



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

January 26, 2024, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Washtenaw County Health Department
555 Towner St, Ypsilanti, MI 48198
Room 2102B

Present: Shadin Atiyeh, Guadalupe Cervantes, Gina Dahlem, Justin Hodge, Joan Kellenberg, Carla Pretto, Sade Richardson, Katie Scott, Dan Yordanich

Absent: Chris Frank, Elisabeth Vanderpool

Staff: Jimena Loveluck, Ruth Kraut, Jane Nickert, Kristen Schweighoefer, Russell O'Brien

Guests: Charles Peterson

1. Call to Order

Gina Dahlem called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM.

2. Welcome and Introductions

The group went around the table and introduced themselves. New board members include Shadin Atiyeh, Joan Kellenberg, and Sade Richardson.

3. Public Comment

None.

4. Board Member Response to Public Comment

None.

5. Approval of Agenda (Action)

Motion by J. Hodge, seconded by C. Pretto, to approve the agenda.

Motion approved unanimously.

6. Approval of December 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion by J. Hodge, seconded by C. Pretto, to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2023 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

7. Executive Committee Minutes from November 16, 2023

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes.

Gina Dahlem said they discussed the draft agenda for this meeting, updates on COVID19/RSV/Flu, the State of Our Health Event, the Pollution Prevention Program, and the December Health Department (HD) All-Staff Meeting.

8. Board of Health Officers and Appeals Subcommittee Election (Action)

Gina Dahlem – Chair

Elisabeth Vanderpool – 1st Vice Chair

Chris Frank – 2nd Vice Chair



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Appeals Subcommittee

Dan Yordanich – Chair

Lupe Cervantes

Carla Pretto

Elisabeth Vanderpool - Alternate

Motion by J. Hodge, seconded by K. Scott, to approve the Board of Health Officers and Appeals Subcommittee as presented.

Motion approved unanimously.

9. Plan of Operation (Action)

Jane Nickert discussed the Plan of Operation. It is a required element of the State Accreditation. It was delayed because of COVID19 but has now been rescheduled. The Plan of Operation tends to stay the same year to year but the numbers and narrative change. Basically, it says what the HD does, how the HD ensures compliance with the Public Health Code, and what local regulations the HD has to protect public health. Board members received the checklist that includes sections on Legal Responsibilities, Local Health Department (LHD) Organization, Missions/Vision/Values, Local Planning/Collaboration Initiatives, Service Delivery, Reporting/Evaluation, Health Officer/Medical Director, and Approval Form. Jane went over the items in each section.

The Plan of Organization is due 2 months before State Accreditation, which is scheduled for the week of May 20th. The Board of Commissioners (BOC) must also approve the Plan of Organization before it is submitted to the State.

Motion by J. Hodge, seconded by C. Pretto, to approve the Plan of Operation.

Motion approved unanimously.

10. Community Voices Report

Charles Peterson gave an update on Community Voices (CV). CV members met with HD staff last Friday to share findings from the latest Community Health Assessment (CHA). Feedback was shared on which health issues should be prioritized in the next Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). At the January meeting, CV members discussed efforts in various areas. Highlights include a partnership with West Willow that is working on removing racist language from home deeds, the Whitmore Lake health clinic should be ready to open in April, members from MacArthur Blvd are planning a meet and greet in the spring to talk about ways to improve health and bridge gaps in services, and discussion on the plans for phase 2 of the Anti-Racist Cities and Counties (ARCC) project. CV voted on 2 top choices that should be used by the HD to pilot the Racial Justice Impact Assessment Tool. Hiring practices and anti-discrimination reporting/staff protections. There was further discussion of the racist language in home deeds.

11. Pollution Prevention Program Presentation – Kristen Schweighoefer, Environmental Health Director

Kristen Schweighoefer presented on the Pollution Prevention Program. She discussed the proposed and recommended updates because of the program review which occurred during the regulation pause beginning in April 2022. The history and foundation of the program was discussed. It was designed to prevent adverse environmental effects, allow access to information to emergency response personnel/general public, and consolidate a number of Environmental Health program areas.

