

**BENZIE-LEELANAU DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Wednesday, April 27, 2022 2:00 p.m.
Benzie Community Resource Center - Ingemar Johansson Conference Room
6051 Frankfort Highway
Benzonia, MI 49616**

Chairperson Dr. Barbara Conley called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.

Members Present:

Gary Sauer - Benzie County Board of Commissioners
William Bunek – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Patricia Soutas-Little – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners – arrived at 2:27p.m.
Dr. Barbara Conley – Leelanau County Member at Large
Mark Kuiper – Benzie County Member at Large
Rhonda Nye – Benzie County Board of Commissioners – Via Teams

Members Absent: None

Members Excused: None

Staff Present:

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes:

Discussion: Member Nye requested to remove a sentence from the minutes in the Resolution of Commendation section as it did not capture the entire meaning of her comments.

Motion By: Bunek to approve the March 30, 2022 BOH Meeting Minutes with the removal of the agreed upon sentence.

Seconded By: Sauer

Roll Call Vote: Sauer-yea, Conley- yea, Bunek- yea, Kuiper - yea

4 yeas 0 nay 2 excused Motion carried

Approval of the Agenda:

Discussion: Conley asked to add New Business 1.a. to the agenda after the Staff Reports. This section would address communicating the BLDHD BOH's concerns about the Health Officer position with the Health Department of Northwest Michigan's BOH.

Motion By: Conley to approve agenda with the addition, New Business.

Seconded By: Bunek

Roll Call Vote: Sauer- yea, Conley- yea, Bunek- yea, Kuiper -yea

4 yeas 0 nay 2 excused Motion carried

Public Comment – None

Patricia Soutas-Little – arrived at 2:27p.m.

Health Officer Update – Lisa Peacock

A written report was distributed prior to the meeting for review. Please refer to it for details.

For the Covid update there are now Test to Treat centers. These are places where people can get tested for Covid. If the test is positive, the person can be assessed to see if they are a candidate for any of the available treatments that are being offered to reduce the severity of Covid symptoms. If a person tests positive at home for Covid they could still visit one of these sites to be assessed for treatment.

A question from the previous meeting was brought up regarding what mandated services are not completely funded by the government. All the mandated services are not 100% paid for by either the Federal Government or the State Government. There is a law stating that the State shall fund 50% of the mandated services and local governments will provide funding for the remaining balance. The loophole in this law is it is tied to the appropriations that the State Government budgets for local health. There usually are never enough funds allocated to cover 50% of the cost of the programs, normally 30% of the cost of mandated services are funded by the State or Federal Government. To cover the remaining balances health departments are having to directly bill for services, apply for grant money and use their local appropriations to pay for all services provided. One of the issues of how money is released by the State is the State uses the census numbers as a means to decide how to divide up funding. The area that BLDHD covers has a smaller amount of people who live in it year-round, which is the population that the census counts. In the summer months the population that the Department serves expands tremendously, therefore the funds that are received may not cover costs.

Accounts Payable

Motion By: Sauer to approve accounts payable and pay the bills.

Seconded By: Conley

Roll Call Vote: Sauer- yea, Conley- yea, Bunek- yea, Soutas-Little- yea, Kuiper - yea
5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried

Discussion: There was a question on a check to the State of Michigan for Temporary Campground Licenses, what would this be for? People can apply for a campground license that is valid for a two-week period. At the end of the season all these permits are added together to see how much the State should receive for this service, the check in the AP Ledger Report reflected this process. A question about the budget came up regarding a line item being over budget for March. Putney explained that the budget is set for the whole year. Depending on the line item, at various points in the year the item could be over budget one month and then it could be under budget the next month. By September 30th it should be balanced to be within the budgeted amount.

March 2022 Financial Statements

Motion By: Bunek to accept the financial statements as presented.

Seconded By: Soutas-Little

Roll Call Vote: Sauer- yea, Conley- yea, Bunek- yea, Soutas-Little- yea, Kuiper - yea
5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried

Staff Reports:

Medical Director – Dr. Joshua Meyerson

Since December 2020, when children 5-11 years old were able to receive a vaccine for Covid, 400 children nationwide have been hospitalized for Covid. Nine out of ten of these children had not been vaccinated. Three out of ten previously had no underlying health issues. Two out of ten were placed in the ICU. These statistics prove that the vaccine is working as it should, to help reduce the severity of illness. It was asked if the vaccinations were helping stop the shedding of the virus. There has not been a conclusive study performed to be able to say one way or the other. There had been a study done on the blood work that had randomly been drawn of people who were under seventeen years old and having blood drawn for other reasons; three quarters of these people had indicators that they had contracted Covid at some point. It was also noted that the sample may be biased in that individuals in this age group are likely to have other underlying medical issues is they are getting blood tests.

Personal Health – Michelle Klein

A report was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Please refer to it for details. During Klein's report the question was asked whether the funding that the State allocated for dental screening for children, could be used for anything besides screening, such as helping an individual address any dental issues that may be found? If a dental issue is discovered and the individual is uninsured and does not have the financial means to be able to address the issue, then Community Connections can become involved to assist with the unmet needs.

Environmental Health – Eric Johnston

A report was distributed during the meeting. Please refer to it for details. To answer a question raised during the March BOH meeting regarding the Bingham Township Short Term Rental (STR) septic system evaluation results, Johnston presented the results of the evaluations conducted. During 2021, Bingham township issued 86 short-term rental permits. Of those who applied for a STR permit, 18 properties needed to have an evaluation conducted by BLDHD because they did not have a septic permit on file with BLDHD (per Bingham Township ordinance rules). The results indicated that approximately 33% of the systems evaluated were "satisfactory", approximately 56% were satisfactory with future upgrades required, and 11% were unsatisfactory with corrections required. Since this is a township ordinance, it was up to Bingham township to determine if a STR permit should be issued after reviewing the evaluation results. The only time the BLDHD would become involved with the denial of a STR permit issuance, is if the septic system created a public health emergency.

Lake Township, in Benzie, will be available for the public to access the well and septic records, via the public portal, in a couple of days.

Johnston and Putney met with Leelanau County Administrator, Chet Janik last week for more discussions about BLDHD renting part of the Leelanau Governmental Center to house the Leelanau EH staff. They are working with an architect to be able to quote an accurate cost for completing the remodel project. Leelanau County and BLDHD have agreed to split the cost of the architect's fee (\$5000) by each paying \$2,500. If the EH division moves into the government center location, the plan is to have Johnston spend at least one day a week in the Leelanau office. Currently, there is not an area in the present Leelanau office for Johnston to conduct work.

BLDHD does not inspect restaurant igloos unless there are Covid concerns.

Administrative – Dodie Putney

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. Putney is waiting to hear from the architect about the revised addition plans for the Benzie Resource Center. These plans are needed to be able to get an estimate on what the project will cost.

The new phone system that BLDHD will be upgrading to will be Teams based. The request for proposals for this will be going out next week.

With the upcoming budget timeline, Putney requested a meeting with the Personnel and Finance Committee to review appropriation requests prior to the May Board of Health meeting.

New Business

Discussion: BLDHD would like to be involved in the decision process for hiring a public health officer. At the end of May, the BOH will have a closed session to interview Peacock about views and experiences of being a public health officer. The BOH would like to interview Thorell a month later to be able to receive his point of view on the position after he has had time to settle into the role of Interim Health Officer. During this time the BOH would like to create a job description that lists the qualities that they would like to see in a health officer. This could be a document that could be presented to HDNW as they begin their search for a health officer.

Motion By: Sauer to have the Chair of BLDHD reach out to the Chair of HDNW for discussion about the Health Officer position.

Seconded By: Bunek

Roll Call Vote: Sauer- yea, Conley- yea, Bunek- yea, Soutas-Little- yea, Kuiper - yea
5 years 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried

Public Comment – None

Board Comments –

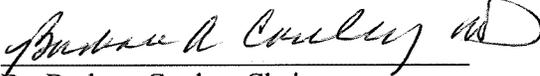
A thank you to Peacock for years of service.

Adjourn:

Motion By: Conley to adjourn the BOH meeting at 4:20p.m.

Second By: Sauer and Bunek

Roll Call Vote: Sauer- yea, Conley- yea, Bunek-yea, Soutas-Little- yea, Kuiper - yea
5 years 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried



Dr. Barbara Conley, Chair



Shelley Jablon, Recording Secretary