

**MARATHON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
December 8, 2020

Present (Via Zoom): John Robinson, Sandi Cihlar, Dean Danner, Kue Her, Craig McEwen, Corrie Norrbom, Tiffany Rodriguez-Lee, Lori Shepherd (Telephone)

MCHD Staff: Joan Theurer, Judy Burrows, Dale Grosskurth, Rachel Klemp-North, Eileen Eckardt, Chris Weisgram

Others Present: Tim Buttke

**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 November 10, 2020 Board of Health Meeting**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the November 10, 2020 meeting made by Sandi/Craig. Motion approved.**

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

A. None

**5. Policy Discussion and Possible Action**

A. Update on the Board of Health training session focused on health equity along with the WALHDAB October 19 Forum

John Robinson shared he needs to outreach to remaining board members to gather input as to the focus of the health equity training. Joan Theurer shared background information on how board members can become involved in WALHDAB.

B. Update on the 2021 Marathon County and Health Department Budget and implications for the Health Department's COVID-19 response

Joan Theurer revisited the proposal brought forward at the last meeting which proposed reducing the Start Right budget. The resolution at the County Board level failed, and the program will be funded at its current tax level in 2021.

Discussion on conversations at the County Board meeting and the need to still complete the evaluation of the Start Right program, and explain the need for the program to other County Board Supervisors.

Discussion on including cost effectiveness and return on investment of the Start Right program in the evaluation.

Joan Theurer shared updates on what funding will be available in the first quarter of 2021 for COVID-19 response. Marathon County will receive approximately \$631,000 from the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Building grant, which would fund response efforts through April.

Joan indicated there is adequate funding to have contractual employees stay on board through March or April of 2021, anticipating having a better picture of the funding situation by late January.

C. Overview of Wisconsin Counties Association publication on ‘stepped’ enforcement process for communicable disease

Joan shared an overview of the handout provided in the packet regarding guidance on enforcement of local health orders from Wisconsin Counties Association. Joan shared how enforcement actions have been carried out previously with response to Tuberculosis cases, human health hazards, and licensing violations.

Joan presented the challenges with stepped enforcement, including having a majority of residents supporting the control efforts, staff resources available to carrying out monitoring and investigation, the County’s staffing resources to pursue court action, and the assumption of a long infectious time period to pursue meaningful court action.

John Robinson asked what response the health department has been getting as far as voluntary compliance for isolation and quarantine. Joan shared that the department given the number of cases does not have the capacity to collect the information necessary to monitor quarantine and isolation beyond initial contact tracing.

John Robinson summarized that the stepped enforcement idea is a tool that is available, but may have limited applicability with response to the pandemic.

D. Report from the Health & Human Services Committee December 2, 2020 meeting on policy issues impacting public health

- i. Stepped Enforcement Process Under Administrative Code 145
- ii. Responding to the Housing Needs of our COVID Positive Homeless Population
- iii. Update on Discussions with WIPPS Relative to Community Conversation about COVID-19

Joan Theurer shared the stepped enforcement process was also discussed at the Health and Human Services Committee meeting earlier in the month. Committee members were made aware of housing needs of homeless community members who have COVID-19, and plans were developed to secure housing, utilizing Catholic Charities as a referral source. Protocols are currently being finalized.

A proposal focused on a public dialogue around COVID-19 was presented to the committee by WIPPS. John Robinson shared the goal of the dialogue is to hold a civil discussion in the

community on the response to the pandemic. A work group will finalize the scope of the program by the end of December or January.

- E. Discuss local efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 in Marathon County
  - i. Community engagement initiatives
  - ii. Housing for homeless population in need of isolation and quarantine
  - iii. Influenza and COVID-19 vaccination efforts
  - iv. Other

Judy Burrows provided updates on community initiatives including a live conversation with local health care organization leadership, DC Everest School District, and the health department to give the community a stronger message of what is happening in the community. The intent was to draw attention to the local circumstances. Work with United Way has launched a new campaign with stories from community members on how COVID-19 has impacted them. The campaign is called Community Voices – Beyond the Virus. Community members are asked to go to the associated website and share their stories.

Joan shared that having community conversations outside of the health department will continue to be important.

## **6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**

- A. Update on Marathon County's COVID-19 response efforts and focus for the next 30-60 days
  - i. Community testing, disease investigation/contact tracing, vaccination plans, communication to the public, and demands on community resources

Joan Theurer shared coordination among health care providers as far as community testing has been beneficial. Starting this week, Aspirus will be assuming the community testing days at the Emergency Management department, operating 7 days per week. Changes to quarantine timelines are rolling out, as recommended by CDC. New quarantine options include 7 or 10 days within the 14 day quarantine period. Recommendations vary based on individual cases and situations.

The phase one vaccine distribution plan will include long term care facilities in sub-phase 1A, essential workers in sub-phase 1B, and individuals over age 65 in sub-phase 1C. Vaccine manufacturers have requested emergency use approval from the FDA. Work is under way to plan for storage and distribution of vaccine. Local health departments' role in phase 1A will be limited as far as administering vaccine. Weekly planning meetings between the health department, and local health care organizations have started and will look at where gaps exist for vaccine distribution, and who will fill those gaps. Judy Burrows as public information officer will work with communications staff at the health care organizations when it is time to communicate with the public on the roll out of vaccine distribution.

Discussion on communication being planned at the state and federal levels for vaccine safety and effectiveness.

## **7. Announcements**

## **8. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location, Future Agenda Items:**

- A. Confirm January 14, 2021 meeting date and determine agenda topics
  - i. Formalizing the reporting relationship between the Board of Health and the Health & Human Services Committee

**9. Adjourn**

**Motion to adjourn made by Lori Shepherd. Seconded by Corrie Norrbom. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Shepherd, Secretary  
Chris Weisgram, Recorder