

MARATHON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2020

Present (Via Zoom): John Robinson, Craig McEwen, Sandi Cihlar, Kue Her, Corrie Norrbom,

MCHD Staff: Joan Theurer, Judy Burrows, Chris Weisgram,

Others Present:

1. Call to Order

John Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m.

2. Public Comment Period

None

3. Approval of the Minutes of the August 11, 2020 Board of Health Meeting

Motion to approve made by Craig McEwen. Seconded by Corrie Norrbom. Motion approved.

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

A. None

5. Policy Discussion and Possible Action

A. Check in on the Board of Health Self-Assessment Plan of Work and identify opportunities to further strategies in light of available resources

Joan Theurer provided background information for new members, regarding work done in the summer of 2019 to identify five areas to strengthen the functions of the Board. Adjustments were made to the meeting time, and policy items are now placed ahead of education items on agendas. Other areas include orientation of new board members and board development.

John Robinson asked if newer members would still be interested in going forward with working with another member as a mentor, and receiving orientation.

Discussion on the possibility of planning for a retreat to focus on health equity issues in Marathon County. Corrie Norrbom shared the ongoing project with WIPPS to facilitate discussion between public health and underserved communities in the County.

John Robinson asked if the Board would be able to move ahead with putting together a retreat event, and only have minimal staff involvement with planning, and will reach out the members individually to put some information together for discussion at a future meeting including potential topics and meeting times.

Joan Theurer recommended the Board focus on what they can do as a Board of Health and in support of the work of the Health Department, rather than looking towards broader work being done to address the issue of health equity.

Joan Theurer shared information regarding Board Routinely Monitors Performance of the Health Department section was previously provided at the end of 2019, however areas have been put on hold due to response to COVID-19.

Discussion on the relationship between the Board of Health and the Health and Human Services committee. Conversations with County Administration and Corporation Counsel have focused on when the Board of Health and Health Department have authority to act on certain issues, and when it is necessary to go through the committee process of the County Board.

Joan Theurer shared that at previous in-person meetings, table tents with questions to keep in mind when addressing policy issues were placed at tables, to remind Board Members how their decisions affect diverse groups.

- B. Update on public health program services in light of the department's response to COVID-19 pandemic
 - i. Community Health Priorities and Improvement Plan and support for Healthy Marathon County

Joan Theurer shared plans for moving forward with the delayed Community Health Improvement Plan. Community Health Priorities will be identified in the spring of 2021, with current priorities continuing until that time. Limited staff time will be dedicated to priorities of Alcohol and Other Drugs (including Tobacco), Behavioral Health, and ACEs awareness and prevention in relationship to those priorities. Healthy Marathon County will continue to focus on goals of the LIFE Report in relationship to the overarching health priority of social and economic factors that influence health.

Motion to accept the recommendations for the delayed Community Health Improvement Process by Craig McEwen. Seconded by Sandi Cihlar. Motion approved.

- ii. Temporary deployment of staff from COVID-19 response in light of case decline to further program services

Joan Theurer shared staffing adjustments will be made given the recent decline in cases in Marathon County. Refocusing on program services where possible is being looked at, including immunizations, Start Right services, and community health priorities and supporting Healthy Marathon County. At the point when a vaccine is available, it will be the Health Department's role to lead in plan developments and carryout mass clinics for the public.

Discussion on how to handle sharing information with the public in advance of a vaccine becoming available.

- iii. Marathon County Children's Hearing and Vision Program for the 2020-21 school year

Joan Theurer shared an update on the program as it is being put on hold given school plans in place for learning during COVID-19. In spring of 2020 discussions took place with Marathon County Special Education exploring the merits of having the program transition over. A meeting with Marathon County Special Education was put were put on hold due to COVID-19 response.

Discussion on the number of students typically screened each year, and how services will be made available through school nurses during this school year.

Judy Burrows shared information will be going to schools to keep administration, staff, and families informed on the status of the program.

Discussion on the funding that supports the hearing and vision screening program. Joan shared that the funding comes through Marathon County Special Education and the program does not use any tax levy. Marathon County Special Education in turn bills participating school districts based on number of students screened. Discussion regarding the merits of having the program transition to Marathon County Special Education is expected to occur early winter of 2020.

iv. Plans to conduct WI Department of Health Services 140 Review

Joan Theurer shared that the Chapter-140 Review was previously scheduled for mid-March, but put on hold due to COVID-19. The State is now planning to complete shortened reviews, and Marathon County Health Department will complete the review with the State on September 15. It is anticipated a return to the more in-depth review would take place in 2022. A summary of responses for the review will be shared with Board of Health members.

- C. Report from the Health & Human Services Committee September 2, 2020 meeting on policy issues impacting public health
- i. Overview of Wisconsin Counties' Association Guidance in Implementing Regulations Surrounding Communicable Diseases: An Analysis of Local Health Department and Local Health Officer Powers, Duties, and Enforcement Actions
 - ii. Other

Joan Theurer provided a brief overview of the guidance in implementing regulations surrounding communicable diseases as put together by the Wisconsin Counties' Association. The guidance looks at health officer authority and enforcement powers that are granted in statute and administrative code. Joan summarized the authority and enforcement under the categories of individual isolation and quarantine of persons, Outbreak (limited area or single organization), and General (broad area or County-wide).

Joan shared that an overview of the guidance was provided to the Health & Human Services Committee on September 2. At the next Health & Human Services Committee meeting scheduled for September 30, Corporation Counsel will bring forward some points to discuss regarding development of a public health ordinance.

John Robinson shared background on how the previously considered ordinance received significant opposition, but that there will be a need to have an ordinance on the books to address future communicable disease threats.

Discussion on the importance of communication with community members, and engaging and empowering individuals with accurate information.

6. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports** – Agenda items not discussed.
 - A. Update on Marathon County’s COVID-19 response efforts and focus for the next 30-60 days
 - B. Staffing Update
7. **Announcements**
8. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Location, Future Agenda Items:**
 - A. Confirm October 13, 2020 meeting date and determine agenda topics

9. **Adjourn**

John Robinson adjourned the meeting at

Motion to adjourn by Craig McEwen. Seconded by Kue Her. The meeting adjourned at 9:32 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Shepherd, Secretary
Chris Weisgram, Recorder