



**February 23, 2022, Board of Health Meeting**

**Remote Meeting via WebEx Events**

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**

Mery Price  
Mark Kaeding  
Martha Nieman  
True Vue  
Terry Miskulin  
Don Bodeau  
Emile Berge  
Jennifer Eddy

**Staff Members Present:**

Lieske Giese  
Marisa Stanley  
Hannah Artz  
Caitlin Suginaki  
Gina Holt (recorder)

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

- None made

**Public Comment:**

- None made

**Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve minutes from January 26, 2022, meeting
- b. Approve Grant/Contract related budget adjustments

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

***2nd Motion:*** Terry Miskulin

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

**Business Item**

- a. Approve funding for PHAB Accreditation renewal
  - Health Departments are accredited for five years by PHAB. Next year will mark the department's 5-year anniversary.
  - PHAB has continued to update and change their processes over time as they have gained experience with Accreditation
  - An initial reaccreditation fee of \$12,000 and \$8,400 service fee annually is the current cost, although this is likely to change.
  - The preparation for reaccreditation will take significant time and likely some outside resources in 2022 and early 2023.
  - This is the beginning of the process, and the ask is to let us know if you want to start the process of renewal.

**Board member Question/Answer:**

- Q: What have you learned? Have you heard any feedback about being an accredited Health Department?  
A: We are continuing to learn best practices. It has also given us additional opportunities.
- Q: The Health Department management team has been through the process. Have they acknowledged that they are prepared to move forward?

A: It is a lot of work involved and the management understand the value of being accredited. There would be additional funding needed to secure help in the process. Every part of the agency is involved in the process.

Q: Is this one of the primary goals of Health Departments? Are there similar agencies that you can become “certified” through?

A: PHAB is the only national accrediting body and sets the standards for best practice.

Q: Do we have the bandwidth energy wise? Is there hope for better times? Would you be able to find support and have additional help? A: We believe that we would be able to put together a team to help along with outside resources.

Q: Is it an irreversible decision?

A: We are at the very beginning stages. The final decision would be brought back to the board by February, 2023.

***Motion to support the Health Department moving forward PHAB Accreditation renewal as presented by Health Department staff: Don Bodeau***

***Second: Jennifer Eddy***

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

b. Approval of 2020 Single Audit Report

- This is the same format that we present annually.
- The process was delayed due to COVID.
- Reviewed areas on the report that showed any findings.

***Motion to approve and accept the 2020 Single Audit Report as presented by Health Department staff: Mark Kaeding***

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

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

c. Approve FEMA COVID vaccination site

- We had not previously brought a fact sheet asking to accept FEMA funding.
- We received \$285,000 as an advanced we are now going to return funding that wasn't spent.
- This is to approve funding for the FEMA site.

***Motion to approve FEMA COVID vaccination site funding as presented by Health Department staff: Martha Nieman***

***2nd Motion: Don Bodeau***

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

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

a. COVID-19 update

- The situation report has been updated. Moving forward we will continue to have that document to use and share.
- We moved from an Incident Command Center with several entities involved to moving the work back to the Health Department on an operational basis. It isn't the same emergency response “crisis” mode. We are at a place where we have tools that we didn't have and more knowledge.

Part of the next step is moving forward we will have a “COVID” unit as part of the Health Department team. More information will be shared with the board as that process rolls out.

- We will continue to have focus on testing, vaccination, disease follow up and communication.
- There will be a focus on health equity and trying to fill those gaps.
- The website and other resources for information will continue.
- We are still seeing cases, but they are in such a different place than a month ago.

Board member Question/Answer:

- Q: How much input did the department have in the school districts decision to not require masks? A: We were in conversation with the school district as they were making the decision. We shared best practices and provided input based on CDC recommendations.

b. Director/Health Officer Report

- Correspondence/Media
- HIV information was discussed

c. Performance Management Update

- In 2022, performance measures will be a focus as we recover.
- We have a lot of new staff at the department, and we want to engage them and hear feedback about potential updates.

d. COVID-19 after action and response evaluation

- This was something that we were hoping to start last year but COVID kept growing.
- There will be future opportunities to engage.
- When looking at the list of people to get feedback from is there anyone that is missing, that you would want added?
- Board member feedback:
  - Getting feedback from those that had objection to the purposed mandate and ordinances. If we could somehow get a handle on those individual rights issues that created tension and challenges.
  - Reaching out to mental health providers.
  - Gathering input from the aging population.
  - It is important to go to the people that you are trying to gather feedback from.
- General questions that we are thinking to ask to receive feedback. (Questions were shared)
  - Perhaps a question about isolation rooms for people who didn't have a space. What things worked and didn't work.
  - Gathering questions from different partners may be helpful.
- When we come back for feedback from the Board of Health on the COVID response, how would the board like that information provided.
  - Feedback: Round table discussion, discussion at a board of health meeting.

**Board member informational items**

a. Quarterly review of tracking BOH Priorities

- There is free advocacy training for board member through “Public Health Region 5 Training Center”, this information will be forwarded to members
- If board members watch the training videos, please reach out to Merey and let her know.

b. Virtual meeting discussion

- As we move through transition times, we want to get a sense of where the board is with what the needs are for meetings.

Board member Discussion:

- I am sure there is a City, County, and State level perception on this that may be pre-scripted.
- It seems that we have a degree of autonomy on how to move forward.
- Board members expressed their gratefulness for the ability to meet virtually during the pandemic. The virus has an amazing capacity to mutate so I don't know if we are guaranteed that we are truly in a transition as much we hope. Being able to be face to face would be ideal, but the pandemic is not yet over. A hybrid status or continuing to remain virtually would be ideal. It allows everyone to attend safely and still be able to voice concerns or participate in the meeting.
- It is nice to have options. Especially if traveling or out of town. It greatly increases the flexibility to be able to participate.
- Hybrid would be a great compromise if it would be an option. If that isn't an option, then continuing to be virtual would be the safest route.
- There are some challenges to work through if we move forward with a hybrid model.
- The size of the conference room is not large enough to hold a lot of people. We are exploring those options.
- If meeting in person, it would have to present a safe and large enough meeting space.
- It was suggested to wait a bit longer and see what happens with COVID numbers.

a. Public Health Policy/Advocacy

- WPHA/WALHDAB Legislative Priorities-there are a lot of moving pieces right now. There is a lot of legislation that does not support health that are on this list.
- County Advisory Referendum on clean water -The health department was not part of the planning process and are waiting to see if the health department will be engaged in being part of education etc. regarding to the referendum.

b. Standing Committee Updates: Board members discuss if this section of the agenda has been helpful since being added to the agenda.

- City Council: [City Council Agendas | City of Eau Claire, Wisconsin \(eauclairewi.gov\)](#)
  - On the City website there are community panels for the two finalists for the City Manager position. Feedback will be shared directly with City Council.
  - The City Manager oversees department heads, staff, and the operational aspects of the city. It is a big role and getting the Board of Health perspective would be helpful.
- County Board: [2022 Meeting Agendas & Minutes | Eau Claire County \(eau-claire.wi.us\)](#)
  - Preparation has begun for the shift to new County Board members.
  - Strategic planning conversations are underway. Links are on the County Board website to participate in planning sessions.
- Ground Water Advisory Committee: [Groundwater Advisory | Eau Claire County \(eau-claire.wi.us\)](#)
  - Have not met since last update.
- ARPA County Funding: [ARPA Committee | Eau Claire County \(eau-claire.wi.us\)](#)
  - The committee that was formed has not met since the Fall of 2021. There have been updates by the County Administrator about general funding.

- c. Conference attendance: NALBOH and WPHA/WALHDAB annual 2022 conference
  - Board members are encouraged to attend.
    - [NALBOH 2022 Conference August 1-3](#)
    - [2022 Annual Public Health Virtual Conference - WPHA May 24-26](#)

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

- a. None made

Next scheduled BOH meeting is March 23,2022, at 5:15 p.m.

Merrey Price adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.