

**BOARD OF HEALTH COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
September 3, 2019**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Tom Kelly, Steven Schreier, Ryan Zietlow, Jim Winkler

COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Dr. Amy Slette, Vice Chair Bob Metropulos, Ann Ovsak

STAFF PRESENT: Linda Conlon, Marta McMillion, Jenny Chiamulera, Todd Troskey and Kyla Waksmonski

OTHERS PRESENT: Dorothy Skye

Call to order: Tom Kelly called the meeting to order at 9:18 a.m. on the second floor of the Health & ADRC Building, 100 W. Keenan Street, Rhinelander, WI. The meeting posted was in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and the facility is handicap accessible.

Minutes of August 13, 2019: Motion by Schreier/Zietlow to approve the August 13, 2019, Board of Health Committee minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

Approval of agenda: Motion by Zietlow/Schreier to approve today's agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

Public comment/communications: None

Staff Report: Maternal Child Health (MCH) – Jennifer Chiamulera:

Chiamulera discussed MCH program and the work related to adolescent mental health and suicide. The prevention work this program has done is in collaboration with the CHIP, COPE, and trauma informed care group from OCSS. Suicide prevention practices for this year have included work with community groups for QPR train the trainer; trained 13 instructors throughout the region. Additional activities include a community resource mapping activity to identify resources to support adolescent mental health in our county. Schreier asked if access to mental health care is an issue. Chiamulera stated that wait times are long to get access to a mental health care provider. There is work being done to resolve this systems problem. Waksmonski shared the work being done with mental health crisis calls and law enforcement and human service center. Marta stated that we are the medical hub for other counties and that may distort our data related to access. Schreier discussed the struggle of mental health and drug use. LUHS has received the Project Aware grant through SAMSHA. As a result, the school consortium will be trained in mental health first aid and mental health counselor will be at the school. Zietlow asked questions related to community gatekeepers. Chiamulera can be reached for gatekeeper trainings and scheduling.

2020 Budget:

Conlon stated that a budget and budget summary have been provided to the members and the documents were reviewed. Zietlow clarified the oversight and role of the BOH related to the budget. Conlon spoke to the difficulty of budgeting when the funding is inconsistent. FTE staff has decreased by one, we have decreased full time to part time

in other positions the past. LTEs have also been hired for projects with terms. Tuesday, October 8, at 1:30 this will be presented to the Admin Committee. Always project revenue very cautiously to meet the needs of the budget. Total budget is now just under \$2 million.

Conlon shared the broad view of the public health revenue makeup which includes percentages of grant, tax levy, and revenue.

Conlon spoke to the difficulty in expenses related to insurance costs. Conlon also spoke to OCHD being the natural fiscal agent for projects or programs that serve multiple counties due to the strong infrastructure and capacity.

Winkler asked if there are services that OCHD is providing that it could not or should not be providing. Conlon stated that programs funded by tax levy are not services that should be cut and include communicable disease follow-up, public outreach and education, flu shots, health hazard and animal bite follow up, immunizations, etc.

Motion by Zietlow/Schreier to approve the budget and forward to admin committee. All ayes; motion carried.

Monthly Updates:

Environmental Health Report:

Crescent Spring Update:

Conlon stated that PFAS is an umbrella term for certain manmade chemicals. No state standards for PFAS for groundwater in WI. OCHD is consulting with DPH and DNR for recommendations. The City and OCHD know that PFAS is bad for people so that's why the well was shut down. PFAS is everywhere. You cannot eliminate your exposure completely to PFAS. The City of Rhinelander's water is now considered to be safe at this point in time because the contaminated well is off line. The Crescent Spring also has elevated levels of PFAS, which is why it was also posted. The DNR is responsible for investigating the source of PFAS and that will take a considerable amount of time. The City has done some additional testing and is moving on with its own plan. Kelly stated that the wells at the golf course are okay. It is not the role of the health department to test private wells. Schreier asked if the city made the decision to shut down the well. Conlon stated that it was the decision of the City, but they may have consulted with other organizations like the DNR. The group reviewed the sign posted at the Crescent Town Spring. Winkler asked about the landowners who live in that area. Conlon stated there are some resources for filters that OCHD can provide concerned community members; also provided on OCHD website. Schreier also asked about exposure and Conlon stated that it is drinking or consuming the water that is of concern, not general or recreational contact. Schreier also indicated that PFAS is cumulative. Conlon stated that women of childbearing age, infants, and children are of most concern. Winkler asked about the signs of exposure to PFAS. Conlon stated that all symptoms appear over a period of time, symptoms are not acute. The soonest symptom may be in pregnant women or infants and children. This may be low birth

