

MARATHON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2021

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

MCHD Staff: Dale Grosskurth, Laura Scudiere, Judy Burrows, Joan Theurer, Eileen Eckardt, Chris Weisgram, Melissa Moore, Amanda Ostrowski, Aaron Ruff, Jenna Flynn, Hannah Schommer

Others Present: Jeff Sargent, Brooke Davis, JoAnna Bernklau, Katie Dively, Tara Draeger, Jennifer Smith, Erin Wells

1. Call to Order

John Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:46 a.m.

2. Public Comment Period

None

3. Approval of the Minutes of the April 13, 2021 Board of Health Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2021 meeting made by Craig McEwen. Seconded by Kue Her. The motion was approved.

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

A. None

5. Policy Discussion and Possible Action

A. Adopt proposed changes to the Marathon County Health Department Agent Programs Regulation

Joan Theurer provided an overview of why changes are being brought forward for consideration. Dale Grosskurth explained that portions of the licensing program were merged into the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, and resulted in facility names changes in the regulations. Additional changes include requiring a new permit when ownership of a restaurant is transferred to a family member, and enforcement policy for certified food managers.

Motion to approve the changes to the agent program regulation by Dean Danner. Second by Lori Shepherd. Motion approved.

- B. Update on Governor Evers 2021-23 Biennial Budget Proposal and determine public health priorities
 - i. Review WALHDAB & WPHA [budget](#) and [legislative priorities documents](#)
 - ii. Review WI Department of Health Services [Badger Bounceback Governor Evers' 2021-23 Biennial Budget](#)

Joan Theurer shared updates from state associations regarding legislative priorities and the governor's biennial budget proposal. Funding of infrastructure for local public health is a main focus area, also giving more latitude for how local health departments can use those funds. Another area being looked at for increase funding is communicable disease. Themes for legislative priorities include support for public health infrastructure, continuing to preserve public health authority, and addressing racism as a public health crisis. On May 5th the Joint Finance Committee met and removed policy-related items from the budget proposal, and for the most part is starting with the current base budget. There is some interest in having a stand-alone bill that would extend Medicaid post-partum coverage beyond 60 days.

Discussion on removal of the expansion of Medicaid, and if there is support for specific funding proposals that would affect public health.

Dean Danner motioned to support the proposed \$10 million investment supporting communicable disease, and expansion of post-partum care. Seconded by Sandi Cihlar.

Lori Shepherd moved to amend the motion to include the additional post-partum support from 60 days to a year. Seconded by Kue Her. Motion to amend the original motion approved.

Motion to approve the amended original motion approved.

Joan will work on putting a draft of a letter together.

- C. Policy updates from the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) and WI Department of Health Services (standing agenda item)
 - i. Status of LRB-0792 limiting the use of emergency powers during emergencies
 - ii. Other

Joan Theurer reported no change in status of LRB-0792. John Robinson shared consideration would be given to forwarding onto the Health and Human Services Committee for review at the time LRB-0792 becomes a bill. Joan Theurer will continue to monitor.

- D. Report from the Health & Human Services Committee May 5 meeting on policy issues impacting public health
 - i. Health Department Licensing Program Ordinance
 - ii. 2021 County Health Rankings
 - iii. Update on COVID Vaccine

Joan Theurer shared that the draft language for adopting an ordinance to codify the Marathon County Health Department to be an agent of the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection licensing program was brought forward.

Joan Theurer provided an update on vaccination rates for COVID-19, and shared an overview of vaccine partnership efforts to address disparity and access gaps in Marathon County.

Discussion on challenges of increasing vaccination rates among various population groups in the County. Joan shared that there would be benefit in supporting H2N collaborative outreach efforts beyond COVID-19, as this group would be instrumental in addressing other health disparities and access gaps.

Corrie Norrbom shared what has been learned through observing at the pop up community vaccine clinics, including the importance of convenience, and positive messaging.

Discussion on the importance of messaging that explains the reasons for getting, and the effects of not getting the vaccine.

- E. Update on the Start Right UniverCity program evaluation

Joan Theurer will provide an update at the next meeting.

- F. Update of COVID-19 response efforts at a local and state level
 - i. Overview of vaccination efforts in Marathon County
 - ii. Other

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

- A. Update on Staffing

John Robinson recognized and thanked Judy Burrows for her nearly 30 years of service to Marathon County.

Joan Theurer will be sending out an invitation for retirement celebration for Judy Burrows.

Joan Theurer shared Laura Scudiere will be stepping into the role for Program Director for Community Health Improvement on June 1st. Aby Sauter, Administrative Specialist for Environmental Health and Safety Program has resigned as of May 21 to assume the Children's Hearing and Vision Screening Coordinator position with Marathon County Special Education. Chris Weisgram, Administrative Coordinator has resigned as of May 28 to take the position as a Health Planner with Portage County Health & Human Services.

Joan shared the recruitment for the Health Officer position is under way.

7. Announcements

8. Policy Discussion and Possible Action (resume 8:30 AM)

- A. Development of the 2022-2025 Community Health Priorities

Joan Theurer introduced Board of Health members, members of Healthy Marathon County, and staff who joined the meeting to further plans for the development of the 2022-2025 Community Health Plan. Joan shared an update on discussions held after the previous meeting related to the process being used for this cycle of determining health priorities. Joan asked members to share what from their perspective needs to occur to have a meaningful process in developing the Community Health Improvement Plan.

Participants completed an online poll to determine which option they each think should be taken for moving forward with the Community Health Improvement Process.

Discussion on the importance of having the conversation on tough issues impacting the health of residents and the communities they live in, including health equity.

Amanda Ostrowski provided an overview of the poll results, and comments provided by participants that indicated members would like to proceed, but in a slower manner building in opportunities for discussion.

Joan Theurer will send out an update after reviewing the information gathered through the poll, discussion at the meeting, and working with staff to look at how to map out a revised process.

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

- A. Confirm June 8, 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

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn made by Dean Danner. Seconded by Lori Shepherd. The meeting adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Shepherd, Secretary
Chris Weisgram, Recorder