

**Marathon County Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
July 13, 2021**

Present (in person): John Robinson

Present (via Zoom): Sandi Cihlar, Dean Danner, Tiffany Lee, Corrie Norrbom

MCHD Staff: Joan Theurer, Hannah Schommer, Dale Grosskurth, Laura Scudiere, Eileen Eckardt, Rachel Klemp-North, Melissa Moore, Amanda Ostrowski, Laura Fischer

Others Present: Tim Buttke, Jeff Sargent, Brooke Davis, Jen Smith, Tara Draeger, Katie Dively, Erin Wells, Becky Turpin

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Comment Period

The following members of the public provided comments on Agenda Item 5C, specifically related to a documents included in the Board packet titled “How to reach vaccine-hesitant people, a review”:

Name	Residence
Steve Frazier	Schofield, Wisconsin
Melinda DeGier	Merrill, Wisconsin
Dave Baker	Kronenwetter, Wisconsin
James Juedes	Easton, Wisconsin
Sandy Bautsch	Wausau, Wisconsin
Michael Bautsch	Wausau, Wisconsin
Jane Blarek	Mosinee, Wisconsin
Shannon Grabko	Weston, Wisconsin
John Menard	Athens, Wisconsin
Becky Kressin	Portage County, Wisconsin
Randel Wokatsch	Marathon, Wisconsin
Elizabeth Gille	Wausau, Wisconsin
Ashley Menard	Athens, Wisconsin
Dr. Lisa Grill Dodson	Wausau, Wisconsin

Comments were limited to three minutes at the directive of the Chair. Joan Theurer shared that the purpose of the documents were to provide, to the Board of Health, information on an array of vaccination strategies to reinforce the number of efforts already being done and to ensure that community members have access to and can make informed decisions about vaccinations.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the June 8, 2021 Board of Health Meeting

Minutes were not approved; tabled until August 10, 2021 meeting.

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

A. None

5. Policy Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Update on Wisconsin 2021-23 Biennial Budget Proposal and public health priorities
 - i. Budget was passed, Joan Theurer shared:
 - 1. Communicable Disease funding was not included in the governor's budget.
 - 2. Unsure if postpartum Medicaid coverage was extended another 30 days to a total of 90 days coverage postpartum; Senator Felzkowski indicated that she advocated for coverage beyond 60 days

Joan Theurer indicated that she will forward a document summarizing initiatives as requested.

- B. Policy updates from the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) and WI Department of Health Services (standing agenda item)
 - i. WPHA/WALHDAB 2021-22 Wisconsin Bill Tracking

Joan Theurer shared that there was a number of legislative actions that limit government's and business' requirements on vaccinations. WPHA/WALHDAB Public Affairs have gone on record opposing these limitations.

- C. Update on COVID-19 pandemic response efforts at a local and state level
 - i. Vaccine hesitancy and implications in achieving Wisconsin's 80% vaccination goal by the end of 2021.

Discussion about the public comments being a lesson on vaccine messaging. John Robinson directed staff to give thoughts to the concerns voiced by some of the speakers and how they can be addressed. Discussion to continue at next meeting.

- D. Report from the Health & Human Services Committee June 30 meeting on policy issues impacting public health - Cancelled.

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

- A. Update on actions being taken to address human health hazards identified at the Northern Mobile Home Park

Dale Grosskurth shared that he has met with Corporate Counsel to determine the appropriate path forward. There are several corrections that NMHP has not addressed; thus, their license will not be reissued, and a Human Health Hazard order has been presented. Marathon County Health Department is working with Corporate Counsel to move forward with legal action and coordinate with the City of Schofield as the property is located within their city limits. There is also an August 2, 2021 court date as to the City of Schofield permit. Dale noted that there are issues around abating current hazards due to property and ownership concerns. Dale will be

reaching out to the City of Schofield officials to create a plan including communication with current tenants; Joan Theurer indicated that we are waiting for Corporation Counsel to determine who is responsible for notifying tenants of the potential relocation. Dale noted that the department is committed to providing adequate notice and connection with agencies that can assist.

B. Overview of the Health Department Denison Organizational Culture Survey findings (as time permits)

Joan Theurer provided information on the Denison model, which measures employee perceptions as it relates to the mission, consistency, involvement, and adaptability of the organization. The Department's 2019-2020 organizational survey showed a decrease, which was expected. The COVID-19 pandemic required long-term use of the Incident Command System (hierarchical model) vs. the collaborative model staff were used to. Additionally, staff were redirected to COVID work. In response to the results, a plan is being developed that addresses actions that staff can take both individually and collectively to strengthen organization culture and will be carried out over the next 3-4 months, realizing long-term plan will need to be developed with the appointment of the new Health Officer.

C. Update on staffing

Joan Theurer shared that Laura Fischer has been hired as a Health Educator to do tobacco prevention work, and Hannah Pinch has been hired as a Public Health Nurse. Julia Mohr resigned, but will remain with the Department as a casual nurse. Kang Yang has been hired as the Administrative Coordinator. Interviews continue for the Administrative Specialist position, which should be filled soon. The Health Officer recruitment is in the second interview stage. Discussion around process for recruitment and hire of Health Officer position.

7. Announcements

John Robinson shared that the next Board of Health meeting will be Joan's last one and expressed gratitude for her years of service in public health. Joan shared that over her career, she is seeing the need for public health to have greater engagement in public dialogue and has become an art of balancing individual rights with that of public rights.

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

A. Determine "indicators" for the Community Health Priority Substance Misuse

Joan Theurer introduced the members of Healthy Marathon County and the Community Health Improvement team. Amanda Ostrowski led a discussion regarding indicators and their criteria (communication power, proxy power, and data power). Further discussion indicated that additional clarification is needed in order to successfully determine three appropriate indicators after some members expressed concern that the selection process felt subjective. It was decided to hold the August meeting in person and have a more in-depth discussion to increase understanding and effectively select three indicators. Amanda asked that members look at the data and take each indicator through the matrix prior to the meeting.

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

- A. Confirm August 10, 2021 meeting date and determine agenda topics.
 - i. Update on Marathon County Start Right program evaluation – this will be delayed until the September meeting.
 - ii. Continuation of vaccine hesitancy discussion.
 - iii. Healthy Marathon County to join for the second half of the meeting to define “results” for the Community Health Priority Substance Misuse

10. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Dean Danner; seconded by Corrie Norrbom. The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kue Her, Secretary
Kim Wieloch, Recorder