The review process was discussed as well as feedback received. Kristen listed the changes made which include:

- Increased reporting/regulation of minimum volume of chemical from 5 gallons to 56 gallons.



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- Inspection frequency fixed at once every 3 years.
- Double walled containment shall be required for above ground storage of liquid chemicals over 55 gallons.
- One program fee due annually and the ability to submit payments online.
- No more paper forms. All reporting will utilize an online, secure system.

Kristen talked about what the changes mean for the regulated community. Regulation still applies to all toxic, hazardous, or polluting substances which are manufactured, used, or stored within Washtenaw County. Of the 2102 regulated businesses, 438 facilities will be removed because they have less than 55 gallons and 75 will be exempt based on the type of material stored. Other exemptions were also discussed.

Reporting and inspections were covered. Each year, all active facilities must submit their status sheet including their hazardous material inventory. 621 facilities will be inspected every 3 years, but inspections may also occur if there is a complaint or a request by the facility. Violations may be corrected on site, or a follow-up inspection may be conducted. It is very rare to need enforcement action related to violations. Most formal enforcement is for facilities that fail to pay required program fees. The program assumes zero general fund money and is a completely fee driven program. Annual fees would decrease if there was an annual general fund contribution allocated to the program.

Next steps include:

- Bring updates to BOH in February 2024.
- Bring updates to BOC in March/April 2024.
- Bring updates to the Environmental Council in the 1st quarter 2024.
- Provide communication and education to regulated community in 2nd quarter 2024.
- Implement regulation in 3rd and 4th quarter 2024.

12. BOC Liaison Report

Katie Scott gave an update on housing. The BOC allotted \$8,632,723 to different housing and homelessness allocations. Some direct cash payments were included as a direct assistance program. There has been talk about a mapping project to map the housing infrastructure in Washtenaw County.

Coming up: Roads Millage and Non-Motorized Millage, Community Mental Health and Public Safety Millage, Veterans Millage, Senior Millage, General Operating Millage.

13. Old Business

- **Health Department Budget and Funding Update**

Jimena Loveluck shared that the midyear budget adjustment was approved by the BOC at the 1st reading and will be going back to the next meeting for the 2nd reading. There was an increase of \$1.8 million due to the increase from the State for Health Departments and Essential Local Public Health Services.

- **Health Equity Manager**

Jimena said that the HD has a new position that is part of the leadership team, Health Equity Manager. Charlyn VanDeventer started in that role and is currently training and planning. Charlyn will present at a BOH meeting later this year.



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- **MALPH Legislative Update**

Board members received a handout with updates on state legislature with Michigan Association of Local Public Health (MALPH) involvement.

14. New Business

- **Community Violence Intervention Grant**

The Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office was successful in getting a grant for community violence intervention services. This was presented to the BOC for 1st reading approval to engage in the contract. This will help support an existing initiative called We Live, which is a hospital-based intervention program currently working mostly through Trinity Health. The grant will also support the work of the Community Violence Intervention Team. The HD will have a subcontract in the grant to support data and public health surveillance related to gun violence. The grant started this month and runs through the end of 2025.

- **Opioid Settlement Funding**

Jimena let board members know there are ongoing meetings to discuss the framework of the Opioid Settlement Funding. There are also meetings with the Michigan Association of Counties to provide technical assistance to help with the process. An advisory committee/panel will be established through the BOC that will work to implement a planning process for the use of funds and oversee the distribution of funds. There are some restrictions on the use of funds but there is a broad array of allowable uses. Carla Pretto said there needs to be more longevity in the programs being designed, at least 3 months or longer. Joan Kellenberg asked if some of the money will go to analysis of why the trend line continues to increase in the county as far as opioid deaths. Jimena said it remains to be determined but that is an eligible area, local surveillance.

15. Adjournment

Motion by K. Scott, seconded by D. Yordanich, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:47 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien

