



BERRIEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Wednesday, October 5th, 2022
BCHD – Conference Room
2149 E. Napier
Benton Harbor, Michigan

The regular monthly meeting of the Berrien County Board of Health was held on October 5th, 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 Dr. Edwards
 R. Matejczyk Dr. McBride L. Strohl

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

GUEST – Louise Wrege – HP Terry Trecartin – Harbor of Hope Church

ABSENT – M. Kohring Cichon

I. APPROVALS

a. Minutes

Motion by R. Matejczyk, supported by Dr. McBride, that the minutes of the September 7th, 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 R. Matejczyk, that vouchers be allowed for payment. Motion carried.

c. Resolutions

No Resolutions at this time.

II. Health Department Financials – Lisa Ankenbruck

Lisa reviewed the revenues with the Board of Health. The State and Federal grant funding through August totaled \$2,915,542, under budget \$808,462 (22%) and under last year \$765,451 (21%). COVID related revenues are \$803,000 below last year. Permits & Inspections are over budget \$111,688 and over last year \$11,236 as Food Service Licenses are \$27,143 (13%) ahead of last year. Clinic revenues including Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance are under

budget \$39,336 (35%) and over last year \$2,087 (3%). Medicaid Title 19 Cost Reimbursement continues to be significantly over budget. There is one more payment this year. Our ability to recognize the revenue is contingent on expenses in specific programs and we will have a better handle on the amount as we get closer to year-end. 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 received is the first of four payments of \$15,000 from the MI Public Health Institute for the Birth Equity Architecture Program.

Overall expenditures continue to be significantly under budget (\$1,786,702; 32%) and under last year (\$713,461; 16%). The majority of the variance is accounted for in personnel related costs, including both salaries and benefits, which are under budget \$1,557,292 (33%) to date and under last year by \$758,432 (19%). 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. If we remain under budget by 33% for the rest of the year, by year-end we are estimating to underspend salaries and benefits by \$2.1 million. The question is how much of that will translate into an offsetting decrease in revenues as grant funding is mainly reimbursement based. We currently have 87 positions budgeted and 69 active, 18 positions open.

The county audit was finalized and we ended 2021 with an overall fund balance of \$3.386 million. While some of that balance is restricted by certain funders; the unrestricted balance was \$2.88 million going into this year. We anticipated spending down \$597,461 in the 2022 budget but due to our large number of staff vacancies, we are looking at adding to our balance again this year. Our draft budget proposal presented to the county anticipates spending approximately \$389,000 of the Health Department fund balance, additionally we submitted a number of capital budget items as an additional use of the Health Department's fund balance.

III. Health Department Administrative Reports

a. Medical Direction – Dr. Cabaltica

i. Bivalent Vaccine

The Bivalent Vaccine was approved for distribution for 12 years old and older. It is more effective than the original boosters. A person must wait 2 months after their last COVID-19 vaccination or booster before they can receive the Bivalent vaccination. The Benton Harbor office dedicated vaccination clinics are on Tuesdays (11th and 25th of October) from 3 – 6 p.m., and Niles will be on Tuesday the 18th from 3 – 6 pm. An appointment is recommended.

ii. Direction of COVID-19 Pandemic

We are coming out of the pandemic since the community levels are low even though community transmission is high. We will need to see how things

develop during this winter season, but there is reason to be optimistic that we will not see a huge surge like we did the past two winters.

iii. Influenza Vaccine Update

Influenza is expected to rise due to the mask mandate not being in effect. The typical timeframe for the peak starts in December and runs through January and into February. Therefore the Health Department will focus on Flu vaccines in November, giving the community a chance to get their Bivalent vaccination first as there is greater interest from the community for this vaccine. However, those wanting the flu vaccine this month can still make an appointment at both the Niles and Benton Harbor location.

