



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

September 23, 2022, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Learning Resource Center LRC
4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
Superior Room

Present: James Carty, Gina Dahlem, Leon Golson, Carla Pretto-Kernahan, Carrie Rheingans, Katie Scott, Elisabeth Vanderpool

Absent: Justin Hodge, Kathleen Stroud, Morghan Williams Boydston

Staff: Ruth Kraut, Kristen Schweighoefer, Russell O'Brien

Guests: Jo Ann McCollum, Mara Ostfeld, Jeff Morenoff, Elisabeth Gerber

1. Call to Order

Gina Dahlem called the meeting to order at 9:13 AM.

2. Public Comment

None

3. Board Member Response to Public Comment

None

4. Approval of Agenda (Action)

Motion by K. Scott, seconded by L. Golson, to approve the agenda.

Motion approved unanimously.

5. Approval of July 22, 2022, Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion by L. Golson, seconded by K. Scott, to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2022 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

6. Executive Committee Report from July 14, 2022 and August 18, 2022

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes.

Gina Dahlem shared that they discussed a COVID response update, Monkeypox update, the retirement of Cindra James as Emergency Preparedness Manager, the Community Health Assessment, the Health Equity Council, and how to allocate funds from the opioid settlement.

7. Community Voices Report

Jo Ann McCollum gave the Community Voices Report. Her update included the Macarthur Funday, Whitmore Lake partners have purchased medical equipment in preparation for a new community health clinic, and the West Willow farmer's market. The Anti Racist Cities and Counties (ARCC) team continues to meet with Community Voices to share progress.

8. Michigan Metro Area Communities Study Presentation – Mara Ostfeld, Jeff Morenoff, and Elisabeth Gerber

Elisabeth Gerber, Mara Ostfeld, and Jeff Morenoff presented on the Michigan Metro Area Communities Study (MIMACS). They shared the team members as well as the timeline for the study. Their aims are to promote



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development, dissemination, and implementation of research findings to reduce the burden of COVID-19 in the communities that have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Elisabeth also shared the methodology and examples of survey content. Response rates and results for MIMACS Ypsilanti area were discussed. The results included COVID-19 vaccination rates, trust in federal government to ensure safe vaccine, trust in healthcare providers to act in their best interests, challenges during the pandemic, and neighborhood satisfaction. Next steps include dissemination, specifically what products or reports would be most useful, and additional data collection. Board members asked about some specific questions on the survey including renters vs owners, trust in information sources, and reasons for not getting vaccinated. A follow-up survey is scheduled for January-March 2023.

9. COVID-19 and MPV Update – Dr. Juan Marquez

Dr. Juan Marquez provided an update on COVID-19 and monkeypox virus (MPV). He shared that there is a data problem with COVID-19 because there are a large number of tests being done at home instead of PCR or point of care, but the trends are still very helpful. The levels in Washtenaw County fluctuate quite a bit between medium and high and we are still seeing more lab testing than other counties. Weekly metrics used to determine the COVID-19 community level are case rate per 100,000 population, new COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population, and percent staffed inpatient beds in use by patients with confirmed COVID-19. Internal surveillance has been using wastewater tracking that follow along with PCR trends. Hospitalizations through September 19th were shared. Dr. Marquez shared different options for receiving at-home rapid antigen tests, including through COVID Plan 4 Health. Vaccination options, including the bivalent booster, were discussed.

MPV epidemiology was shared. This data included 2022 outbreak case numbers locally, nationally, and globally. Testing is being done through clinics and the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD). Partnerships are being developed through private labs that can collect samples and test. Vaccination options were discussed. WCHD serves as a distribution hub for local providers to provide treatment. Outreach efforts were shared that include regular social media updates and emails to community providers, an Instagram Live event in August, outreach at Ann Arbor Pride, and communication with local universities.

10. Hex Chrome Release – Kristen Schweighoefer

Kristen Schweighoefer provided an update on the Hex Chrome release from Tribar Manufacturing. She discussed the timeline, amounts, and agencies associated with the release. Over 145 water samples were collected along 42 miles of river. Three came back with low level detections of Hexavalent Chromium. There was an initial advisory to not contact the river, but it was mostly preventative, and levels were not high enough to affect people or aquatic life. This was a good opportunity to look at what systems are in place should that type of event happen again.

11. BOC Liaison Report

Katie Scott shared that the Board of Commissioners (BOC) discussed ARPA 3.0 budget and approved the past and future budget. The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) was recognized for their national breast-feeding award.

12. Old Business

- **Community Health Assessment Subcommittee**

Ruth Kraut gave an update. The subcommittee met last week and went over some details and plans. The request for proposal was rewritten and sent out because it was not clear enough on what they were looking for.



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- **Gun Violence Resolution and CVIT Recommendations**

Carrie Rheingans discussed the process of writing the resolution. She asked the board what they feel will be the best process. Should the Community Violence Intervention Team (CVIT) draft the resolution? Katie Scott suggested Justin Hodge and Charles Wilson draft something concrete and get community input.

13. New Business

- **Board of Health Vacancies**

Ruth Kraut reminded the board of the vacancies coming up at the end of the year. She also mentioned that Maria Militzer resigned her position on the board because of her new job with the Racial Equity Office. The deadline for applications is October 28th.

14. Adjournment

Motion by K. Scott, seconded by L. Golson, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:59 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien

