



### September 22, 2021 Board of Health Meeting

The Board of Health convened in open session at 5:16 pm

The meeting was called to order by Merey Price

#### Board Members Present

##### Quorum is reached

Merey Price  
Martha Nieman  
Terry Misklulin  
Jennifer Eddy  
Emily Berge  
True Vue  
Don Bodeau (5:19 pm)  
Mark Kaeding (5:25 pm)

#### Staff Members Present:

Lieske Giese  
Jackie Krumenauer  
Cortney Draxler  
Hannah Arts  
Janice Vinopal  
Gina Holt (recorder)

#### Order of Agenda Request to pull items from Consent Agenda

- None Made

#### Public Comment:

- None Made

#### Consent Agenda

- Approval of minutes from August 25, 2021, meeting
- Approve Innovative Diabetes & Heart Disease Prevention Grant (1817)- funding change
  - This continues to be one of our top Health Priorities.
  - The workplan was adjusted accordingly with the change in funding level.
- Approve Prevention- funding increase
  - The state had extra money so they allocated additional funding at the end of the cycle. The money will be spent out in a timely manor.
- Approve the WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counseling Grant- funding increase
- Approve United Way Nurse-Family Partnership Grant
- Approve State Opioid Response grant funding to replace PFS15 funding
  - We proactively work with a number of agencies to distribute lockboxes. There has been significant outreach done throughout the community.
  - We were running low on supply, so this will funding will be helpful.
- Approve DPH Tuberculosis (TB) Contract

**Motion to approve Consent Agenda:** Martha Nimean

**2nd Motion:** Jennifer Eddy

**Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)**

#### Business Item

- Approve COVID-19 Response funding
  - Funding allocated to the ECCCHD by the State as listed below. This is Federal funding
    - Immunization COVID-19 Supplemental funding \$155,500 thru 6/30/2024

- ARPA COVID Recovery funding \$851,500 thru 12/31/2024
- Public Health Workforce funding \$149,500 thru 6/30/2023
- Additional information for how spending will roll out will be shared with Board of Health members as it becomes available.
- Our intention with these funds is to focus on recovery following COVID-19, specific to Public Health, including efforts related to the strategic plan data, and health equity.
- All of the funding sources have different end dates.
- WAHLDAB has put in a lot of focus on utilizing ARPA funding.
- We have had funding sources from FEMA, the State, and ELC related to COVID Response.
- Unspent Tax levy from 2020 dollars was put into the fund balance to use for COVID-19 response as well.
- Given the response funding that we currently have available this new funding will be used more this year for recovery and building a stronger health department in subsequent years.

BOARD OF HEALTH QUESTION/ANSWER

- Q: These are odd time periods and amounts? Are they being decided by the State, and do you feel like the funds are significant? A: Time for allowances is set by the CDC. There was a base allocation for each local health department and then additional funding based on population.
- Q: Is there a plan for community engagement for these dollars? A: The process will include intentional engagement. We see an opportunity to build off Healthy Communities and the Community Health Improvement Plan.

***Motion to approve COVID-19 Response funding as presented by Health Department staff:***

Martha Nieman

***2nd Motion:*** True Vue

***Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)***

**Other policy and informational items from staff for the Board**

a. COVID-19 update

- The situation report continues to come out on Fridays.
- We are pushing closer to 14,000 total positive cases and are at 117 deaths since the beginning of COVID-19.
- Our case rate remains high, above 60 cases per day over the last 7 days. We had a few days with over 100 cases per day.
- We have also seen an increase in hospitalizations.
- Eau Claire vaccination rate is at around 50%.
- The largest population of positive test results coming back are from the under 18-year-old age group.
- There were some policy and practice changes at the national, state, and local level. The announcement by the President about work sites and events requiring testing for those that are not vaccinated have had big ripple effects throughout the State and City of Eau Claire. The State does not currently have a framework for how this will work.
- The booster vaccine was another major announcement. The FDA did move forward language that they did find that those over 65 and certain other populations may be appropriate for a booster at around the 6-month time.
- There could be a sudden demand in vaccination based on booster recommendations. We are working on messaging and different vaccination locations.
- We are working with the state on a testing site that could also be a vaccination site.

