspondence and both parties continue to hope to reach a settlement agreement. An in-person meeting has been scheduled to review the prospective EMR in October.

Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation Region

The Northern "CHIR" has been selected as one of three regions that will receive funding to implement a pilot project directed at providing case management for individuals who are frequent users of services related to permanent supportive housing. Northern Michigan Supportive Housing is the agency who has been selected within the Northern CHIR region to receive the funding and implement this project. There is a second stream of funding which will be received directly by the Northern CHIR to assess local gaps and build capacity on a community level to support the housing needs of the community. There is a specific focus on the link between homelessness and chronic disease/poor health outcomes throughout all levels of these projects.

Leelanau County Substance Abuse Prevention

The Leelanau County Substance Abuse Coalition continues to meet regularly and is working on several projects to raise awareness throughout the community. Attached is an infographic produced by the group that specifically focuses on public health concerns related to proposed recreational marijuana legalization. It shares a good deal of information on the health risks, especially for youth and cites several reputable references. BLDHD is providing leadership for the medical workgroup whose work is focused on two main areas: establishment of a syringe service program and supporting providers who prescribe opiates as well as those who provide medication assisted treatment. We have been working with the Michigan Opioid Collaborative to identify providers who have the required waiver to prescribe MAT to identify support needs.

Board of Health opposes the ballot initiative to legalize recreational marijuana use due to public health threats

Motion by: Sauer to oppose recreational marijuana use

Seconded by: Lautner

Voice vote: 6 yeas 0 nays 0 absent Motion carried

Personnel and Finance Committee Report

Accounts Payable

Motion by: Sauer to accept Accounts Payable and pay them.

Seconded by: Noonan

Voice vote: 6 yeas 0 nays 0 absent Motion carried

August 2018 Financial Statements

Motion by: Rentenbach to approve the Financial Statement as presented.

Seconded by: Noonan

Voice vote: 6 yeas 0 nay 0 absent Motion carried

Amended FY 2018 Budget

Putney stated the final amended budget is projected to have a \$35,414 deficit. Discussion focused on the reasons for deficit and ways to reduce any future budget deficits.

Motion by: Noonan to approve Amended 2018 Budget as presented.

Seconded by: Sauer

Voice vote: 6 yeas 0 nay 0 absent Motion carried

Proposed FY 2019 Budget

The FY 2019 proposed budget includes a cost of living increase of 2 percent in the environmental health fees.

Motion by: Sauer to approve the Proposed 2019 Budget as presented.

Seconded by: Noonan

Roll Call vote: 6 yeas 0 nay 0 absent Motion carried

Staff Meeting Office Closure- December 7, 2018

Motion by: Griner to approve Staff Meeting Office Closure as presented.

Seconded by: Rentenbach

Voice vote: 6 yeas 0 nay 0 absent Motion carried

Staff Reports

Medical Director- Dr. Joshua Meyerson- report attached below

I am asking for a **Health Board Motion** that “authorizes the Health Department, and/or agents working on behalf of the Health Department, to implement within the agency jurisdiction a Syringe Service Program, including the dispensing/exchanging of syringes, for the purpose of preventing the transmission of infectious agents.” The BLDHD would review the appropriateness of a program offering these services within our jurisdiction.

Health Department to adopt the Syringe Service Program that “authorizes the Health Department, and/or agents working on behalf of the Health Department, to implement within the agency jurisdiction a Syringe Service Program, including the dispensing/exchanging of syringes, for the purpose of preventing the transmission of infectious agents.”

Motion by: Rentenbach to adopt the needle exchange program.

Seconded by: Noonan

Voice vote: 6 yeas 0 nay 0 absent Motion carried

Background, summarized below, for the request was discussed at previous Health Board Meetings:

The opioid epidemic led to over 42,000 deaths in 2016 in the US. Locally some areas have higher rates of narcotic prescriptions than the state average and we have not been immune to deaths from overdose. In addition, with the rise in illicit narcotic use, including injectable drugs, we have seen a rising epidemic of Hepatitis C in persons 18-29, predominantly spread through the sharing of needles. Outbreaks of HIV have occurred in other, similar rural counties related to illicit drug use and there is concern that we are at similar risk.

“Harm Reduction” or “Syringe Service Programs” (SSP) are community-based programs that provide access to sterile needles and syringes, often with other supplies needed for safe injection, free of cost and facilitate safe disposal of used needles and syringes. In addition, SSP encourage

and offer testing for Hepatitis C and HIV, overdose education and prevention, and referral for substance abuse disorder treatment. Referral for treatment of infectious diseases, other medical care, mental health, and social services can also be offered. Nationally, SSP have proven to reduce transmission of infectious disease, and increase the number of users seeking and staying in treatment, as well as improving public health and safety.

I have reached out to the Benzie and Leelanau County Prosecutors who have stated they know of no local ordinances related to paraphernalia that would conflict with this initiative and also verbally gave support to SSP operating within their County.

