



BERRIEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Wednesday, March 02, 2022
BCHD – Boardroom
2149 E. Napier
Benton Harbor, Michigan

The regular monthly meeting of the Berrien County Board of Health was held on Wednesday, March 02, 2022, at the Health Department, 2149 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor, Michigan. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, M. Kohring.

PRESENT:

BOARD – Dr. Edwards V. Brown M. Kohring
 R. Matejczyk Dr. McBride L. Strohl

OTHERS – Dr. Cabaltica G. Conrad C. Davis
 R. Harrison J. Kelly-Preis

GUEST – Donna Payne Terry Trerartin and two other members of the public

ABSENT – Joseph Wasserman

I. APPROVALS

a. Minutes

Motion by R. Matejczyk, supported by Dr. Edwards, that the minutes of the February 2nd, 2022 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 Dr. McBride, supported by V. Brown, that vouchers be allowed for payment.
Motion carried.

c. Resolutions

- i. P2203212 Blood Lead Case Management Emerging Threats Amendment 3
Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) desires to update the contract titled Emerging Threats for Local Health Departments for the fiscal year 2021-2022 (October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022) previously approved under P2108298, P2110339, and amended under P2201160. This agreement ensures the provision of public health services in accordance with the Michigan Public Health Code (1978 PA 368) and MDHHS policies and protocols.

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This update reflects new funding from the State of Michigan to cover expenditures related to emerging and ongoing health threats in local jurisdictions additionally, this will also include Nursing Lead Case Management Expansion funding to support the community, staff, outreach and inspect for lead in the home outlined herein:

Program Title:

Local Home Visiting Program Support (ARP) \$35,843

Nursing Lead Case Management Expansion \$245,000

Program Total \$280,843

Emerging Threats Contract Total \$ 2,229,875

Berrien County Board of Commissioners accepts this additional funding for FY2021-22 in the amount of \$280,843, for Nursing Lead Response activities and Local Home Visiting Program Support under the Emerging Threats for Local Health Departments, for a revised contract total of \$ 2,229,875, and authorizes the Health Officer to electronically execute the described contract, as prescribed by MDHHS.

ii. P2203205 EGLE Beach Monitoring Grant

Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) provides environmental inspections to protect the health and safety of Berrien County residents and visitors, as mandated by Michigan's Public Health Code and other statutes aimed at protecting environmental safety and quality. Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) has issued grant funding for Lake Michigan Beach Monitoring activities. BCHD wished to accept funding for the time period of April 1st, 2022 – December 31, 2022 for funding of \$12,553.19 as a continuation of these services that BCHD has provided to the community for many years.

Motion to approve all resolutions as a whole by Dr. Edwards, seconded by R. Matejczyk. Motion carried.

d. Sewage Appeal Board Applicant Review Committee

Peg Kohring discussed with the Board of Health the application process for the opening on the Sewage Appeals Board. It was decided by the Board of Health to recommend the Sewage Appeals Board conduct the interviews and choose an applicant. Once an applicant is chosen the Sewage Appeals Board can submit the recommendation to the Board of Health for approval.

Motion by Peg Kohring to approve the process for review of applicants for the Sewage Appeals Board, seconded by Dr. McBride. Motion carried.

II. Recognitions

a. Joe Wasserman 10 Year Recognition

The Board of Health recognized Joe Wasserman for his more than 10 years of service to the residence of Berrien County by serving as a board member on the

Board of Health. Mr. Wasserman could not be present, and has submitted his resignation to the Board of Health.

III. Health Department Financials

a. Monthly Report – Lisa Ankenbruck

Lisa discussed the monthly report with the Board of Health. The revenues from the State and Federal grants for January totaled \$466,475 (2.6%) under budget and \$70,922 (18%) favorable to last year. COVID related revenues for January totaled \$116,995 in 2022 while only \$78,379 in 2021. Permits & Inspections are under budget \$19,488 and over last year \$2,777 as January is a slow month for Environmental health billings. Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance and clinic revenues are under budget \$6,030 (42%) but over last year \$1,963 (30%). Medicaid Title 19 Cost reimbursement is over budget \$13,672 reflecting the receipt of our quarterly payment in January.

