



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

March 28, 2025, 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, Carla Pretto, Shekinah Singletery, Dan Yordanich

Absent: Gina Dahlem, Joan Kellenberg, Sade Mulkey, Katie Scott

Staff: Jimena Loveluck, Nifiah Reid, Patty Krause, Jeremy Lapedis, Ruth Kraut, Russell O'Brien

Guests: Sara Tweedy, Najma Treadwell

1. Call to Order

Chris Frank called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Board Member Response to Public Comment

None.

4. Approval of Agenda (Action)

Motion by C. Pretto, seconded by S. Singletery, to approve the agenda.

Motion approved unanimously.

5. Approval of February 28, 2025 Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion by G. Cervantes, seconded by D. Yordanich, to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2025 meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

6. Executive Committee Minutes from February 18, 2025

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes.

7. Community Voices (CV) Report

Najma Treadwell gave an update on CV. She said they are working on recruiting someone to represent the returning citizens community and they are in the planning process for the yearly programming that takes place in each community represented. There was a survey conducted in the Macarthur Blvd area to find out what they would want at the Family Fun Day planned for this summer. They have been working on implementing a walking program in the Southside of Ypsilanti.

8. Washtenaw Health Project – Jeremy Lapedis, Executive Director

Jeremy Lapedis presented to the board about the Washtenaw Health Project (WHP). He discussed WHP's services & impact, the county need & alignment with the Health Department (HD), possible federal impacts, and finances.

Jeremy started with a client story that highlights all the work WHP does to help people get health insurance.

Washtenaw County is the only county in Michigan with near-universal access to care. WHP does this through 3



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coordinated programs. They include enrolling people in the Washtenaw Health Plan and helping people apply for Medicaid and Marketplace. A total of 7,500 residents receive in-depth services from WHP yearly. WHP's work aligns with needs identified in the Community Health Assessment. They help people find mental health providers, enroll in health insurance, and apply for food assistance. Jeremy mentioned that Washtenaw Baby Boost began this month. Low-income pregnant women and new parents that meet guidelines can receive \$1,500 through the program.

Possible federal impacts were discussed. These include intentional fear & confusion, likely Marketplace changes, possible Medicaid changes, and others like housing, food, immigrant, & refugee programs. WHP is looking at different ways to reach out to their clients and the public to communicate what changes are occurring with clear messaging. Jeremy went over WHP finances. FY2025 budget projections show a \$400,000 deficit that will be covered by the fund reserve. Washtenaw County and Trinity Health recently increased funding but Michigan Medicine has not. WHP is spending down its fund reserve per an agreement with core partners, before requesting additional funding.

9. Academic Health Department Initiative – Patty Krause, Community Health Analyst

Patty Krause presented on the Academic Health Department Initiative that came out of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). During COVID, many workforce development and student engagement activities were suspended. ARPA funding allowed the HD to hire a Community Health Analyst and realize a vision of an Academic Health Department (AHD). Patty discussed what an AHD is and how it is mutually beneficial to the academic institution and HD.

The AHD Coordinator role focuses on improving student and staff experiences. Patty has worked on systematizing tours, shadowing, onboarding, and an online course about WCHD for new students/interns. Student and staff feedback were shared with the board. 2024 student results by numbers were discussed including existing and new activities. HD staff get access to academics and the opportunity to publish their work. Through Lunch & Learns, staff learn about a wide variety of topics. Patty went over the Michigan Public Health Integrated Center for Outbreak Analytics and Modeling (MICOM) partnership which includes R coding workshops and data support for Community Violence Intervention. The AHD program has expanded to the Livingston County Health Department because of a cross-jurisdictional grant from MDHHS.

Patty discussed the challenges which include garnering staff buy-in, mutually beneficial projects, experiences that are desirable/allowable, and funding. Currently seeking ongoing funding from the University of Michigan. Next steps for the program involve expansion within UofM and with additional academic institutions, sharing more resources/personnel, securing sustainable funding for internships, joint community-based research, and additional learning experiences for students/staff.

10. BOC Liaison Report

Justin Hodge said there will be more discussion about the Senior Millage at the next meeting. He thinks many on the Board of Commissioners (BOC) are trending toward not giving all the money to the Office for Community and Economic Development (OCED), but rather have a different way of handling it.

11. Old Business

- ARPA Facilities Improvements



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Jimena Loveluck talked about the facility improvements at the Health Department. There will be a tour of the building at the April meeting to learn more about the changes.

- **Opioid Settlement Funding**

The recommendations presented by the steering committee were approved at the last BOC meeting. The HD will be overseeing this work on an ongoing basis and receive funding for staff time. A designated amount of money was put toward an RFP that has been released. Proposals are due May 30th. The review committee for proposals is almost set. Planning work is being done around the advisory committee that will work with the HD to oversee this work. There was talk about connecting the advisory committee to the BOH, but corporation counsel said it needs to be a separate entity appointed by the BOC.

- **Federal Funding/CDC**

Jimena shared the CDC associates working at the HD that were terminated have been called back and have returned to work.

The HD has received notice of a stop work order on various grants related to Covid19 effective on 3/24/25. This impacts Covid19 immunization funding, infection control funding, and funding for the Health Equity Council. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is trying to get clarification on some information and there will be more to come. This affects about \$1 million annually received through these funding sources.

Jimena discussed the restructuring of Health and Human Services which includes eliminating about 20,000 staff, 28 divisions reduced to 13, and 10 regional HHS offices reduced to 5. There are a lot of questions about the legality of the move and some governors are looking into legal action. Jimena will share any advocacy opportunities with the board.

12. New Business

- **MALPH Legislative Priorities**

Board members received a handout with Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH) legislative priorities. Day at the Capital will be early April and HD leadership will be discussing these priorities and others with local legislators.

- **State of Our Health Event Planning**

Based on funding and capacity, the HD is considering moving to every other year for the State of Our Health event.

- **Measles**

The HD is offering the measles vaccine on a walk-in basis 8:30am-3:30pm Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays.

- **Community Violence Intervention Summit**

The HD is working with the Sheriff's Office on planning the Community Violence Intervention Summit on April 28th and a Youth Day on April 29th.

13. Adjournment

Motion by C. Pretto, seconded by S. Singletery, to adjourn the meeting.



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Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien