



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

December 8, 2023, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Learning Resource Center LRC
4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
Superior Room

Present: James Carty, Guadalupe Cervantes, Gina Dahlem, Chris Frank, Justin Hodge, Carla Pretto, Katie Scott, Kathleen Stroud
Absent: Elisabeth Vanderpool, Dan Yordanich
Staff: Jimena Loveluck, Ruth Kraut, Russell O'Brien
Guests: Jennifer Amburgey, Kim Singh, Stephanie Loftus

1. Call to Order

Gina Dahlem 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 C. Pretto, seconded by G. Cervantes, to approve the agenda.
Motion approved unanimously.*

5. Approval of October 27, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Action)

*Motion by C. Pretto, seconded by G. Cervantes, to approve the minutes of the October 27, 2023 meeting.
Motion approved unanimously.*

6. Executive Committee Minutes from October 19, 2023

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes.

Gina Dahlem said they discussed the meeting agenda, received an update on COVID-19, Charlyn VanDeventer transitioned to the Health Equity Manager for the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD), and Kristen Schweighoefer will provide an update on the Pollution Prevention Program in the new year.

7. Community Voices Report

Charles Peterson gave an update on Community Voices (CV). He said the group continued reviewing the partnership guidelines at the last meeting and made changes to members' expectations and the decision-making process. They agreed to use the 30% consensus rule. They also talked about plans to recruit new members in areas that have open seats. There was a round table resource share where members talked about real time initiatives and opportunities in their communities. Several CV members met in late November to discuss phase 2 of the Anti-Racist Cities and Counties (ARCC) project. Charles said that several CV members attended the State of Our Health Event put on by WCHD and they received a lot of good information.



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8. Washtenaw County Dental Clinic Presentation – Kimberly Singh, Jen Amburgey, and Stephanie Loftus of My Community Dental Centers (MCDC)

Kim Singh, Stephanie Loftus, and Jen Amburgey presented on the MCDC overview, executive team, Medicaid adult dental reform, services provided, 2023 organizational statistics, center information, Ypsilanti statistics, Washtenaw Dental Fund, partnerships, looking ahead, and testimonials.

The MCDC overview included the Mission, Vision, and Values of the organization. Effective January 1, 2023, adult fee for service rates increased to average commercial rates and on April 1, 2023, the program was restructured, and benefits were expanded. The comprehensive dental care that MCDC provides includes preventive, restorative, periodontics, oral surgery, endodontics, and utilization of the latest technology. MCDC has 34 centers located across Michigan including 3 in the Upper Peninsula and 56 dentists statewide. In 2023, MCDC saw 89,449 unique patients with 186,662 office visits.

Specific Ypsilanti center location information was presented. It opened in 2014 and is located at 111 N Huron St. It is one of the largest locations with 11 dental chairs. Staff and location photos were shared as well as recent years' statistics. In 2023, there were 2,886 unique patients and 407 emergency visits. The payer mix was discussed, with 72% being Medicaid. There was a review of the Washtenaw Dental Fund. It comes from the WCHD and helps patients without dental insurance. In 2022, 77 patients made use of the fund and that number rose to 152 in 2023. MCDC has partnerships with WCHD, Washtenaw Dental Fund, Health Neighborhoods Team, Cancer Care Specialty Center Trinity Health, Packard Health, and VA Community Care Network.

MCDC is seeking additional dentists and hygienists to join the team. They recently partnered with Glidewell that provides crowns and dentures. They have a machine that makes crowns in the office in a short time, so patients don't have to wait so long. The presentation ended with testimonials from patients that were treated at the Ypsilanti location. MCDC makes use of Language Line to communicate with non-English speaking patients. Jennifer and Stephanie shared their contact information for further comments or questions.

9. Community Health Promotion – Susan Ringler-Cerniglia, Communications and Community Health Promotion Administrator

Susan Ringler-Cerniglia presented on the Community Health Promotion Division at the WCHD. She went over what Public Health is and what Community Health Promotion does including division staff, program areas, and current priorities.

Community health promotion starts with data, works with the community, creates lasting changes that support health for all, builds health equity, and supports evidence-based work. Health equity requires action to remove obstacles to health such as poverty and institutional discrimination. Some major activities being worked on including community health assessment, community engagement, infection prevention/vaccine promotion, healthy food access, tobacco policy, communications, and campaigns. Susan went into more detail about the activities listed above. The State of Our Health event was a good opportunity to share where the WCHD is on the community health assessment process and receive input on prioritization. 77% of Washtenaw County residents support ending the sale of flavored tobacco products. Different campaigns were discussed including It Is Possible, #wishyouknew, medical marijuana, and Prescription for Health.

The different methods of communication were listed. These include social media, weekly email updates, website, news releases, printed materials, traditional news/media, multiple languages, and routine/crisis information.



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COVID-19 greatly expanded the reach of WCHD in terms of website page views and social media impressions. Website page views went from 250,000 in 2019 to 413,100 in 2023 and social media followers went from 4,203 to 21,800 in the same timeframe.

10. BOC Liaison Report

Justin Hodge shared the Board of Commissioners passed the 4-year budget with some good Health Department items included. A significant amount of money was allocated for Food Gatherers and dollars were allocated for 2 people to start the Climate Resiliency Office. There will be a WCHD budget adjustment presented at the January meeting. There will be a lot of conversations about millages in 2024. Justin added that a paid leave policy was passed for the first time.

11. Old Business

- **Board of Health Vacancies/Officers**

Jimena Loveluck thanked Gina Dahlem, Lupe Cervantes, and Justin Hodge for attending the WCHD All-Staff Meeting yesterday and thanked everyone that provided snack treats for staff.

Three new community members were appointed to the BOH as well as Dan Yordanich being reappointed. The new members are Shadin Atiyeh, Joan Kellenberg, and Sade Richardson. Officer elections will take place at the January meeting. There are openings on the Executive Committee (Vice Chair) and the Appeals Subcommittee.

- **State of Our Health Event Update**

Jimena thanked the BOH members that were able to attend. The plan is to make it an annual event so community members and stakeholders can learn more about the work of the WCHD and health in Washtenaw County.

12. New Business

- **2024 Board of Health Meeting Calendar (Action)**

The 2024 Board of Health Meeting Calendar was presented to board members for discussion. It will follow the same schedule as years past. Fourth Friday of each month excluding August and November. December's meeting will be on the 2nd Friday. The location will move to the Health Department building at 555 Towner St, Ypsilanti, Room 2102B.

*Motion by K. Stroud, seconded by J. Carty, to approve the 2024 BOH Meeting Calendar as presented.
Motion approved unanimously.*

- **Board Member Recognition**

Jimena Loveluck recognized the 2 board members who have terms that have concluded. James Carty and Kathleen Stroud have been on the BOH since the recreation in 2015 and received plaques honoring their dedication to the public health of Washtenaw County.

13. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 AM.



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Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien



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