



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

September 27, 2024, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Washtenaw County Health Department

555 Towner St, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

Room 2102B

Present: Shadin Atiyeh, Guadalupe Cervantes, Chris Frank, Justin Hodge, Joan Kellenberg, Sade Mulkey, Carla Pretto, Katie Scott, Shekinah Singletery, Dan Yordanich

Absent: Gina Dahlem

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

Guests: Dr. Allecia Wilson, Mathew Boulton, Nikhil Boulton

1. Call to Order

Chris Frank called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Board Member Response to Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Agenda (Action)

Motion by C. Pretto, seconded by K. Scott, to approve the agenda.

Motion approved unanimously.

5. Approval of July 26, 2024 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion by G. Cervantes, seconded by C. Pretto, to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2024 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

6. Executive Committee Minutes from July 18, 2024 and August 15, 2024

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes.

7. Community Voices Report

None

8. Washtenaw County Medical Examiner Presentation – Dr. Allecia Wilson, Chief Medical Examiner

Dr. Allecia Wilson presented on the Medical Examiner (ME) system and partnership with Michigan Medicine. She covered the ME team history and the current team members. The differences between a forensic pathologist, medical examiner, and coroner were discussed. Dr. Wilson went over the jurisdiction of the ME's office as well as different types of deaths that are reportable to the ME. The definition of an autopsy and reason for doing them was discussed. The ME's office has a strong relationship with the Office of Decedent Affairs to help people process a loss. They facilitate viewings of the decedent when appropriate and help the family with bereavement support.

Dr. Wilson showed some 2023 Washtenaw County (WC) statistics. 1,238 cases were reported to the ME, 503 scene investigations occurred, and 434 autopsies were performed. Demographic statistics and manner of death were also



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shared. There were 22 homicide-related deaths in 2023 and 43 suicide-related deaths. The ME's numbers will look a little different than other county statistics because they include anyone that died in Washtenaw County, even if they live somewhere else. Drug related deaths were discussed. Dr. Wilson talked about the Michigan Overdose Fatality Review (MiOFR) and the Washtenaw County Overdose Fatality Review Team. The ME's office works closely with Gift of Life to save and enhance lives.

9. State Accreditation Report Summary – Jane Nickert, Director of Nursing

Jane Nickert presented the results of State Accreditation to the board. This cycle of accreditation was different than in past years. It was more consultative in nature versus checking off program indicators. The report didn't list met vs unmet program indicators, but overall Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) would have met all program indicators. A lot of programs received kudos for education and communication efforts.

Highlights include:

- BOC and BOH consistently show strong support for effective public health intervention at the county and state levels.
- Commended for the variety of community and consumer outreach avenues to promote food safety.
- Communicable disease cluster reporting protocol should be best practice for the state.
- Increased rates of immunizations.
- Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) community health worker created robust guides to help families that need resources.

10. BOC Liaison Report

Justin Hodge said the Health Department (HD) budget was passed by the BOC. Katie Scott made an amendment with a plan to address maintenance of effort, and it was passed unanimously. Looking at a \$600,000 structural increase with an additional amount over a four-year period.

11. New Business

• Updated COVID Vaccines

Jane Nickert gave a quick update on vaccine status. The HD currently has Moderna for COVID, which was the most popular last year. There's about 200 adult doses and 20 pediatric doses in the inventory. The HD can get additional doses within 24 hours, so they don't keep as many doses on hand. The pharmacy in the building offers free Flu and COVID vaccinations for anyone uninsured and 12 years or older. The HD has a limited number of doses for RSV. There are many different brands of Flu vaccine available.

• State of Our Health Event (October 28th 9am-12pm)

Jimena Loveluck shared information about the 2nd State of Our Health Event that will be held in the Morris Lawrence Building at Washtenaw Community College. The focus last year was to share Community Health Assessment (CHA) data and prioritize the needs in the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). An update on the process will be given at this year's event. Other work and accomplishments of the HD will be highlighted. Jimena will email the invitation to the board.

• WCHD Leadership Transitions

Jane Nickert, Laura Bauman, and Charles Wilson will be retiring soon. Positions will be posted in the coming weeks and a transition plan will be followed.



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12. Old Business

- **BOC Meeting Budget Advocacy**

Jimena thanked everyone that attended the meeting and provided public comment. It is good to see some progress in addressing maintenance of effort.

13. Adjournment

Motion by K. Scott, seconded by S. Singletery, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien

