



BERRIEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Wednesday, February 1st, 2023
BCHD – Boardroom
2149 E. Napier
Benton Harbor, Michigan

The regular monthly meeting of the Berrien County Board of Health was held on Wednesday, February 1st, 2023, at the Health Department, 2149 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor, Michigan. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Dr. Edwards.

PRESENT:

BOARD – V. Brown M. Kohring Cichon Dr. Edwards
R. Matejczyk

OTHERS – Dr. Cabaltica G. Miller C. Gabrielse
L. Ankenbruck Commissioner Harrison

GUEST – Charlie Olszewski Tony Wittkowski – HP

ABSENT – Dr. McBride B. Chickering L. Strohl

I. APPROVALS

a. Minutes

Motion by R. Matejczyk, supported by M. Kohring Cichon, that the minutes of the January 4th, 2023 regular meeting of the Board of Health be approved. Motion carried.

b. Vouchers

Vouchers as presented to the Board of Health were reviewed. Motion by M. Kohring Cichon, supported by V. Brown, that vouchers be allowed for payment. Motion carried.

c. Resolutions

i. Mary Kushion Consulting LLC Amendment

Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) wished to contract for the purpose of completing a strategic plan which is a requirement for accreditation through the State of Michigan Public Health Accreditation process.

BCHD recognizes that expert assistance is needed to facilitate the strategic planning sessions with key staff, management, and administration at BCHD.

In order to engage staff and Board of Health members in the strategic planning effort through facilitated planning sessions, BCHD wishes to contract with Mary Kushion Consulting LLC, lead by an experienced strategic planner who is also a semi-retired health officer from Michigan and a Public Health professor at Central Michigan University.

The proposed of this contract amendment is to incorporate the services and fees required to complete the additional strategic priorities deemed necessary by BCHD, In addition to the agreed upon fee of \$6,500, the cost for the added consulting services will be \$9,360.

The details for the added consulting services are: completion of documentation review for each department and timeline development (\$780), preparation and completion of strategic planning sessions with 3 departments plus mileage expense (\$5,460), and completion of strategic priorities for the three departments (\$3,120), with a new contract total of \$15,860.

The work is expected to commence starting January 16th, 2023 and ending on, or before June 30, 2023.

Motion to approve the Mary Kushion Consulting Amendment by M. Kohring Cichon, seconded by R. Matejczyk. Motion carried.

ii. 2023 Fee Schedule

Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) on behalf of Berrien County provides services authorized or required to be performed under MCL 333.2444 by the local health department that are necessary or desirable to protect public health and the environment and to that end, establishes and set fees for program services.

The payments of such fees contribute to the county and BCHD's ability to cover some of its costs to perform these services and activities for the public good.

The schedule of fees is reviewed annually and adjusted periodically as deemed appropriate and needed to address the costs of performing such services and the most recent review has determined that it is necessary to adjust the fees for certain items and services in a fiscally responsible manner. The Board of Health endorses the acceptance of this schedule of fees minus the Environmental Health Services section. The Board requested Nick Margaritis, Environmental Health Services (EH) Manager to evaluate the staff time and cost of of the EH services and compare to other Environmental Health Services in neighboring counties.

Motion to approve the 2023 Fee Schedule except the Environmental Health Services by V. Brown, seconded by M. Kohring Cichon. Motion carried.

II. Recognitions

a. Seth Tippin 5 year recognition

The Board of Health recognized Seth Tippin, Sanitarian for his 5 years of service to Berrien County Health Department in the Environmental Health Services area. The Board of Health presented him with a certificate.

III. Health Department Financials – Lisa Ankenbruck

Lisa updated the Board of Health on the preliminary results for State and Federal grant funding through December totaled \$4,905,511, under budget \$680,495 (12%) and under last year \$1,241,674 (20%) primarily due to COVID related revenues below last year. We received \$2.2 million in COVID-19 funds in 2021 compared with \$857,000 for 2022. Permits & Inspection revenue ended the year over budget by \$82,325 and slightly over last year \$13,815. Food Services license fees were over budget \$41,445 and over last year \$18,072. Clinic fee revenues including Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance are under budget \$35,603 (21%) and a healthy amount of \$22,338 (20%) over last year as clinic activity comes out of COVID. Medicaid Title 19 Cost Reimbursement is estimated to end the year over budget. The final amount will be determined as the books are closed for the year. Other Sources and Grants includes surplus United Way and Kresge grant funds received last year and pulled forward into this year's revenues. The FY2022 federal vaccine of \$104,479 for 1,617 vaccine doses compared slightly better than last year on a dollar basis but doses distributed are still number less than pre-pandemic volumes.

Overall expenditures ended the year \$2.1 million under budget (22%) and \$781,213 (9%) under last year. The majority of both variances is found in personnel related costs, including both salaries and benefits, which were under budget \$1.8 million (25%) and under last year by \$773,133 (13%). At last review of the 87 positions budgeted, we have 70 active employees leaving 17 open positions. The increase to the Health Department fund balance is projected at \$962,858, ending year with a balance of \$4.3 million. The 2023 budget assumes a drawdown of \$846,558 and includes spending of \$100,000 on Niles improvements and \$350,000 for enhanced technology such as timekeeping software, Environmental Health tracking software, and document management system tools.

IV. Health Department Administrative Reports

a. Opioid Settlement Plan – Guy Miller

Guy reported that key stakeholders, ROSC, Corwell Health, Riverwood, InterCare, and Voice Change Hope are meeting to develop a plan on how to come up with a budget for the Opioid Settlement Plan. Voice Change Hope will be the facilitator. Once a plan is in place it will be presented to the Commissioners.

b. Marijuana Discussion – Guy Miller

Guy discussed with the Board of Health Marijuana in Berrien County. The regulations from the State of Michigan is slim at best. Adriana Baker pulled together white pages on the negative effects of using Marijuana. Adriana stated that Cannabis, a widely used psychoactive substance, can trigger acute cannabis-associated psychotic symptoms in people who use cannabis. A study completed in 2022 with 233,475 participants concluded the following:
* 1/200 of people who use cannabis will develop acute self-limiting cannabis-associated psychotic symptoms

* About 1/3 of the participants (~78,000) developed transient psychosis (paranoia and/or hallucinations) that did not require medical attention.

* 0.5% (~1,200) participants needed emergency medical treatment

* Factors that increase the risk of cannabis-associated psychotic symptoms were:

*Users under the age of 21 (Risk ratio 2.66)

*Using high-potency resin (RR 2.11 compared to using herbal cannabis)

*Mixing cannabis with tobacco (RR 2.15)

*Those with a pre-existing mental health diagnosis: Psychosis (RR 14.01), Bipolar (RR 4.30), Anxiety (RR 2.92), and Depression (RR 2.68).

Adriana will update the Board of Health as information is released.

c. Clinic Work Flow – Candi Gabrielse

Candi informed the Board of Health that the Department has reviewed its current roles and responsibilities within the Health Departments Clinical team. The scope of duties currently assigned to the clinical clerical staff has become more complex which requires clerical staff and nursing staff to have a more seamless interaction. BCHD has identified a need to meet the demand in the Health Department due to the inability to recruit qualified nursing staff to assist in covering clinical responsibilities to continue to meet the needs of the community by creating a new Medical Assistant position. This adjustment in the staffing complement will enable BCHD to respond more efficiently and timely to the needs of the clinic and allow for a more diverse staff person who will be able to do both the clerical duties and assist with nursing responsibilities combined. This will be beneficial going forward with telehealth.

V. BCHD Program, Service, and /or Partnership Spotlight

a. Environmental Health Services – Nick Margaritis, Environmental Health Services (EHS) Manager

Nick Margaritis stated that EHS in a few weeks should be fully staffed. Nick went over a few numbers from 2019 – 2022 and we can visibly see the effect of the pandemic. Sewage appeals went from 3 appeals in 2019 to 10 appeals in 2022, Wells increased in 2022 (400 permits) compared to 2019. Food service inspections remained the same a number of establishments closed in 2020 but others opened, which increased workflow. Beaches are in great shape. Seth Tippin had coordinated the Vector Program the last few years. There are 186 pools or hot tubs inspected the majority are outside. 17 campgrounds inspected one of which has 2000 sites. Body Art facilities pre COVID were 14 and in 2022 there are 22. Much discussion ensued over the fees for Sewage Appeals and the EHS 2023 fee schedule. M. Kohring motioned that Nick evaluate the staff time and cost of of the EH services and Sewage Appeals, and compare to other Environmental Health Services in neighboring counties.

VI. Berrien County Board of Commissioners (Liaison, BOC)

Commissioner Harrison stated that the Broadband analysis is complete and Oronoko Township is the first upgraded in Berrien County. The Juvenile Center is in the planning stage and it will cost approximately \$60 a square foot. Representative Huizenga visited the area and was given a tour of the jail. There were a few new Commissioners and new assignments were given, Commissioner Harrison remains the liaison for the Board of Health.

VII. Board of Health Discussion/Miscellaneous

Dr. Edwards requested the white paper published by Seth Tippin, Sanitarian Ray Matejczyk asked if BCHD could look into more research on heavy metals in Marijuana, and are we seeing an increase in in marijuana use in Berrien County. The Board would also like to see what grants we have, and what is the Economic impact of Environmental Health Services on Berrien County and review EH fee schedule and provide information on what other counties do, look at the true cost to our programs and staff time.

VIII. Public Comments

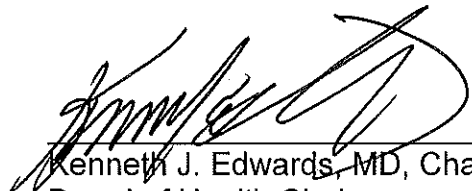
Charlie Olszewski asked the Board of Health if there were any deaths from Marijuana in Berrien County. Dr. Cabaltica stated it would be very difficult to attribute a cause of death directly to marijuana. This is partly because those who test positive for marijuana may have taken it several weeks ago or several minutes ago. The current tests cannot determine when the exposure took place. The other part of the story is that users often use other substances, such as cocaine, opioids, or alcohol, which are more likely to lead to death.

Dr. Cabaltica pointed out to Mr. Olszewski that accidental ingestions by children, as far as the data we have to date, have not resulted in any deaths. Though there has been an alarming increase in accidental ingestions by children mainly due to the foolish packaging of marijuana as edibles, such as resins, gummy bears, cookies, etc. I think the last year for which we currently have numbers was 2021 when over 3,000 cases were reported to the National Poison Data System for children <6yrs. About 23%, or nearly a quarter of these ingestions, resulted in hospitalizations. Thankfully, there were no known deaths among these reported cases.

IX. Adjournment

REPORTS DISTRIBUTED

Finance Report


Kenneth J. Edwards, MD, Chair
Board of Health Chair


Kim Rodgers, Secretary