- We have a team that is doing a more modified notification call with people not over 65 years old or under 25. We are recruiting for diverse workforce that can be part of the disease investigation team.
- We are also working with schools with new communication that has come out from the state regarding isolation and quarantine. This is a difficult topic in many communities. The quarantine is tough for everyone. There is an option to test out of quarantine after day seven with a negative test, masking, and having to check your symptoms. Quarantine for individuals that are in activities that don't allow for distancing is needed.
- With the increase of cases, we responded to the urgent need for temporary housing for those that need this due to COVID-19.

#### BOARD OF HEALTH QUESTIONS/ANSWER

- Q: Is there any information on any new variant that has shown up in Wisconsin? A: The delta variant continues to be the primary variant.
  - Q: If a child wants to get vaccinated but their parents won't let them, do they have options? A: It is a difficult topic. We can not vaccinate for anyone under 18 without permission. It is unfortunate when the child wants vaccination, and the parent doesn't give consent. Giving consistent messaging is a focus of the Health Department. Flu/COVID vaccine clinics in schools will be running, and we will have a focus on reaching children will be a priority.
  - Q: Are staff receiving threats and are schools not listening to recommendations? A: Surrounding Counties in Wisconsin and throughout the nation have had a lot of difficult situations including concerns regarding safety. This is not taking place in our community. The health department continues to work with all the schools. There are varying levels of connection related to following specific regulations, but we are engaged and communicating regularly. In some communities' school boards have approved not enforcing quarantine and isolation recommendations. We have not had that kind of process in Eau Claire.
  - Q: It seems like there isn't as much availability or messaging on where to get testing have you heard any feedback on that? A: There aren't a lot of places that do same day result testing. The Jacob's Well testing site will be a PCR test and results are not rapid. We are reorienting people where to go because for a long time there wasn't a lot of testing being done.
  - Q: In Germany they have ready testing that people can get easily. The society is open, and it is interesting in this day in age in this County we can't do that. Any thoughts? A: There is not a clear pathway for available testing and support from the State and Federal level would be helpful.
- b. Director/Health Officer Report/Correspondence and Media
- Board members acknowledge all the work being done at the department.
  - Community Health Improvement Plan sessions are being held next week. Board members are encouraged to attend and share with stakeholders.
  - Housing survey update-Board members express remembering when we were implementing the survey and now it is standard practice. It is astounding to see the progress.
- c. 2022 Budget Update
- There are minimal updates currently. Some small changes in revenue We are on track with what we expected, nothing substantial for this report.
  - Next steps are City Council and County Board and then in December the final budget will be approved.
- d. Health Disparities Update
- Our focus is on continued learning and thinking through how we weave that throughout the work that we do.

- We will continue to work with Dr. Briggs and the opportunity to have a person that is focused on this at the City and County level is wonderful.

Board member Question/Answer/Comments:

- C: Thank you for providing this information from the County Board and thank you for the notification for the United Way equity challenge.
- C: Dr. Briggs is doing a work session with Council next Tuesday and will be recording. Board members are encouraged to join.
- C: Thank you for sharing this information. Collaboration is key when working in this area.
- Q: Cortney Draxler is asked if something is brought forward as you are working with various groups please do share and update Board members.

#### **Board member informational items**

- a. Board of Health Advocacy/Policy –
  - ARPA committee update- Both for the County and the City conversations the Health Department will continue to advocate for broader social determinants and not focus on Health Department specific funding. There was an ask for funding for DHS support around Isolation and Quarantine. This is not an ask for Health Department funding directly, but for funding to our partners in DHS that assist with isolation and quarantine efforts.
  - WPHA/WALHDAB Legislative Priorities-the group met last week and talked through potential legislation that could come forward. As soon as the new legislative grid is published it will be sent out to the Board.
- b. Board of Health advocacy training update-We are continuing to work on options for advocacy training. More information should be available prior to the October Board of Health meeting.

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

- a. None made

Next scheduled BOH meeting is October 27, 2021, at 5:15 p.m.

Merrey Price adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.