



May 26, 2021, Board of Health Meeting

County Courthouse, Room G-302

The Board of Health convened in open session at 5: 17 pm

The meeting was called to order by Mery Price

Board Members Present

Quorum is reached

Emily Berge (left at 6:01 pm)

Mery Price

Terry Miskulin

Don Bodeau

Jennifer Eddy

Mark Kaeding

Martha Nieman

Board Members Absent:

True Vue

Staff Members Present:

Lieske Giese

Marisa Stanley

Gina Holt (recorder)

Order of Agenda Request to pull items from Consent Agenda

- None Made

Public Comment:

- None Made

COVID19 Update:

- Case numbers are averaging three per day which is well under the goal of 10 cases per day in order to not overwhelm the public health system.
- Number of cases are listed as 11,584.
- Vaccination data is located on the Health Department website as well as the State website. The state website is making changes and data posting which will roll out on Friday.
- 44.5% of Eau Claire County are fully vaccinated.
- The volume of vaccines given has plummeted, which has been the trend throughout the state.
- The state is working on an attempt to merge the WEDSS data and the WIR data to get a better sense of vaccination data for those that have tested COVID positive.
- Three buckets that the team is currently focused on:
 - *Disease isolation and quarantine:* There will be increasing conversations about testing over the summer. There is a lot of interest in “where are we going with testing?”
 - *Basic mitigation work:* The team continues to focus on messaging and working with all types of entities and events throughout Eau Claire to decrease risk. Chippewa Valley Economic Recovery task force is a major partner in mitigation work.
 - *Vaccination:* There is an enormous effort related to vaccination. Zorn arena will continue and moving forward will be held two days per week (Wed. and Saturdays) Next week will be the deactivation of FEMA specific staffing for that site. Pop up clinics throughout the community continue to take place. A focus on rural and vulnerable population outreach sites continues to be a priority.
- Board of Health Question and Answer:
 - Q: WI Department of Safety and Professionals Services were coordinating groups with vaccinators in the area, would you like me to forward information? A: We are doing a lot of

work with worksites and would appreciate if you would like to forward the information that you received. Board member Bodeau will share the email that he received from the DSPS.

- Q: Do we have a sense of any groups are mandating vaccination? A: We have not heard that at this point.
- Q: WI is estimated to have a 30% of population as having had COVID-19 and it appears that our death rates may be lower than other areas. Do you know why this is? A: We did have peaks in our case numbers, but they took place later in the outbreak and the flattening of the curve may have helped to have more hospital space available as well as additional treatment options. Time will continue to show us more data.

Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of minutes from April 28, 2021 meeting
- b. Approval of minutes from May 17, 2021 meeting
- c. Approval of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)
- d. Approval of Farmers Market grant

Motion to approve Consent Agenda: Mark Kaeding

2nd Motion: Terry Miskulin

Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)

Business Item

- a. Review and receive COVID-19 Public Health Expectations transition
 - Website was pulled up and reviewed with Board where the transition materials exist for individuals and organizers of events and businesses.
 - Board members express that it is user friendly.

Motion to Review and receive COVID-19 Public Health Expectations transition as presented by Health Department staff: Martha Nieman

2nd Motion: Emily Berge

Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)

- b. Approval of 2022-2023 influenza vaccination fee
 - This would waive the fee for 100 doses of flu vaccine. It is a way to encourage vaccination and remove barriers.
 - The goal is to serve those who do not have insurance coverage.

Motion approval of 2022-2023 influenza vaccination fee as presented by Health Department Staff: Martha Nieman

2nd Motion: Terry Miskulin

Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)

- c. Approval of fiscal agent contract Western Wisconsin Public Health Readiness Consortium
 - We have been a member of this Consortium for years and have had strong partnerships throughout.
 - The ask is to approve what was a Consortium vote to name Eau Claire as the fiscal agent. Polk County was the previous fiscal agent. There was a request for counties to consider applying to be the fiscal agent, which is what prompted Eau Claire to apply.
 - All costs are covered in the grant.

- If additional counties join there would be additional funding. The consortium board would work together to see how to manage that and approve additional counties joining.

Motion approval of fiscal agent contract Western Wisconsin Public Health Readiness Consortium as presented by Health Department Staff: Mark Kaeding

2nd Motion: Don Bodeau

Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)

Other policy and informational items from staff for the Board

- a. Director/Health Officer Report
 - We put a tentative hold on the Communicable Disease Manager position. We have an internal candidate, Jackie Krumenauer, that will be the interim manager until we repost and fill the position later this summer.
 - Discussion on continuing to work remotely: We have had that conversation and we have been clear with our team that we have asked people to attest to their vaccination status and if they do, they can come back to our space without distancing and unmasked except where it is required. The health department is short on space and has been for years. We are working through ongoing policies on working from home. We have had enough time trying this out and for some it is a good option to work from home.
 - Board member expressed that it is great to see the NARCAN training continue. Substance misuses continue to be an enormous health department priority.
- b. Correspondence/Media
 - Board member commented that they received a lot of feedback regarding the vaccination clinic at the Pickle on Water St.
- c. Service Recognition
 - Hannah Harter, Public Health Nurse, 5 years
- d. Review and discuss 2022 budget development process
 - A layout is shared on what to expect as far as a timeline for 2022 budget development.
 - It is a chance to start thinking about expenses and priorities.
 - There will be uncertain revenue and expenses depending on what happens with COVID-19 moving forward.
 - Board member shares that in view of the intention of the County and the City to dismantle racism it is important to make sure that those actions have funding to make sure that they are put into place. If we could identify any potential needs for funding or a line item in the budget it would be great.
 - Discussion on training or certifications that may have been behind on due to COVID and that the budget may need to reflect that.
 - We do anticipate some contractual services, for example the Strategic Plan, will be in the budget as well.
 - Training for the Board of Health is also a line item. Board of Health advocacy training is on the list and may be something to look into during 2022. Jennifer Eddy suggested a training on microaggression that was done at the Brain team conference. Antiracism training is also suggested.

Board member informational items

- a. Quarterly review of tracking BOH priorities

- Advocacy training and staff skill development training for the Board of Health falls in line with the previous discussion regarding board of health training.
- Board members are encouraged to let Gina or Merrey know if there are steps or actions that have been taken and need to be added.
- b. Communicable Disease taskforce update
 - The listening session was held last week, and community members had the opportunity to send written comments or verbal comment.
 - There will be a second listening session dates have not yet been determined.
 - The goal is to have something by early fall to bring back to City Council and County Board.
- c. State Public Health Awards – WALHDAB and WPHA
 - It was an outstanding process. Wonderful successes were called out and shared.
- d. BOH Self-Evaluation
 - We are still waiting on some responses so this item will be moved to the June agenda for discussion.
- e. Public Health Policy/Advocacy
 - WPHA/WAHL DAB-Legislative Grid-The biggest things on the radar would be budget and the continued focus on some bills related to public health. Part of what the advocacy work has been this year has been protecting existing statutes and rule.

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

- a. None made

Next scheduled BOH meeting is June 23, 2021, at 5:15 p.m.

Merrey Price adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.