b. Epi Update – Adriana Baker

i. Monkeypox Vaccine

There are no cases of Monkeypox in Berrien County. The Health Department has the vaccine for the Monkeypox and has administered a total of 85 Jynneos vaccine (48 initial doses and 37 second doses). In Michigan there are 265 cases as of 9-30-22. There are 26,049 cases in the U.S. as of 09-30-22, 2 deaths have been recorded in the U.S. one in California and one in Texas.

ii. COVID-19 and School Guidance

The total positive cases at the end of September 2022 was around 1,107. We have been seeing 2-13 positive cases in the hospital for the month of September. The hospital system is not overwhelmed. For the past 7 days there is an average of 22.9 new cases per day which decreased 6.3 cases per day from the last week. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services has released the school guidance. For students exposed they must mask for 10 days and test after the 5th day. Students that are positive must quarantine for 5 days then can return to school after the 5th day and wear a mask for 5 more days.

iii. Benton Harbor City Lead Action Level Exceedance Update

94.9% of the lead service lines have been replaced, 1,351 new faucet filter units and 4,233 replacement filter cartridges have been distributed with a total of 5,584 units and cartridges.

iv. Swine Flu

There was one confirmed case of swine flu and two suspected cases (for people). At the Berrien County Youth Fair 24 out of 24 pigs tested were positive. There was much discussion on how to identify positive pigs before they are brought to the fair grounds. Guy has reached out to the Chair of the Berrien County Youth Fair to come up with a plan for 2023.

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

a. Budget Presentation Guidance – Guy Miller and Lisa Ankenbruck

Guy Miller and Lisa Ankenbruck reviewed the 2023 Budget and capital expense request with the Board of Health.

Guy reviewed the 2023 Public Health Priorities & Critical Opportunities:

First in line to meet Emerging Health Threats

- COVID-19, Monkeypox virus, Lead, Copper and PFAS, Vector borne diseases, swine flu, Sanitary Sewage Overflow (SSO) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)
- Combatting opioid crisis and provide substance use disorder services
- Focus on maternal & Infant Health, building resilient communities, violence, and access to services

Increasing Access to Health Services

- 27% of County children live in poverty and 8% are uninsured
- Assist individual access to Medicaid through Medicaid Outreach programming
- Provide clinic services regardless of ability to pay to protect county residents and population health

Ensuring a Healthy Community

- Address issues of food insecurity as 10% of Berrien County has limited access to healthy foods
- Berrien County HIV rate is the third highest in the State
- Identify and respond to threats to community health including mental health and violence

Providing Health and Nutrition Education

- Tobacco and Marijuana use education and prevention
- Grow WIC Impact, leveraging referral and support across department resources and community partners
- Teen pregnancy prevention and outreach program

Support Healthy Babies

- Encourage breastfeeding, connect residents, and build support groups
- Safe sleep practices & education, focused on health disparities and infant mortality
- Focus on strategies to provide parenting support and resources
- Work to reduce disparities related to maternal morbidity & mortality

Accreditation

- Drive organizational quality improvement and integrated workforce performance

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

The Commissioners are working through the budget process, most departments have similar requests. The election in coming in November there may be a change in committees. The school board recall hearing will be in November (the County is being sued by the school board groups). The Road Commission has picked up 15 new employees attributed from a booth at the Youth Fair. There are Deputy recruits attending training which is good news for the Sheriff Department.

VI. Board of Health Discussion/Miscellaneous

a. 2023 Board of Health Schedule location

The Board of Health discussed whether or not to have the Board meeting in the Board Room or the Conference Room. With much conversation it was decided to keep the Board of Health meeting in the Conference Room for the 2023 schedule.

BERRIEN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

DATE

Page 5 of 5


VII. Public Comments


Terry Trecartin from Harbor of Hope Church offered his facility for anything the Health Department needed to distribute filters, water, or COVID vaccinations.

VIII. Adjournment

REPORTS DISTRIBUTED

Budget Report PowerPoint



Kenneth J. Edwards, MD
Board of Health Chair

Kim Rodgers, Secretary

Next Board of Health Meeting 11-02-2022	
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