



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

July 28, 2023, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Learning Resource Center LRC

4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Superior Room

Present: Guadalupe Cervantes, Justin Hodge, Katie Scott, Kathleen Stroud, Elisabeth Vanderpool, Morghan Williams Boydston, Dan Yordanich

Absent: James Carty, Gina Dahlem, Chris Frank, Carla Pretto

Staff: Jimena Loveluck, Jennifer Brassow, Alisa Gefter, Russell O'Brien

Guests: Jae Gerhart

FYI - Audio quality from this meeting was very poor.

1. Call to Order

Elisabeth Vanderpool called the meeting to order at 9:07 AM.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Board Member Response to Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Agenda (Action)

Motion by J. Hodge, seconded by K. Scott, to approve the agenda.

Motion approved unanimously.

5. Approval of June 23, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion by J. Hodge, seconded by M. Williams Boydston, to approve the minutes of the June 23, 2023 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

6. Executive Committee Draft Minutes from June 15, 2023

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes.

7. Community Voices Report

None.

8. Fiscal Year 2024 Health Department Budget Presentation – Jennifer Brassow, Finance Administrator (Action)

Jennifer Brassow presented on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 budget. She started with some historical reference including Cost Allocation, Maintenance of Effort (MOE), and MOE with inflation. Cost allocation has continued to increase every year while MOE has remained the same. 2023 MOE with inflation would be just over \$6.5 million. There was discussion about the Board of Commissioners (BOC) working on the MOE. Items for consideration were discussed including modifications to Washtenaw Health Plan (WHP), Health Assessment, Clinical Services, and Environmental Health.





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Jennifer shared the FY2024 overall Health Department (HD) draft budget (\$18,199,604) as well as the net health operating draft budget (\$13,959,787). She said the \$18 million number will change once the HD finds out from the State what the increase to health departments will be. There will be an amendment. The difference between total and net budget comes from the services provided through agreements with HVA, WHP, UofM Medical Examiner, MCDC Dental Clinic, and Food Policy Council. The draft budget by percentages was shown by function, expenditure, and revenue. Specific dollar amounts by revenue and expenditure were shared by Jennifer totaling \$18,199,604.

Fund balance was discussed. A policy was established in June 2023 stating that the fund balance should be 20% of the net operating budget. Fund balance from FY2022 was \$3,768,547 and the current projected use of fund balance for FY2023 is \$530,193. The proposed use of fund balance for FY2024 is \$439,886 but Jennifer expects that to decrease because of CDC infrastructure money that is intended for the HD. The anticipated fund balance at the end of FY2024 is \$2,798,468.

Some ideas/suggestions from Board of Health (BOH) members include a resolution concerning MOE, Health Impact Bonds, a way to have accounts that earn interest, and explore the millage route more. Further discussions will be held in the future.

Next steps include preparing the cover memo and resolution for the BOC due by August 18, 2023 and presentations at the BOC meetings on September 6 & 20, 2023.

*Motion by K. Stroud, seconded by M. Williams Boydston, to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 budget.
Motion approved unanimously.*

9. Overview of the Washtenaw County Food Policy Council – Jae Gerhart, Washtenaw Food Policy Council

Jae Gerhart, Chair – Economic Development Seat, presented information on the Washtenaw County Food Policy Council (WFPC). She shared the mission statement of the WFPC and discussed the development of the council which is a subcommittee recognized by the BOC with the HD being the fiduciary. The history and funding of the WFPC was discussed which included the development in 2012 and grants received in 2017/2018. Jae shared the values including the entire food system, commitment to social justice, and collaboration rooted in trust and compassion. There is an Executive Committee and 5 Policy Action Teams. There are up to 18 members representing different perspectives of the food system, serving 1- or 2-year terms. The full council meets 6 times per year while the Policy Action Teams typically meet monthly. The Policy Agenda was discussed which includes priorities at the county, federal, state, institutional, municipal, and school board levels. Jae went over different initiatives the WFPC is involved in including the Racial Equity Audit and the Strategic Plan 2028. Elisabeth Vanderpool suggested reaching out to Community Voices because of the shared priorities.

10. BOC Liaison Report

Justin Hodge shared the BOC passed the employee compensation package which increased compensation for several people in the HD, including the Health Officer. He also mentioned that conversations have increased about the potential renewal of the Public Safety and Mental Health Preservation Millage.

11. Old Business

- **Gelman Dioxane Plume**

Jimena Loveluck shared a recent article from MLive about a townhall held in June with Congresswoman Dingell. EPA was in attendance and provided an update. They believe the site merits inclusion in the Superfund National



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Priorities List (NPL). In May, the State of Michigan and Gelman entered into the 4th amended consent judgement. Katie Scott added that the EPA said this is a lengthy process and they don't move fast. Justin Hodge said there were a lot of good questions asked and the recording is available.

<https://www.facebook.com/RepDebbieDingell/videos>

- **MALPH Updates**

Jimena shared the HD is waiting on more information on the increase of Essential Local Public Health Services (ELPHS) funding. The funds will technically start October 1st although the HD may not receive the funds then. The HD can go back to October 1st to cover any expenses.

There have been two substitute bills prepared by Representative Skaggs related to the statewide sanitary code. There have been multiple conversations to express the HD's concerns around what has been proposed. There will be hearings in the fall with MALPH being actively involved.

12. New Business

- **Health Department Reports**

Jimena said she is proud of the recent Covid mortality report that was released and hopes all board members had a chance to review it. It is an amazing analysis of mortality in the county and showcases the work the HD and partners were able to do on reducing disparity in death rates. Washtenaw County had lower death rates than the statewide average and lower than most every other county.

The HD is finalizing a firearm death report that will be coming out in August and will be working on an opioid overdose report in September.

- **State Accreditation**

Will be coming up in May 2024. This time the process will be a little different than in the past. Normally it is a review of minimum program requirements, but this year will be a more general review of the HD identifying training and quality improvement areas. The following cycle of accreditation will return to the more traditional process.

- **Save the Date for CHA/CHIP Event – November 13, 2023**

The HD is planning a large event to discuss Community Health Assessment (CHA) at Washtenaw Community College. More information to come.

13. Adjournment

*Motion by J. Hodge, seconded by K. Stroud, to adjourn the meeting.
Motion approved unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien