



## BERRIEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
County Conference Room  
2149 E. Napier  
Benton Harbor, Michigan

The regular monthly meeting of the Berrien County Board of Health was held on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at the Health Department, 2149 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor, Michigan. The meeting was called to order by Chairman, M. Kohring.

### PRESENT:

BOARD – V. Brown                      W. Chickering                      M. Kohring Cichon  
                 R. Matejczyk                      Dr. McBride                      L. Strohl

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

GUEST – Gwen Agens                      Dorothy Parker                      Samantha Wright  
                 Kyna King                      Louise Wrege - HP

ABSENT – Dr. Edwards

### I. APPROVALS

#### a. Minutes

**Motion by R. Matejczyk, supported by V. Brown, that the minutes of the August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 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 L. Strohl, supported by V. Brown, that vouchers be allowed for payment.**

**Motion carried.**

#### c. Resolutions

##### i. P2209351 Baby's Own Bed

Unsafe sleep environments are a contributing factor to Berrien County's unacceptably high infant mortality rates. Injuries to toddlers and young children can be prevented in the home by having a safe space for children to sleep. Great Start Collaborative has graciously awarded Berrien County Health Department funding for projects such as the Baby's Own Bed program. United Way of Southwest Michigan is the fiduciary for Great Start Collaborative and

will provide Berrien County Health Department a check in the amount of \$2000.

ii. P2209352 Health Educator

Berrien County Health Department (BCHD) provides family health support parenting education services and programs for families and partners across Berrien County through various models such as Taking Pride In Prevention, Michigan Adolescent Pregnant and Parenting Program (MI-APPP), Triple P Positive Parenting Program .Organizing and structure institution and community based process across sectors to ensure they promote and never inhibit achievement of equity in maternal- child health. Recent community need has led to internal program and service growth over the past years, now encompassing additional program models and community coalitions such as Raising Up Healthy Babies Taskforce (addressing infant mortality reduction improving health outcomes), Taking Pride In Prevention ( a teen sexual health and healthy relationship initiative), Fatherhood mentorship and support networks, expanding community coalition work around issues parenting education, maternal and infant mortality, and childhood and infant death review. Staffing changes proposed will allow for BCHD to appropriately support family health program functions, uphold program model fidelity expanding program delivery, continuing operations in accordance to established work plans by a variety of grant funders and ensure more cohesive alignment across department positions and function.

**Motion by Dr. McBride, seconded by V. Brown that the resolutions as a whole be approved. Motion carried**

II. Approved Resolutions

a. C2208337 Hazard Pay for County Employees

In response to the dangers of the Coronavirus disease COVID-19, Michigan Governor Whitmer issued Executive Order 2020-4 on March 24, 2020 declaring a State of Emergency and subsequent executive orders thereafter, which ordered Michigan residents, to the fullest extent possible, to stay home and stay safe. Governor Whitmer then distributed "hazard pay" to state employees out of federal funds they had received to financially support the COVID-19 response. Berrien County Board of Commissioners via resolution #B2004222, asked the Governor and the State Legislature to provide adequate funding to Michigan local governmental units so that they may also provide comparable hazard pay, not only to those working in public safety, but, for all the Berrien County employees that continued serving as an essential employee during that time thus creating a higher risk for contracting COVID-19. In September of 2020 and again in November of 2020, Berrien County officials were notified that they were awarded funding as part of the First Responders Hazard Pay Premium Program, however, those funds were regulated to only be used for those direct front line workers in the field of public safety. A multitude of other County employees did not get hazard pay and yet continued to work throughout the pandemic without any additional pay. The Committee on Committees have deemed it appropriate to provide to all eligible full-time employees, a one-time hazard pay bonus of \$1,000 for all full time employees that were employed during the pandemic and are still

employed or who have recently retired. Berrien County Board of Commissioners authorizes a \$1,000 hazard pay bonus from the general fund to be paid to all eligible FT employees as determined by the Personnel and Human Services Committee under resolution C2208337. Elected officials are not eligible for the \$1,000 in hazard pay and any prior recipients of the hazard pay bonus are not to receive an additional hazard pay bonus.

III. Recognitions

a. Gwen Agens

The Board of Health recognized Gwen Agens for her dedication to Berrien County Health Department for her more than 15 years of service. Gwen started at the Sheriff's Department and worked there for 5 years. The Board of Health presented her with a certificate.

b. Angela Marr

The Board of Health recognized Angela Marr for her dedication to Berrien County Health Department for her more than 20 years of service. Angela could not be present and will be presented a certificate at a later date.

IV. Health Department Financials – Lisa Ankenbruck

Lisa informed the Board of Health that the State and Federal grant revenues through July totaled \$3,203,787, under budget 2% and \$580,659 (15%) unfavorable to last year. COVID related revenues reported last year through July totaled \$1,630,485 to date while 2022 to date is \$869,012. Permits & Inspections are over budget \$120,816 and over last year \$23,953 as Food Service Licenses are \$29,360 (7.5%) ahead of last year. Clinic revenues including Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance are under budget \$32,405 (33%) and over last year \$2,989 (5%). Medicaid Title 19 Cost Reimbursement is ahead of budget; it is an estimated payment remitted on a quarterly basis and the variance is expected to even up as we progress through the year. Other Sources and Grants reflects surplus. United Way grant funds received last year for the Nurse Family Partnership program deferred into this year's revenues and the same for \$42,106 in unspent funding received last August from the Kresge Foundation for the Strengthening Vaccine Efforts among Hard to Reach Communities Program (ended May 31, 2022). Also we received is the first of four payments of \$15,000 from the MI Public Health Institute for the Birth Equity Architecture Program.

Overall expenditures before county services allocations are under budget \$1,588,010 (32%) and under last year by \$686,637 (17%). Most of the variance is accounted for in personnel related costs, including both salaries and benefits, which are under budget \$1,375,117 (33%) to date and under last year by \$728,604 (21%). The budgeted salary/fringe assumed approximately \$273,000 per payroll and we are actually averaging about \$200,000 or \$73,000 under per payroll due to complement changes & vacancies.

V. Health Department Administrative Reports

a. Monkey Pox

Guy informed the Board of Health that there are 19,962 Monkey Pox cases to date nationally, 204 in Michigan and no cases of Monkey Pox in Berrien

- County. TPOXX is available for providers to treat eligible persons with MPV infection.
- b. COVID-19  
Guy stated that Berrien County remains in the low risk category for COVID-19. Averaging 9.3 hospital admissions per week per 100,000 population (seeing about 11 per day), 7.8% of hospital bed capacity. 125.8 weekly cases per 100,000 population (28 cases per day over the past week). The CDC released school guidance, we are still waiting for the state recommendations. Monovalent still used for primary series. BCHD has halted all COVID-19 booster vaccinations ages 12+, we are waiting the Bivalent Vaccine, we have 300 Pfizer and 100 Moderna ordered.
  - c. Benton Harbor Lead Response  
Guy informed the Board of Health that 86.7% of lead service lines have been replaced. BCHD continues to hand out filters to residents, 4,490 filters to date. The State continues to deliver bottled water to residents.
  - d. MPHI – shared drives  
BCHD contracted with MPHI to consult on the best practices of file management and assist in organizing our file structure and storage.
  - e. Narcan Event  
August 30<sup>th</sup> in Benton Harbor and August 31<sup>st</sup> in Niles Prevention staff provided a drive through Narcan event. The person requesting a Narcan kit is given a 15 minute training and instructions with the Narcan kit.
  - f. Benton Harbor sewer overflow  
A sewage overflow was reported on August 22<sup>nd</sup> in Benton Harbor, raw sewage leaked in to the Paw Paw River. BCHD staff and EGLE were notified. Staff investigated to determine the cause.
  - g. Budget Presentation  
Lisa Ankenbruck is diligently working on BCHD's budget for FY2022-2023. Guy Miller, Candi Gabrielse and Lisa Ankenbruck will present to County Administration on 09-21<sup>st</sup>.
  - h. MALPH Local Health Officer Retreat  
Guy Miller will attend the MALPH Local Health Officer Retreat on September 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> in Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville Michigan.
  - i. Performance Management Update  
Candi Gabrielse reported that she is continually moving forward working on Performance Management.
  - j. Personnel Update  
Candi reviewed the open positions with the Board of Health. We recently hired a Nutritionist in WIC, and could use one more Nutritionist. BCHD has 11 posted positions on the county web site, Indeed, and governmentjobs.com. BCHD's Clinical & Community Health Services Supervisor's last day will be Friday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup>, she was offered a position elsewhere.
  - k. Infant Mortality  
The Annual Report from the Medical Examiner and Forensic Services states there is an increase in deaths in infants related to unsafe sleep from 2019-2021. In 2019 there was one infant, <1 year old, that died due to positional asphyxia due to unsafe sleep. There were two additional pediatric deaths in 2019 but the other infants had underlying health factors that could have attributed to their deaths. In 2020 there was one infant<1 who had