Overall expenditures before county services allocations are under budget \$483,265 (68%) and under last year by \$296,451 (56%). Most of the variance is accounted for in personnel related costs, including both salaries and benefits, which are under budget \$391,698 and under last year by \$293,725. January 2022 included only one payroll due to the timing of year end accrual reversals. Variances in expenses are generally timing related; memberships include our annual dues for MALPH of \$5,001.

IV. Health Department Administrative Reports

a. COVID-19 Update – Guy Miller

Guy reviewed the trends of COVID-19 cases and positive tests with the Board of Health. Berrien County saw a significant decrease in cases this week compared to the last five weeks, with cases declining towards the end of January and further decreasing every consecutive week. In the graph “Cumulative Berrien County Weekly Case Rate per 100,000 population” shows the slope indicating a downward trend over this period of time. Berrien County has observed an increasing case rate in January of 222 with a sudden large decrease this week and last week. Through the past 9 weeks there has been a couple of peaks; with a decline in number of cases in the past several weeks.

b. Action Level Exceedance (ALE)

Guy updated the Board of Health on the ALE program. The Emerging Threats Supervisor is posted. Guy explained the Health Departments involvement in unison with Benton Harbor City and the State.

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

a. Donna Payne, Manager of Clinical & Community Health Services

Donna reviewed with the Board of Health highlights and changes that occurred in 2020 and 2021. In 2020, Three Disease Intervention Specialists (case Investigator) were hired along with several Temporary Supplemental positions and volunteers. It was very overwhelming for staff with the constant change with directives from the State of Michigan which involved notifying staff of the changes to implement and printing of documents to reflect the changes.

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Several electronic systems were set in place to help with notification and tracking: Sara Alert – a patient notification for COVID-19 exposure, Smart Sheets for schools to report communicable disease, and Michigan Surveillance System, Patient Education Genius (PEG) which Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) was the first chosen for the pilot program. There was “all hands on deck” for the BCHD staff and many volunteers to provide many COVID-19 vaccination clinics from on site to offsite clinics. BCHD partnered with Spectrum Health Lakeland, LMC College, National Guard, Mosaic, fire departments, churches, and schools to name a few. Mosaic was a fantastic group who assisted the Health department to quarantine the homeless. Mosaic would get notification that a person in need is going to need to quarantine, Mosaic would assign a place for this individual to stay and then the Health Department would reimburse Mosaic for the cost. Presently, there are many testing sites available and more vaccination sites such as pharmacies. BCHD continues to have vaccination clinics at the Benton Harbor office on Tuesdays from 3 pm – 6 pm for 12 and over, and every other Wednesday from 3 pm – 6 pm for ages 5-11 years old, the Niles location vaccination clinics are: every other Wednesday from 3 pm – 6 pm 5 – 11 years old, and Thursdays from 4 pm – 6 pm for 12 and over.

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

Commissioner Harrison explained to the Board of Health that the facility review has been completed, it will take over a million dollars to bring buildings up to code, not including the jail and courthouse. There will be a new communication tower mainly to assist fire departments, the location is yet to be determined.

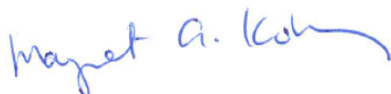
VII. Public Comments

Terry Trerartin from Harbor of Hope Church thanked BCHD staff for all their efforts for COVID vaccinations, water distribution, and farmers market to name a few. He hopes BCHD can continue the partnership with Harbor of Hope Church in the future.

VIII. Adjournment

REPORTS DISTRIBUTED

COVID-19 Data Update



Margaret Kohring
Board of Health Chair



Kim Rodgers, Secretary