



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

June 28, 2024, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Washtenaw County Health Department
555 Towner St, Ypsilanti, MI 48198
Room 2102B

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

Absent: Shadin Atiyeh, Guadalupe Cervantes, Chris Frank

Staff: Jimena Loveluck, Ruth Kraut, Kim Collom, Robyn Bishop, Charlyn VanDeventer, Russell O'Brien

Guests: Elliott Brannon, Sarah Murata, Hunter Vayda

1. Call to Order

Gina Dahlem called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Board Member Response to Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Agenda (Action)

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

Motion approved unanimously.

5. Approval of May 24, 2024 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion by J. Kellenberg, seconded by J. Hodge, to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2024 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

6. Executive Committee Minutes from May 16, 2024

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes.

Gina said they discussed replacing the vacancy on the Board of Health (BOH), avian influenza (H5N1), the resolution around Maintenance of Effort (MOE), and State Accreditation.

7. Community Voices Report

None.

8. Healthy Neighborhoods ARPA Initiative Evaluation and Funding – Ruth Kraut, Deputy Health Officer and Robyn Bishop, Health Neighborhoods Supervisor

Ruth Kraut talked about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in general, discussed the history, and went over projects funded by ARPA. The money is from federal, not structural, and time limited. Ruth provided board members with an ARPA informational folder.

Robyn Bishop presented on the Healthy Neighborhoods Team. She discussed addressing health inequities, bringing services/resources to residents that need them most, and improving health outcomes through addressing Social



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Determinants of Health. The team consists of 6 Community Health Workers (CHW), 2 Health Educators, and 1 supervisor. The work done by the team was highlighted, including 441 referrals from inside and outside of the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD). Ruth mentioned the locations and demographics of clients served. Assistance with accessing food and housing were the #1 and #2 needs of clients.

Robyn shared examples of the impact the team has had on the community. She went over 4 case studies: Eviction Prevention, Food Access, Helping Immigrants, and Healthier Seniors. Client success stories were highlighted. Robyn went into more detail on the referral process and said some clients' needs are short term, but many are complex and take a lot of time. Justin Hodge suggested a resolution that thoroughly outlines the great outcomes from Healthy Neighborhoods and urge the Board of Commissioners (BOC) to continue funding it. There was discussion of figuring out the amount of money saved by HAWK, the courts, etc. by the Healthy Neighborhoods Team helping clients avoid eviction, access food, and other ways.

9. Emergency Preparedness – Kim Collom, Emergency Preparedness Manager

- **Heat Wave Response**

Kim Collom provided an overview of the Washtenaw County Heat Wave Response Plan. She went over the purpose/partners, general procedures, definitions, activation levels, activations from 2020-2024, and Cooling Site locations. WCHD conducts surveillance to assess the impact to public health and the health care system, identifies needs in the community, and coordinates with community organizations to establish additional Cooling Stations when appropriate.

- **HPAI Update**

Kim gave an update on Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) (H5N1) in Washtenaw County. She went over what H5N1 is including symptoms, transmission, and treatment. The 2024 outbreak in the US involves poultry and dairy cows. Public risk remains low. There have been 3 human cases in 2024 with 2 of them in Michigan. Detections in Michigan dairy and poultry farms have occurred in several counties including Clinton, Allegan, Barry, Calhoun, Gratiot, Ingham, Ionia, Isabella, Montcalm, Newaygo, and Ottawa.

Response and management were discussed. The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and MDHHS are working closely with federal agencies, local governments, and poultry/dairy producers to implement biosecurity measures, surveillance, and rapid response protocols. Locally, we currently have sufficient testing supplies and commercial Tamiflu if we have a human local case. Farms, poultry operations, and meat packing plants can request PPE in coordination with MDARD, MDHHS and local health departments. Joan Kellenberg proposed that board members learn more about tabletop exercises in the future.

10. BOC Liaison Report

Justin Hodge said the BOC held the final vote to put the Mental Health and Public Safety Millage on the ballot. A significant portion of the meeting was spent voting on commissioner amendments to the way the money can be spent for the Mental Health and Public Safety Millage. They held the first vote on a Senior Millage and will do the final vote at the next meeting. Justin had some conversations with administration about the budget deficit and Maintenance of Effort (MOE) and there seems to be interest in addressing the MOE. Further discussion on the 6 millage renewals, potential new millage, and other local millages.



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11. New Business

- **FY 2024-2025 Budget Update and Resolution (Action)**

Jimena Loveluck gave an update on the draft budget that will be presented in final form at the July meeting. The draft resolution is focused on MOE and Cost Allocation that must be paid back to the county. The resolution highlights the situation and asks commissioners to increase MOE funding for the WCHD with the understanding that WCHD will continue to advocate for increased funding at the State level.

Motion by J. Hodge, seconded by K. Scott, to approve the Resolution Calling on Washtenaw County to Increase Structural Investment in Local Public Health.

Motion approved unanimously.

12. Old Business

- **Opioid Settlement Funding**

Jimena gave an update on the Opioid Settlement Funding process. Working with Michigan State University to help counties conduct needs assessments. The steering committee feels strongly that a thorough needs assessment should be done. The timeframe has been extended for planning. Focus groups will start in July and go through October. The steering committee will be able to submit recommendations to the BOC in early 2025. Jimena will be providing an update to the BOC at the July 10th meeting.

- **Board of Health Vacancy**

The BOC will appoint a new member to the BOH at the July 10th meeting.

13. Adjournment

Motion by C. Pretto, seconded by K. Scott, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:57 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien

