

**BENZIE-LEELANAU DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Wednesday, May 26, 2021 2:00 p.m.
Via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson Dr. Barbara Conley called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Members Present:

Gary Sauer - Benzie County Board of Commissioners
Dr. Mark Kuiper – Benzie County Member at Large
William Bunek – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Patricia Soutas-Little – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Dr. Barbara Conley – Leelanau County Member at Large

Members Absent: None

Members Excused: Rhonda Nye – Benzie County Board of Commissioners

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

Guests Present:

Debbie Aldridge – Benzie Leelanau District Health Department
Xavier Gagne – Benzie Leelanau District Health Department

Pledge of Allegiance: It was agreed to dispense with the pledge of alliance today due to the meeting being held via video conference.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion By: Soutas-Little to approve the Regular Board of Health Meeting of March 24, 2021.
Seconded By: Sauer
Roll Call Vote: Sauer-Yea, Kuiper-Yea, Conley-Yea, Bunek-Yea, Soutas-Little-Yea
5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion By: Bunek to approve agenda as presented.
Seconded By: Soutas-Little
Roll Call Vote: Sauer-Yea, Kuiper-Yea, Conley-Yea, Bunek- Yea, Soutas-Little- Yea
5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried

Public Comment – None

Community Connections Presentation - Debbie Aldridge

A new link on the BLDHD website has been created that shows various break downs on how services have been referred for Grand Traverse, Leelanau and Benzie counties. These referrals go further into showing the demographics of individuals who have been referred and which types of services are the most in demand. Types of services that were listed were housing, food assistance,

medical, utilities and etc. There also was a section showing how many of these needs have been met and how many open cases that there still are. This is a program that started in Benzie, Leelanau and Grand Traverse Counties and is spreading throughout the entire portion of the Northern Lower Peninsula. Aldridge and Rachel Pomeroy are the individuals who are assisting all the other Health Departments in the Northern Lower Region in implementing the tracking systems for their counties.

Health Officer Update – Lisa Peacock

Written Public Health Statement was distributed for review prior to the meeting. Current COVID updates were given, with information regarding vaccinations for the community. New office guidelines are being drafted as the MIOSHA updated their policies in regard to masking and social distancing. It should be released next week. Northern Health Foundation has purchased the vacant lot next to the Benzie offices and plans for an addition are being explored. They are also reviewing the space needs in Leelanau and investigating what the best course of action may be for needed space at that location.

Accounts Payable

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

Seconded By: Bunek

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

April 2021 Financial Statements

Motion By: Soutas-Little to accept the financial statements as presented.

Seconded By: Dr. Conley

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

Budget 2021/2022 County Appropriation Request

Motion By: Bunek to accept the 2021/2022 appropriation request as written.

Second By: Soutas-Little

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

Discussion on future Board of Health Meetings

After discussion it has been decided that the next Board of Health meeting in July will take place in Benzie, at the Benzie Community Resource Center, for an in-person meeting.

Staff Reports:

Medical Director – Dr. Joshua Meyerson

Dr. Meyerson began speaking about how MIOSHA has now relaxed the COVID protocols to match the CDC guidelines, but Schools are going to keep their current protocols in place. There are just a few weeks left in the school year and no one wants to jeopardize the end of the year events that have been planned.

This year is going to be a bad year for ticks. Meyerson discussed the two main types of ticks in Northern Michigan. He went into detail on which tick is known for carrying Lyme disease and which tick is a known carrier for Rocky Mountain Fever. A tick must be attached for 24 hours to transmit any of the diseases that they may carry. So, the quicker removal of a tick the better. If a tick has become engorged on a person they should seek medical treatment.

Personal Health – Michelle Klein

Written report distributed prior to the meeting for review. Temporary staff are being trained to manage Covid vaccine clinics so other staff members will be able to return to regular job duties, including administering routine vaccinations.

Covid Clinics will be held as long as there is a demand for them. We will be reducing pop-up clinics and transitioning to one clinic per week in each county that can serve walk-ins. In Leelanau this will be at Suttons Bay School and in Benzie at the Crystal Lake Café.

We are partnering with Health Department of Northwest Michigan to implement an MDHHS grant that will provide a school-based mental health provider at Suttons Bay school, with a target date of September 1. Another grant was submitted to the Michigan Health Endowment fund that, if received, will support school based mental health providers at Benzie Central and Frankfort schools.

The MDSS Communicable Disease report was reviewed. Reportable communicable diseases are reported to the health department through physicians, schools, labs, and other health departments. All cases are entered into MDSS, and public health nurses then conduct case investigation and follow-up to ensure that the cases have access to the treatment and information needed to prevent complications from illness and to prevent further spread of disease. MDSS reports, along with active surveillance conducted when people go to the emergency room, allow us to track trends and to identify outbreaks.

Environmental Health – Eric Johnston

Johnston began by introducing Xavier Gagne, one of BLDHD's Sanitarians who specializes in vector-borne diseases. Gagne presented a slide show about the various ticks in the area. He discussed how people can mail the State of Michigan ticks that they have captured. The State will identify the ticks so individuals will know if they should seek out treatment for possible Lyme's disease if they have been bitten by the tick.

Leelanau's property records are now available on the BLDHD website. Leelanau and Leland are the only two townships that are not currently available to the public as redaction is still being performed on them. Johnston thanked the Leelanau County Commissioners for funding this project as it has already shown to save time for the Leelanau office. The calls from the public requesting records for this County has already gone down by a third since it began.

It was discussed how the Senate Bill 353 and 354 has been passed by the Senate and will be going to the House of Representatives. If this passes all restaurants and food services will not have to pay for their food permits for 2021. For any businesses that had already paid for the 2021 year they would be refunded. This is a huge loss of revenue for all Health Departments across the State.

There were no grants issued to pay for beach monitoring this year. So, no inland lakes will have E Coli tests performed unless a municipality agrees to pay for the testing. If this happens then it will only be for those specific locations. Currently only certain beaches along Lake Michigan will be tested. This will begin on June 16th and continue on for 16 weeks.

Benzie's property records are next to be uploaded to the website. They will become available to the public once the redaction process is complete.

Administrative – Dodie Putney

Putney introduced the new administrative staff member, Shelley Jablon. Putney explained what her role with BLDHD will be and what functions Renee Youker will be transitioning to. The new

Personal Policy should be available to approve at the July meeting. Putney also briefly described the different funding that is being explored to help finance an addition to the Benzonia location.

Public Comment – None

Board Comments – Bunek brought up concerns about prenatal care for babies in Leelanau County. He had read a report that indicated that the prenatal care was not at a level that it should be. Peacock requested a copy of this report to review.

Dr. Conley asked if the BLDHD website could be updated to include Directors. This would provide more transparency to the public on who to contact with various concerns.

Dr. Conley mentioned that there are talks with MIDOCS about the various funding sources that they have become involved with to assist with mental health resources.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 4:02 pm

Barbara A. Conley MD

Dr. Barbara Conley, Chair


Shelley Jablon, Recording Secretary