weight, developmental delays, etc. Conlon also stated that it is very difficult to say that PFAS caused these symptoms because there are so many other factors. Troskey also stated that the levels might be different in tissue versus blood. Conlon indicated it could take 10-15 years to leave the system. Winkler asked Troskey what percentage of the homes in the County in this contaminated area have shallow versus deep wells. Troskey estimates that many of the wells are likely shallow meaning 100 feet or less, however the DNR would have a better grasp on the actual number. Winkler also stated that it might be worth looking at landfill wells and their contamination. Conlon stated that it is likely that there are multiple sources. Zietlow asked what the next step is for the health department. Conlon stated that OCHD is working with DPH to identify next steps that may include additional testing, outreach, etc. Troskey mentioned that ultimately, this is the town's system (Crescent Spring), and it is ultimately the town's decision to determine the next steps. OCHD has taken the lead because we have expertise and resources. Boiling the water will not fix the PFAS in the water, in fact, may concentrate them more.

Communicable Diseases (8/1/19-8/31/19):

Disease	Closed	Closed and Confirmed/Probable
Anaplasmosis, A. phagocytophilum	8	5
Blastomycosis	1	0
Campylobacteriosis	1	1
Chlamydia Trachomatis Infection	7	7
E. Coli, Shiga Toxin-Producing (STEC)	1	1
Giardiasis	1	1
Hepatitis B, Chronic	2	0
Legionellosis	1	0
Lyme Disease (B.Burgdorferi)	25	14

Flu:

Conlon stated that the delivery of flu vaccine is about one month behind schedule due to the development of the vaccine combination. Letters to OCHD clinic hosts have already been sent. Conlon anticipates end of September for delivery.

Prices will likely be the same as last year.

Health Hazards (8/13/19 – 9/3/19):

McMillion discussed the health hazards complaints that OCHD has received. There are now 8 open cases.

Hazard Description	New	Existing
Air Quality		

Animals	1	
Asbestos		
Dilapidated Structure		
Hazardous Material		
Housing		1
Lead Hazards		
Meth		
Mold	1	3
Noxious Smoke/Fumes		
Occupational Hazard		
Other Environmental Hazard		1 (Fuel Oil)
Other Vector		
Radiation Hazards		
Radon		
Sewage Disposal System		
Sewage		
Solid Waste/Garbage		1
Water Quality		
Subtotal	2	6
New Cases Closed	-0	
Total Open Cases	2	+ 6 = 8
Total Cases from Previous Month	8	

Outreach/Communication Report (8/13/19-8/30/19):
 McMillion shared the outreach report.

Facebook	21	
Press Release		
Presentation		
Board of Health	1	
Interview		
Health Fair		
School	2	
Lobby Slides		
Mailings		
Phone Outreach		
Newsletter		
Total	24	

Facebook Reporting (8/13/19-8/30/19):
 McMillion shared Facebook report.

Posts	21
Total Reach	2,335
Average Reach per Post	111
Total Engagement (Likes, shares, comments)	119
Average Engagement per post	6
Boosts during timeframe	No
Post with largest reach	OCHD Press Release about PFAS in Crescent Spring on 8/19/19, reach of 286
Post with most engagement	OCHD Press Release about PFAS in Crescent Spring on 8/19/19, engagement of 74
New Page Likes	4
Total Page Likes	694

Legislative Update:

Conlon shared a drafted resolution requesting the WI legislature end the use of personal conviction waivers for school and day care center immunizations.

Zietlow asked if the religious exemption would remain. Conlon stated yes. This is for personal conviction only. Winkler was concerned about removing parental choice and asked what the consequence of this is for parents. Conlon stated that the potential consequence would be that children have to be vaccinated or removed from school. Zietlow shared that parents still have a choice to send their children to public school or home school. Schreier shared that it is important to consider that unvaccinated children may put other children at risk. Conlon stated that this is also about protecting those with medical waivers, newborn babies, and other vulnerable populations.

Winkler asked how many children through WIC are not vaccinated. Conlon reported that it is a small handful. OCHD sees more of those who are just behind schedule. McMillion shared that OCHD staff work to get the children up to date while they are here in the building.

Motion by Winkler/Schreier to approve the resolution and forward to county board. All ayes; motion carried.

Vouchers, purchase orders and line item transfers: Conlon discussed the employee expense vouchers and other expense vouchers in detail. Motion by Schreier/Zietlow to accept the vouchers as presented. All ayes; motion carried.

Agenda items for next meeting: Schedule next meeting for October 8, 2019 at 9 am. Schreier requested more information on vaping and lung disease and potential legislation. Conlon stated that there is a bill in legislature, T21.

Public comment/communications: None.



Committee Chairman

Kyla Waksmonski

Committee Secretary