

October 27, 2021, Board of Health Meeting

WebEx Meeting

The Board of Health convened in open session at 5:15 pm

The meeting was called to order by Merrey Price

Board Members Present

Quorum is reached

Mark Kaeding
Martha Nieman
Merrey Price
Terry Miskulin
Merrey Price
Emily Berge
Jennifer Eddy (5:20pm)

Board Members

Absent:

True Vue

Staff Members Present:

Lieske Giese
Hannah Artz
Janice Vinopal
Gina Holt (recorder)

Order of Agenda Request to pull items from Consent Agenda

- None Requested

Public Comment:

- None Made

Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of minutes from September 22, 2021, meeting-minutes will reflect that the meeting was held virtually.

Motion to approve Consent Agenda: Don Bodeau

2nd Motion: Mark Kaeding

Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)

Business Item

- a. Receive Quarterly Financial Update
 - Carry forward of non-calendar year grants doesn't get done until January.
 - Additional budget adjustments will be made for new funding.
 - We continue to focus spending out calendar year funds in an efficient way.

Motion to receive Quarterly Financial Update as presented by Health Department staff:

Martha Nieman

2nd Motion: Terry Miskulin

Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)

- b. Approval of Western Wisconsin Public Health Readiness Consortium funding
 - The approval to become a fiscal agent was approved in June 2021. This is the approval for the funding coming in now that we are the fiscal agent.
 - The funding that comes in is to support the staffing of the consortium. The rest of the funding goes out to regional activities that may include things such as program operations, supplies and software purchases.
 - This is not funding to respond to public health emergencies.
 - If there is a disaster, it is part of the local emergency plan.

Motion to approve Western Wisconsin Public Health Readiness Consortium funding as presented by Health Department staff: Mark Kaeding

2nd Motion: Terry Miskulin

Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)

c. Approve Fiscal Policy on BOH Approval of Grants/Contracts

- In January 2021 we brought this forward as an agenda item reflecting a change on how we approve DPH contracts that we receive annually.
- Management team then worked together to clarify the approval process. This will help with consistency in how items are being brought forward to the Board for approval.
- The Board will be notified during the Quarterly Financial Update of any contract renewals received in the previous quarter.
- If there is a change in a different dollar amount than the approved budgeted amount, or when there is a significant change to the terms of the grant/contract it will be brought to the Board as a consent agenda.
- New funding sources will continue to be approved as a business agenda with a fact sheet.
- Board members express that the fact sheets are a great source of information.

Motion to approve Fiscal Policy on BOH Approval of Grants/Contracts as presented by Health Department staff: Jennifer Eddy

2nd Motion: Terry Miskulin

Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)

d. Approve Grant/Contract related budget adjustments

- Four funding sources had changes in the contract amount which reflected a budget change and are on the list provided in the meeting packet. These included: Reproductive Health Women's Health Block Grant, Reproductive Health Wisconsin Pregnancy Outreach to low income women, Public Health Emergency Preparedness, and Family Foundations.
- Overall, it is a net increase in funding.

Motion to approve Grant/Contract related budget adjustments as presented by Health Department staff: Martha Nieman

2nd Motion: Mark Kaeding

Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)

e. Approve ECCCHD Handbook change-addition of Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday

- In 2020 the County approved an additional holiday beginning in 2021 to include Martin Luther King Day. Historically this day was used as a training day by the County, City, and Health Department.
- The Courthouse is closed this day which means there are some logistical issues that arise with the Health Department remaining open. The restrooms are closed, and the doors are all locked.
- This is a great way to focus attention on joining community activities that are happening on this day.

Motion to approve ECCCHD Handbook change as presented by Health Department staff: Mark Kaeding

2nd Motion: Don Bodeau

Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)

f. Approve 2022 ECCCHD Pay plan change

- The pay plan was approved with a 2% cost of living increase in July 2021. We are asking to increase that to a 2.5% cost of living increase. This is for a variety of reasons. The County Administrator brought forward a 2.5% increase for County Employees and this was part of the County budget

process. The City Manager brought forward a budget that has a 1.5% and 1.5% increase split over a six-month period. It has a budget impact, but we believe we can cover it with our existing revenue sources.

- We also are bringing forward a new position for a Communication Specialist that would be added to the Pay Plan.
- We have a very considerable need for a high-level expertise in communication.
- It is suggested adding language around equity and inclusion in the position description.
- This is a long-term position. There are a lot of people working on pieces of the communication process, but this position will provide an overarching focus.

Motion to approve 2022 ECCCHD Pay plan change with the addition of the Communication Specialist Position as presented by Health Department staff: Emily Berge

2nd Motion: Terry Miskulin

Motion Carried: Yes (unanimous vote)

Board member informational items-20 minutes

- a. November work session overview and discussion
 - The November 10th work session will be spent on fine tuning what the board wants to do as far as advocacy goes. That information will then be used to create advocacy priorities. This will help us prepare to have a presenter come in and provide advocacy training. There would be separate time set up in January 2022 for the public health advocacy training session. Focusing on priorities and different levels will be something that will be discussed during the November meeting.
 - The board will brainstorm where to focus advocating. A primary focus will be decided, whether it be focused at the federal, state, local level, or a combination and what are the priorities.
 - There could be different levels of training opportunities.
- b. Update/review running list of potential issues in the community
 - Board members are encouraged to review the list
- c. Discussion and preparation for December Board of Health meeting
 - Lieske's performance review will be held at the December Board of Health meeting. A survey will be sent out in November.
 - Voting for the 2022 Board of Health President/Vice President, board members are encouraged to think about the positions.
- d. Board of Health Advocacy/Policy
 - WPHA/WALHDAB Legislative agenda –sent prior to meeting if available
 - This is an updated format.
 - This will come back to the board at the December Board of Health meeting.
 - ARPA committee
 - There is a county committee that continue to meet to discuss ARPA funding, Cortney Draxler is the Health Department Representative.
 - The City of Altoona did ask the Health Department help with a competitive application for ARPA funding.
 - Priorities continue to be supporting social determinates of health.
- e. Potential BOH standing agenda items -- City Council, County Board, and standing committee issues relevant to public health

- It is important to provide time if there are any updates that Board members would like to share or if there are questions that Board members may have for these groups.

Other policy and informational items from staff for the Board

- a. COVID-19 Update- verbal Coronavirus and COVID-19 Information Hub (arcgis.com)
 - Case numbers do appear to be flattening.
 - An increased number of people are getting antigen testing that are in our data systems as probable. The way these numbers are reported in the database system is slightly different than PCR tests which is listed as confirmed.
 - Case numbers are important, but another priority is tracking vaccination rates. We are at a little over 55% vaccinated in our County. If you look at data from zip codes, it shows low geographic pockets of vaccination. This is where outreach is being focused.
 - Booster announcements were not implementable until Tuesday 10/26/21 in the afternoon.
 - Jacobs Well will be a site providing vaccinations and boosters with state resources.
 - We are also focused on vaccination in areas that have barriers. We are working with partners to increase vaccination to those populations.
 - We are estimating that there are roughly 18,000 community members that may be eligible for boosters.
 - The 5-11 age group is in the process of being approved. There are around 8000 Eau Claire County residents in that age group. We are hopeful that parents and families see the opportunity that vaccination brings in slowing down the spread. 600 doses were ordered planning for at least 300 vaccinations as it is a two-part series.
 - We are working as a starting point with local pediatricians and schools for the roll out process.
 - We are aware of ongoing concerns and negative feedback regarding mitigation process, including masking and vaccination. There is a billboard in Eau Claire that is put up in opposition of masking.
- b. Health Department Report
 - After the report was created, we received final notification that Jeff Robb, Division Manager of Regulation and Licensing has accepted a new position in Dunn County.
 - Service Recognition- Janel Hebert, Public Health Nurse-15 years-Janel is an amazing asset to the Health Department.
- c. 2022 ECCCHD Budget update
 - We don't anticipate any changes in the budget.
 - In December the final budget will come to the Board of Health. This takes place after tax levy has been approved by the City and the County.
 - The City increase in the Health Department Budget was due to COVID funding, not additional levy.
- d. Eau Claire Healthy Communities
 - Action teams are rebooting. We have a new assessment process so there is a lot of work being done.
- e. Strategic Plan Update
 - We are delayed due to COVID, but there does continue to be progress made.
 - Next year we will be focusing on creating and implementing a new strategic plan.
- f. Quality improvement plan Update
 - This team has had challenges during COVID. We continue to utilize quality improvement throughout COVID-19, although it may not be in as much of a formal way as we did QI prior to the pandemic.

g. Workforce Development Update

- We have a workforce development plan.
- considering the COVID response, the regularly scheduled meetings haven't been happening. We have onboarded more than 60 people this year. Tegan Ruland has been the point person and has really done so much this year.
- In addition, we had several retirements and continue to fill those positions.
- This year has been focused on how we can support staff.
- Staff members are attending a session on stress recovery and how to navigate some of the things that have happened during COVID-19. We are doing mindfulness training, yoga options, and a lot of other wellness opportunities.

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

- a. None made

Next scheduled BOH meeting is November 10, 2021, at 5:15 p.m.

Merey Price adjourned the meeting at 7:02p.m.