unexplained sudden death associated with unsafe sleep. Then in 2021 there were 3 infants <1 year old who died due to sudden unexplained infant death associated with unsafe sleep.

I. Overdose Deaths

Dr. Cabaltica stated that the number of deaths connected with an animal sedative are on the rise in Berrien County. In 2019, 2020 and 2021 there was one death each year that could be attributed to xylazine, a common sedative used for animals. In 2022, thus far there have been six xylazine related deaths. Sometimes fentanyl is laced with xylazine added without the user's knowledge. There is no antidote to xylazine and the user will not respond with Narcan.

VI. BCHD Program, Service, and /or Partnership Spotlight – Samantha Wright, WIC Supervisor

a. Women Infants and Children (WIC) – Samantha Wright, WIC Supervisor

WIC is a supplemental nutrition program that is federally-funded by the Food and Nutrition Services of the USDA. It is administered by MDHHS and we are one of 83 Counties. Samantha reviewed the organizational chart of her staff working in WIC. Samantha reviewed the WIC program with the Board of Health, population served, Benefits such as food provided, and educational services. The current case load is 3,602, In the last 3 months the average clients scheduled were 38 per day, 186 per week, and 743 per month. Breastfeeding outreach in the past month are 114 families served and 138 client contacts.

WIC staff also does community partners outreach with Spectrum Health Lakeland, Emergency Shelter, InterCare, MI Bridges Referral System and provides Project Fresh coupons for the farmers market.

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

Commissioner Harrison stated that it is an election year and he anticipates 2 positions may change on the Board of Commissioners. The Commissioners are wrapping up the hazard pa for employees and the salary study. The purchase of the AEP building for the EOC is finalizing. The Napier Bridge is complete and the road construction will take another couple of years to complete. The County has added an Employee Assistance Program to the benefits.

VIII. Board of Health Discussion/Miscellaneous

a. Board of Health Positions

The Board of Health selected the following Board Officers: Dr. Edwards as Chair, Ray Matejczyk as Vice-Chair. The Board of Health chose to keep Kim Rodgers as Board of Health Secretary.

**Motion appoint Dr. Edwards – Chair, Ray Matejczyk – Vice-Chair, and Kim Rodgers – Secretary of the Berrien County Board of Health for the 2022-23 year by M. Kohring Cichon, seconded by Dr. Dr. McBride. Motion carried.**

IX. Public Comments

No Public Comments

X. Adjournment

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

DATE

Page 6 of 6

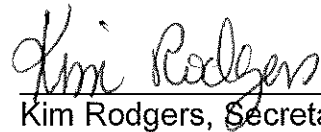
REPORTS DISTRIBUTED

Finance Report

WIC PowerPoint Presentation



\_\_\_\_\_  
Margaret Kohring  
Board of Health Chair



\_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Rodgers, Secretary

Next Board of Health Meeting 10-05-2022	
---	--