

**MARATHON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
December 3, 2019

Present: John Robinson, Sandi Cihlar, Mary Ann Crosby, Kue Her, Tiffany Lee, Dean Danner, Michael McGrail, Laura Scudiere, Lori Shepherd

MCHD Staff: Judy Burrows, Melissa Moore, Dale Grosskurth, Joan Theurer, Chris Weisgram, Eileen Eckardt

Others Present: Donna Krause

**1. Call to Order**

John Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:47 a.m.

**2. Public Comment Period**

None

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the November 5, 2019 Board of Health Meeting**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the November 5, 2019 Board of Health meeting made by Dean Danner. Seconded by Tiffany Lee. Motion carried.**

**4. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution**

A. None

**5. Policy Discussion and Possible Action**

- A. Update on the Health Department and Marathon County 2020 Budget
  - i. Debrief from the Start Right budget policy discussion and explore strategies to strengthen program outcome measures

John Robinson explained how the County is developing its budget within the constraints set by the state Legislature, and the challenges of increased health insurance costs, and the opioid issue in the community. John also explained the process of how the budget consideration for the Start Right program and the District Attorney's Office came forward at the County Board meeting. Funding was maintained for the Start Right program, with the requirement to develop additional measures for tracking the program, such as whether or not the children served by Start Right being diverted away from the criminal justice system later in life.

Lori Shepherd shared the point that the Start Right program is much broader than only preventing children from going through the criminal justice system.

Joan Theurer shared that Marathon County was part of a research study done related to prenatal care coordination, to measure reduction of poor birth outcomes. Marathon County Start Right program was part of a state home visiting pilot study that demonstrated a reduction

in child neglect and abuse. If longitudinal research is to be done around specific measures, then there will need to be an investment made to support the work.

Dean Danner shared that it would be important to have whatever data is available ready when the budget discussion comes up again in the next budget cycle, as well as having experts available to provide guidance.

John Robinson recommended developing what the outcome measures are that can be used to articulate the benefits of the Start Right program.

Joan Theurer shared that the outcome measures currently being used for the program are the standard set at the State and Federal levels.

Sandi Cihlar shared that there is a program and staff available through the national counties association to help counties with programs similar to Start Right.

Discussion on the process and purpose of priority based budgeting, as used by the County.

Eileen Eckardt shared that it will be important to know what the specific expectations of the program will be. The stories behind the outcomes are possibly what is missing from sharing information about the program.

John Robinson requested that a list of currently used outcomes be prepared for the next meeting, to aid discussion on where to go with providing information.

Discussion on whether there would be a benefit to bringing in a graduate researcher to look at the data for the program.

#### B. Update on the Board of Health's scope in carrying out its advocacy role

John Robinson shared that based on concerns previously raise as to the purpose and role of the Board of Health with advocacy, a meeting was held to discuss times and conditions when the Board can take a position on an issue, without going to the full County Board. Discussion focused on what the statutes allow, and confirmed that the Board could take action on its own, and inform the County Board. Official language from the County's Corporation Counsel is still being developed.

#### C. Discuss public education challenges when advancing public health policy

- i. Tracking disease occurrences and follow-up on adverse effects

John Robinson shared this item was a request he had for the agenda, due to concerns from the public testimony at the two previous meetings. There may be opportunities to provide further education to the community.

The Board held discussion on the misinformation being shared, and how to best provide accurate information to the community.

Joan Theurer raised the question as to the merit of reaching out to providers in the community, and informing them of the discussion held at the Board of Health, sharing the resolution, and reiterating the importance of patients making informed decisions. Members shared the health care systems have to provide this information and concluded there was no merit in reaching out to the providers. John Robinson asked for talking points for Board of Health members to be able to respond to questions about vaccinations and requirements.

D. Review Marathon County Board of Health Statement re: Marijuana and the Impact on the Public's Health

Judy Burrows revisited the presentation given to the Board of Health at the June meeting.

- Difference between hemp, marijuana, and medical marijuana varieties of the cannabis plant
- The need for more research as to benefits of marijuana
- THC containing extracts and other products made from marijuana
- With marijuana being big business, is history being repeated as it occurred with tobacco?

Judy shared that surrounding states's legalization of marijuana will have an impact on the issue in Wisconsin. A summary of the impact on the public's health, including issues, definitions, legalization resources, and information on classification of marijuana as a classification I drug was provided in the meeting packet.

John Robinson asked if there are other issues the members would like addressed at the next meeting, regarding the report provided by Judy Burrows. Discussion will continue at the next meeting.

Donna Krause distributed an article titled: "Does Legalizing Marijuana Reduce Crime?"

E. Confirm the Board of Health's role and timeline in identifying health priorities for the 2021-2024 Community Health Improvement Plan

Joan Theurer shared that community health priorities will be identified in early 2020, proposing using a Results Based Accountability framework for the process. Marathon County is one of 12 health departments participating in statewide pilot on how to apply Results Based Accountability to Community Health Improvement Plans and Processes. The difference with the process this time compared to previously, is Board of Health and Healthy Marathon County will work together to more narrowly define the issues to be addressed within the priorities. This process would start in February. Joan explained that the LIFE Report will be released in January, and will be the basis for identifying priorities.

Discussion on moving the start of the process to March, given some Board of Health members will not be available for February's meeting.

**6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports (as time permits)**

- A. Update on the progress in meeting the 2019-2023 Marathon County Strategic Plan goals and objectives
- B. Release of the October 2019 Burden of Binge Drinking in Wisconsin report

Joan shared the report was included in the packet, and asked if additional information was needed.

Melissa Moore noted that the report should not be compared to the previous report, due to data being split out differently.

**7. Announcements**

- A. Staffing Update
- B. Other

**8. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location, Future Agenda Items: January 7, 2020**

- A. Educational Presentation: Overview of Public Health 3.0 and revisions of Wis. Admin. Code DHS 140 level requirements of local health departments
- B. License Fees
- C. Other

**9. Adjourn**

**Motion to adjourn made by Sandi Cihlar. Seconded by Lori Shepherd. Meeting adjourned at 9:24 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Shepherd, Secretary  
Chris Weisgram, Recorder