Request is for Board of Health to pass a motion allowing Syringe Service Programs, which then exempts the agents providing the service from state paraphernalia laws that make dispensing or possession of syringes illegal. MCL 333.7457 of the Michigan Public Health Code specifically allows Health Boards to provide these authorizations for the prevention of transmission of infectious diseases.

Administrative – Dodie Putney

Nothing to add that hadn't previously been discussed within financials and budgets.

Environmental Health Director – Eric Johnston - full report attached to these minutes

Topics included: Tom's retirement, Newer EH sanitarian Marissa Roeske submitted resignation, we will be opening EH Sanitarian I or II position to fill her place, Bill Crawford retiring the end of October, Jim Reardon internally changing positions from emergency management to Leelanau EH Sanitarian position. Beach monitoring, Bahia Vista, and vapor intrusion in Suttons Bay.

Personal Health - Michelle Klein

October 1st begins the start of our 23rd year as the Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department.

Klein attended a meeting at the Munson Cancer Center in Traverse City. They are interested in looking into starting a region wide tobacco group as we are seeing higher than normal lung cancer rates. One priority will likely be adults that are already smokers to prevent development of chronic health conditions and lung cancer.

Staff changes are occurring within our nursing department. A new nurse practitioner, Rosie Woodruff will be starting in October as our new part time nurse practitioner. She is fluent in Spanish which will be a great asset for the Health Department. She will be trained to put in IUDs and Nexplanon as well as all other reproductive health services.

“Mom Power” is a 10-week program for mothers and their young children who are high risk for abuse and neglect of the children. It is an attachment-based program that helps Moms address their own traumas and mental health issues, while building parenting skills. There will be four groups held in the region with funding from the Michigan Endowment Fund, with a Benzie County group starting in January 2019.

Lastly, Klein noted that flu shots are in.

Board Comments-

Sauer wondered where we stand with the Hep A issue? Dr. Meyerson said that we are still currently having outbreaks, but it is leveling off and we are not seeing as many cases.

Dr. Ryckman asked what happened to the recycling bins at the Connie Binsfield Resource Center building. Klein mentioned that with the school being a part of the building there was just too much traffic flow with the children as the recycling center drew in a lot of traffic. The Connie Binsfield building wasn't the desired location for the recycling center. Lautner said that they are currently looking for a new location for the bins.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:48pm


Melinda Lautner, Chair


Renee Youker, Recording Secretary

**Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department
Board of Health Meeting – September 27, 2018
Environmental Health Director's Report
Eric Johnston**

1. Tom Fountain officially retired as Environmental Health Director on September 7, 2018. His files and responsibilities were handed over to the new EH Director, Eric Johnston, on September 3rd.
2. The individual that was hired to be a Sanitarian working out of the Benzie County office has resigned after three weeks in the position. The individual did not feel that it was a good fit for her long-term career goals. We are reposting the open position as soon as possible.
3. Bill Crawford has announced that he will be retiring effective October 31, 2018. His position was posted internally to all Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department staff Jim Reardon expressed his interest and was hired to fill the position. Jim has been training with Environmental Health staff one day a week and will continue to do so until he takes over the position in November 2018. Bill has graciously offered to help Jim get familiar with the coverage area and the challenges it can pose.
4. Beach monitoring has been completed for the 2018 season. 2018 had only two Level 2 advisories and three level 3 advisories issued during the year. The region is fortunate to have high water quality.
5. Update of the legal issue at Bahia Vista. In early August, our legal counsel, Mr. Jim Young, sent a proposed settlement agreement to the opposing party's attorney. Their attorney has indicated that they can agree with most of the settlement agreement as written but wants clarification on a few of the details. We are continuing to work toward having a signed settlement agreement in place soon.
6. The vapor intrusion issue at a Suttons Bay business has been resolved at this time. A temporary air filter was installed in the business and a previously installed building wide air vapor mitigation system was repaired and made operational. The result was the reduction of the indoor air contaminants to below the thresholds of concern. The MDEQ and MDHHS has given approval to continue to use this combination until the business closes for the winter. The temporary air filter will then be removed, and the air tested in the Spring of 2019 to ensure the air vapor mitigation system is functioning properly.
7. A new draft of the proposed Statewide Sanitary code has been put forward for review. The new draft language will be studied and discussed by Environmental Health Directors over the next few weeks. A new position statement will be developed if necessary. Based upon the rumored changes, I don't foresee changing our opposition to having a Statewide Code.

8. The cleanup at the Grand Traverse Overall Supply superfund site continues and is being monitored by the USEPA. The contaminant levels at the site and surrounding areas are nearing levels deemed acceptable by the EPA. There are no known per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) associated with the on-site contaminants. The EPA has also been monitoring and addressing any vapor intrusion concerns in the area with both active and passive vapor extraction systems.
9. A retention basin at the Connie Binsfield Resource Center is being abandoned and an enlarged retention basin further to the west will accept the redirected water. This was done to assure that a future septic system can be installed and meet the required isolation distances from retention basins.