



**February 24, 2021 Board of Health Meeting
Remote Meeting Via WebEx**

The Board of Health convened in open session at 5:18 pm
The meeting was called to order by Mery Price

**Board Members Present
Quorum is reached**

Emily Berge
Don Bodeau
Mark Kaeding
Terry Miskulin
Martha Nieman
True Vue
Jennifer Eddy (5:22 pm)
Mery Price

Staff Members Present:

Lieske Giese
Janice Vinopal
Marissa Stanley
Gina Holt (recorder)

Additional Members:

Janessa Stromberger
Richard Eaton

Order of Agenda Request to pull items from Consent Agenda

- None Received

Public Comment:

- Verbal Public Comment Regarding Binge Drinking/Alcohol State Policy

Board of Health Legal overview presented by: Overview of open meetings laws, quorum, and open records requests were some of the items discussed in the presentation.

Ms. Jenessa Stromberger – City of Eau Claire

Mr. Richard Eaton – Eau Claire County

COVID-19 Update:

- Gathering and events are being focused on to make sure that people continue to follow CDC guidelines to wear masks, keep distance, and keep gatherings as small as possible. The Incident Command Team continues to have conversations with schools on how to keep disease spread as low as possible and providing support. There is an Incident Command Group with representation from a variety of entities that meet to discuss such things as diversity, equity, testing and vaccination.
- Vaccination continues to be a challenge. The team is working countless hours to coordinate with other vaccinators as well as do our own vaccination clinic as a Health Department. Starting on March 1st the next eligibility group will be able to receive vaccine. We are still not done vaccinating the previously eligible groups. 16% of total population in our area has received vaccination. No vaccinator in the EC area is receiving full allocation of vaccine due to limited state supply. For example, this past week our Health Department asked for 2500 vaccinations and we received 300 doses. There was a very strategic plan on how to roll out the next group of eligible community members particularly educators, but with the lack of vaccine being received it is going to be difficult. We are actively working with UWEC and the State on the potential for a mass vaccination site that is for the region.
- Question and Answer:

- Q: Would Johnson and Johnson availability help? A: It will be a big asset when we have access to it. We are working on prioritization and planning for future use. Right now, the State is not aware of how much we may be receiving in Wisconsin, but we want to be prepared and ready when it arrives.
- Q: Is there anything that the board can do to help with messaging? A: If you are hearing messaging from Community Members feel free to touch base with the Health Department if you would like to discuss or get a background information. Please support message that there are plans, but we need vaccine.
- Q: Can you clarify the thinking behind widening the eligibility when there is not enough vaccine available? A: There has been a lot of encouragement to the State to delay rolling out the next eligibility tier. There State has opted to move forward with eligibility.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approve minutes from January 27, 2021 meeting
- b. Approve Stipends

Motion to approve Consent Agenda: Donald Bodeau

2nd Motion: Martha Nieman

Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)

Business Item

- a. Review and receive COVID-19 Public Health Expectations
 - This version of the Public Health Expectations went into effect on January 25, 2021. They have not changed since the last board meeting. We are at 100 people indoors 250 people outdoors. General public spaces remain at 50% occupancy. We are discussing the gathering piece and trying to see if there is a pivot at looking at a higher limit if there has been a clear review of the mitigation processes in place, (wearing a mask, keeping distance, stay home if you are sick).

Motion to Review and receive COVID-19 Public Health Expectations

as presented by Health Department staff: Emily Berge

2nd Motion: Donald Bodeau

Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)

Other policy and informational items from staff for the Board

- a. Director/Health Officer Report
 - 1b priority list represents all of those that will be eligible for vaccination on March 1, 2021.
- b. Correspondence/Media
 - No discussion
- c. Service Recognition
 - Dan Peterson, Environmental Health Specialist and Lead-retiring after 35 years of service
- d. Health Department review of BOH action from 2020
 - This is a more formal process as part of accreditation to look back and see what strategic improvements may be helpful for the Board of Health & Health Department relationship.
 - This year management team discussed web format as well as new board member orientation.
 - Board member requested to add quarterly financial review to the tracking list. Discussion on if moving financials from monthly to quarterly has been effective. Board members expressed that it is helpful to have it spaced out and easier to see revenue and expenses in a clearer layout.

- e. Health Department staffing update
 - We have a lot of team members who are eligible for retirement. Two of those positions have been announced and are being recruited for. Both are critical leadership positions as Division Managers of Communicable Disease and Community Health Promotion. We are working to have crossover training before those supervisors leave. We are also working on recruitment for an additional person for the budget specialist position as Janice the current Budget Specialist will be retiring. The plan is recruiting now for a retirement that may be at the end of the year or early next year. It does have a fiscal impact on the department when having two staff members in one position. Board expressed support for planning with these major transitions.
- f. Performance Management Update – 2020 end of year
 - Board members expressed that they were happy to see benchmarks being met and being able to maintain core areas of public health while working on the pandemic.
- g. Eau Claire Healthy Communities Update
 - Community Health Assessment update was discussed.
- h. Strategic Plan Update
 - The strategic plan does end in December 2021. We do not have the capacity at this point to start working on the next strategic plan. The hope is to have a strategy on how to get to done by this summer. We want to make sure that we do it right and we will need some space to figure out what could happen over the next few months.
 - Board discussed making a statement that they would like to extend the Health Department Strategic Plan for a year recognizing that COVID was not on the and so much time was spent focusing on the pandemic. It was requested that this be a future Board of Health meeting agenda item.

Board member informational items

- a. Quarterly review of tracking BOH Priorities
 - The board of health priorities have placed in a format that matches the Health Departments strategic plan document.
 - The board discussed and will continue to review and work on priorities while also focusing on COVID related items.
- b. Communicable Disease taskforce update
 - It has been a challenge to find a date for the first taskforce meeting for 20 people. The first meeting is tentatively scheduled to take place in the second week in March. Agendas, and meeting minutes that will be available online. The board will receive information and links as the meetings start taking place. Don Bodeau is the representative from the Board of Health on the taskforce and Mery Price has done a lot of work organizing and leading the taskforce.
- c. Public Health Policy/Advocacy-discussed broad range of public health topics at the State and National level.
 - State of WI biennial budget
 - The Healthy Communities initiative is a frame that WAHL DAB has created for budget related asks.
 - State COVID-19 related legislation-reviewed
 - Federal COVID-19 related legislation-reviewed

- Other advocacy- WALHDAB legislative tracking including the bills regarding Alcohol that were part of the public comment.

NALBOH and WAHLDAB conference dates and times were shared with the board -Board president encouraged members to consider attending and reminded them that there is a line item in the budget to support attendance.

<https://www.nalboh.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1375943&group=>
<https://www.wpha.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1426989>

Requests from Board members for future agenda items to be given consideration

- a. Discussing extending the Health Department's strategic plan for a year due to the pandemic.

Next scheduled BOH meeting is March 24, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.

Merey Price adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.