

**MARATHON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
March 9, 2021

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

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

Others Present: Tim Buttke

**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 February 9, 2021 Board of Health Meeting**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting made by Craig McEwen. Second 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 shared an updated overview of proposed licensing fees, and walked through the history of fee increases, tax levy, and fees covering direct and indirect costs since 2015. Priority based budgeting has been used to capture the true program cost of the licensing program. For 2021 the recommendation is to apply a fee increase, assuming sanitarians carry out licensing program services at their FTE and the number and type of license holders remains steady.

Discussion on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on small business that would be renewing licenses.

**Motion to approve a licensing fee increase of 3% made by Corrie Norrbom. Seconded by Craig McEwen. Motion approved.**

B. Finding from the 2020 Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Licensing Audit of the need to incorporate agent status in the county ordinance

Joan Theurer shared an audit was conducted in the spring of 2020. The purpose of the audit is to ensure that the program is in keeping with regulations. The report from the audit indicated the authorization to carry out the licensing program was granted through the Board of Health, which was recognized by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Now that licensing program falls under the Department of

Agriculture Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP), the regulation needs to be authorized through the county ordinance per DATCP codes.

**Motion by Lori Shepherd to recommend to the County Board to update county ordinance to recognize Marathon County Health Department as a DATCP licensing agent. Second by Dean Danner. Motion approved.**

- C. Transfer of the Marathon County Children’s Hearing & Vision Screening Program to Marathon County Special Education

Joan Theurer shared in a previous update the Hearing & Vision Screening program was not operating in the schools due to the pandemic, and staff for the program were no longer with Marathon County Health Department. In the spring of 2020, Marathon County Health Department was exploring the merits of having Marathon County Special Education assume the program, given the service is more closely aligned to their mission services than the Health Department. Joan Theurer reported the Marathon County Special Education Board approved last month to take over the program, and Judy Burrows is working to assist with the transition.

**Motion to authorize the transfer of the hearing and vision screening program to marathon county special education made by Sandi Cihlar. Second by Lori Shepherd. Motion approved.**

- D. Policy updates from the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) and WI Department of Health Services (standing agenda item)
  - i. Governor Evers 2021-23 Biennial Budget Proposal Initial Analysis for WALHDAB & WPHA
  - ii. Other

Joan Theurer shared an overview of the governor’s budget proposal was included in the meeting packet. Joan walked through the various areas of public health that are included in the proposal.

- Medicaid
  - o Accept federal Medicaid expansion
  - o Offering public option for a health insurance plan if ACA is no longer available
  - o Medicaid eligibility for women up to 60 days postpartum
  - o Community health benefit providing non-medical services to Medicaid eligible
- Tobacco Prevention
  - o Expansion of prohibition of indoor smoking to include vaping products
  - o Prohibiting use of vaping products on public, private and charter school property
  - o Develop public health campaign to prevent initiation of tobacco and vaping product use
  - o Imposing tax on vapor products and cigarette excise tax on little cigars
- Communicable Disease
  - o Increase grants to local and tribal public health departments to support communicable disease control and prevention activities
- Childhood Lead Prevention
  - o Change eligibility for the Birth to Three program, reducing the threshold for services to 0.5 ug/dl.
  - o Increase funding for lead screening and outreach grants
- PFAs
  - o Funding for testing and remediation of PFAs

John Robinson shared there are other areas of the budget proposal that cover issues of health equity, and social injustice. Board members were asked to discuss what they see as priorities and if there was interest in forwarding on support of specific areas of the budget proposal.

Tim Buttke shared that the Health & Human Services committee did put forward a resolution calling for increased child support funding and that many of the proposals in the governor's budget would be beneficial to Marathon County.

John Robinson shared that with the action of the Senate at the Federal level, there is potential for Marathon County to receive a significant amount of money as part of the COVID-19 rescue plan to support programs. John recommended further discussion at the next Board of Health meeting.

E. Update on formalizing the reporting relationship between the Board of Health and the Health & Human Services Committee

John Robinson reviewed of the consensus reached at a meeting held among county board leadership and administration in the fall of 2019 in regards to the reporting relationship of the Board of Health to the County Board through the Health & Human Services Committee. Included in the packet is a memo prepared by Corporation Counsel dated October 8, 2020, outlining the authority of the Board of Health to act on its own. John Robinson indicated the benefit in moving forward an amendment to the rules to better reflect the authority of the Board of Health and its reporting relationship to the Health & Human Services Committee. The timeline for making the amendment will take place through the normal rule making process of the County Board.

Discussion on how changing the rules would generally result in the Board of Health's ability to respond to policy issues versus implementing new regulations or ordinances. Joan Theurer clarified the intent would be for the Board of Health to take independent action to further public policy, and does not address authority of the Health Officer.

F. Update of COVID-19 response efforts at a local and state level  
i. WIPPS Community Dialogue initiative  
ii. Other

John Robinson provided an update on the WIPPS Community Dialogue initiative. Conversations are under way to frame a discussion, and a proposal has been developed to determine how to engage the public.

G. Report from the Health & Human Services Committee March 3, 2021 meeting on policy issues impacting public health

Tim Buttke shared that the meeting focused on discussion of the governor's budget proposal.

H. Update on the Start Right program evaluation  
i. UniverCity application  
ii. Other evaluation options

Joan Theurer shared Marathon County is working with UniverCity to evaluative programs and support the development of initiatives. A request to evaluate the Start Right Program was submitted and is under review to determine who from the university system is available and what the extent of the evaluation would look like given the goal to have it completed for the 2022 budget process. Joan Theurer outline various evaluation options could include: review of outcomes in terms of return of investment, full evaluation of the program to include a comparison group, and further policy maker understanding of the importance of investing programs such as Start Right.

I. Update on the Board of Health training session focused on health equity (as time permits)  
John Robinson asked if members would be comfortable with a virtual retreat which could be completed sooner, or if an in-person retreat was preferred.

Discussion on the amount of time needed for the retreat, and how urgent the need is to have the retreat soon, or if it could be done later. Decision made to wait until the fall, seeing the benefit of meeting in person, and carving out a full morning to meet.

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

**A. Update on Staffing**

Joan Theurer provide an update on staffing.

- Vicki Chrapkowski, Public Health Nurse is retiring on March 5 with 32 1/2 years of service.
- Jenny Juneau, Public Health Nurse is resigning on March 15 to accept another nursing position with a women's health clinic.
- Judy Burrows, Program Director, Community Health Improvement is retiring on June 1, 2021 with 29 years of service.

**7. Announcements**

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

- A. Confirm April 13, 2021 meeting date and determine agenda topics
- i. Healthy Marathon County to join for the second half of the meeting to further the development of the 2022-2025 Community Health Priorities

**9. Adjourn**

**Motion to adjourn by Craig McEwen. Seconded by Dean Danner. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Shepherd, Secretary  
Chris Weisgram, Recorder