

MARATHON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting Minutes
February 9, 2021

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

MCHD Staff: Joan Theurer, Dale Grosskurth, Judy Burrows, Laura Scudiere, Chris Weisgram

Others Present: Emilee Thompson, Nursing Student (via telephone); caller 715-573-9392; caller 715-297-0541

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 December 8, 2020, January 12, 2021 Board of Health Meeting, and the Minutes of the January 12, 2021 Health & Human Services and Board of Health Joint Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes made by Craig McEwen. Seconded by Dean Danner. Motion approved.

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

A. None

5. Policy Discussion and Possible Action

A. Determine the 2021-2022 Licensing Fee

Joan Theurer provided background information of the licensing fees being previously set to cover direct program costs. In 2018, the Board of Health determined the licensing fees should also cover indirect costs such as supervisory functions for the program. Joan explained how program costs can change year to year due to costs related to staff changes, including health insurance coverage.

Joan Theurer shared that the recommendation for 2021 is no fee increase due to personnel expenses being lower than anticipated as a result of the Health Department's COVID-19 response.

Discussion on the potential effect of incoming license fees due to possibly fewer license holders in the County.

Joan shared that work is currently underway to update priority based budgeting program costs, which will look at what are true program costs. True costs have not been estimated since 2018. Information could be brought back to the Board at next month's meeting.

John Robinson shared the plan to identify true program costs in county departments, which would also include costs to Employee Resources, Corporation Counsel, and other supporting departments.

- B. Confirm timeline for identifying Community Health Priorities and the development of the 2022-25 Community Health Improvement Plan required for local health departments

Joan Theurer grounded the Board with members of Healthy Marathon County identifying community health priorities in March of 2020, having work halted due the department's COVID-19 response. In April of this year, further work will be defining the selected priorities, using Results Based Accountability to turn priorities into results, and assigning indicators to measure.

The Board was asked if they still agree with the priorities identified last March, and whether the timeline presented makes sense moving forward. The board discussed how the priorities are still relevant, and even have been made more important as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Motion to endorse the priorities as identified, and the proposed schedule made by Corrie Norrbom. Seconded by Craig McEwen. Motion approved.

- C. Discuss local efforts to control the spread of COVID-19 and the role/responsibility of the Marathon County Health Department in the response
 - i. Mitigation measures
 - ii. Surveillance
 - iii. Disease investigation/contact tracing
 - iv. Testing and vaccinations
 - 1. Marathon County serving as a regional vaccination site
 - v. Informing the public and community engagement initiatives
 - vi. Other

Joan provided an overview of the Health Departments role in responding to COVID-19, including community containment and mitigation, disease investigation and contact tracing, testing and vaccinations, and surveillance. Joan explained how the process and level of data collected in contact tracing has adjusted as case levels have increased or decreased.

Discussion on current levels of testing and what may affect changes in case levels.

Laura Scudiere shared an update on currently available options for testing in Marathon County, and noted all locations providing testing have experienced reductions in testing volume.

Discussion on difficulties community members are having with finding information they need for testing, and upcoming vaccination opportunities.

Joan Theurer shared an opportunity to participate in a WI Department of Health Services sponsored community-based vaccination site. Marathon County Health Department has been approached to serve as a regional vaccination site, providing a large scale vaccination center through AMI Expeditionary Healthcare.

The State of Wisconsin is looking for a location around the greater Wausau area because of population density, social vulnerability indicators, and resources available. Sites are still being evaluated around the

state, and local health care organizations are supportive of having a site. The purpose of the regional vaccination sites is to provide an additional option for community members who are hesitant going to health care providers, or who do not have a medical home.

Discussion on how resource costs for the regional vaccination site could be offset.

Motion to support the proposal to participate as a regional vaccination site, and request all appropriate county officials take action to move the proposal forward made by Sandi Cihlar. Seconded by Lori Shepherd. Motion approved.

Discussion on the need to collect more local data on who is being vaccinated in various demographic groups.

John Robinson shared an update on recent discussions to continue working on communications efforts. Corrie Norrbom shared that last week the first podcast on Hmong Radio was broadcast to provide updates to the community.

D. Policy updates from the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) and WI Department of Health Services (standing agenda item)

Joan Theurer shared that there have been requests for advocacy and informing state legislators the importance of maintaining a state-wide masking order. New orders were issued by the Governor last week. Joan shared she has drafted an advisory which could be used if the state-wide order were to end in the future.

E. Report from the Health & Human Services Committee February 3 meeting on policy issues impacting public health

John Robinson shared that a majority of the recent meeting was focused on applying for a block grant related to COVID-19. Funding would be for helping community members needing rental assistance, as well as grants and loans to local business impacted by the pandemic.

F. Update on the Start Right program evaluation (as time permits)
i. UniverCity application
ii. Other evaluation options

Joan Theurer shared the UniverCity program is part of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the initial program review will look at whether program outcomes are being achieved as expected, and whether there is alignment with research literature on program benefits to the community. Further updates can be shared at the next Board of Health meeting.

John Robinson requested the opportunity to provide public policy input and discuss outcome measurements, facilitated by UniverCity.

G. Update on the Board of Health training session focused on health equity (as time permits)

John Robinson shared an interest in having Paula Tran Inzeo participate in the Board of Health retreat.

6. **Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**
 - A. None
7. **Announcements**
8. **Next Meeting Date & Time, Location, Future Agenda Items:**
 - A. Confirm March 9, 2021 meeting date and determine agenda topics
 - i. Update on formalizing the reporting relationship between the Board of Health and the Health & Human Services Committee
9. **Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by Dean Danner. Seconded by Craig McEwen. Meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Shepherd, Secretary
Chris Weisgram, Recorder