

## Marathon County Board of Health Minutes

**Meeting Date/Time:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021, at 7:45 AM

**Meeting Location:** Marathon County Courthouse  
Assembly Room  
500 Forest Street  
Wausau, WI 54403

Present - In Person: John Robinson, Tara Draeger

Present - Via Zoom: Kue Her, Craig McEwen, Corrie Norrbom, Sandi Cihlar, Dean Danner

MCHD Staff: Laura Scudiere, Dale Grosskurth (online), Eileen Eckardt,  
Rachel Klemp-North, Rebecca Mroczenski, Aaron Ruff (online),  
Kang Chu Yang, Kim Wieloch

Others via Zoom: Tim Buttke, Casey Wilson

### 1. Call to Order

John Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:53 AM.

### 2. Welcome of new member, Tara Draeger

John Robinson formally welcomed Tara Draeger as a new Board of Health member. Tara Draeger shared her background in public health as the System Director of Community Health Improvement at Aspirus and current interim Executive Director of the Aspirus Health Foundation.

### 3. Public Comment Period (Limit to 15 Minutes)

No public comments were made.

### 4. Approval of the Minutes of the September 14, 2021, Board of Health Meeting

The minutes of the October board meeting included in the packet. The agenda stated approval of the September minutes. Chair postponed the approval of minutes until the agenda date reflects the minutes.

### 5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution

A. None

### 6. Policy Discussion and Possible Action

A. Communication to school districts regarding communicable disease statutory responsibilities  
Laura Scudiere shared that COVID transmission remains an issue in schools. 20% of the positive cases within the county is school related. Most schools are not meeting

communicable disease state statute 252. Schools are interested in collaborating in vaccine efforts but have not been consistently participating in masking and mitigation recommendations. Best practices in reducing risks in schools and adding layers of mitigation were shared.

The board also discussed possible school district board actions for the future, including, but not limited to reducing masking and quarantine for schools currently providing these strategies. Board members discussed past and current factors affecting school contact tracing efforts. Question was asked what we have learned from the pandemic and whether steps are being taken to re-strategize MCHD emergency preparedness plan. Laura stated that there are many lessons to be learned and that state discussions have been factoring in what recovery will look like.

## **7. 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 more households have engaged with NCCAP to get housing. Many individuals that did not seek NCCAP have relocated to a different park. There has been notification that the park owner is currently addressing some of the issues previously noted by MCHD, however, recent visits to the park indicate the health hazards persist. No additional inspection and or contact has been made between the owner and MCHD.

After several weeks of petition, legal actions are being considered. Board members suggested that given the nature of the situation, a citation would be in order. Dale Grosskurth will reach out to Mike to discuss his recommendations.

As of 11/08/2021, there is no data on the number of residents remaining on the property. MCHD has not specifically reach out to squatters, but NCCAP has been offered to all within the park including squatters and families with children. Specifics of programs offered by NCCAP to family with children is unknown. Details of program would be better explained by NCCAP. There is also no data on the count of children on the park property. NCCAP has done a great deal of outreach, but some individuals have chosen not to use NCCAP services. Group agreed that although resources for these individuals are needed, the main concern should be aim at the environmental health hazards that remain present.

### **B. COVID Status Review**

Laura Scudiere provided an overview of the COVID dashboard and where to locate the most current information.

Laura Scudiere also indicated that COVID numbers continue to climb, and more people are choosing not to get tested when symptomatic. MCHD continues to work with the Wisconsin National Guard to set up and conduct community testing sites. Community testing is currently offered at East gate hall, Marathon Park, Thursday-Saturday, 9-5pm. The city hall in Abbotsford, WI will soon be available for testing as well. Dates and time are currently being determined. All sites are free of charge, conducting PCR testing and offers walk-ins. Rapid testing is also available at the UW. The following school districts have also taken on

testing: DC Everest, Wausau, Spencer, Marathon, and Athens.

The group voiced concerns regarding testing dates and its accessibility for the community. Although testing is free, the limitation in dates can be difficult for individuals and accentuate health equities. Laura Scudiere shared that test dates are dependent of the availability of the Wisconsin National Guard. Requests to transfer the event dates have been made.

Laura Scudiere also shared that the FDA, CDC, and DHS have approved Pfizer COVID vaccines for children ages 5-11 years old. Vaccines are available at the AMI site starting Nov. 9. Aspirus and other local providers are awaiting their vaccine shipment and are working on coordinating this effort.

Regarding mandates for vaccination at employers with over 100 employees, MCHD's role will be to strategize and assist health providers to provide these services. Public health will not be expected to enforce this mandate nor be a direct service provider for vaccinations or testing.

#### C. Review of New Environmental Health Tracking Program Data

Dale Grosskurth gave an overview of the DHS resource.

- The resource summarizes and links environmental factors to health issues.
- Provides a profile snapshot of the number of factors released a year, such as Motor Accidents, COPD, and climate change.
- Contains multiple data sources.
- Has profiles developed for all counties.
- Helps link and give comparable data.
- Provides individuals with the knowledge to act.

The group discuss the following data from the DHS resource, Radon data/testing and installations information, current lead testing programs for children and education opportunities for lead service line issues. Dale Grosskurth also shared that if a child is on Medicaid, they are tested at 1-2 years and at 3-5 years. Anyone not on Medicaid is tested by their physician. Homeowners with buildings built in 1940 or earlier are recommended to test their children.

This resource can help public health anticipate the next health crisis and assist in addressing the determinants of environmental health. The group agreed to review the resource to assist future Board of Health goals.

#### D. Start Right Evaluation Update

Laura Scudiere shared the preliminary highlights of the Start Right program evaluation. A formative evaluation will be shared with the board along with the recommendations of the evaluator at a future meeting. The evaluator stated that the program itself was a strong and an effective program but lacked longitudinal data/evidence. A return-on-investment calculation was not conducted as the evaluator was not able to do so without the longitudinal data required to do so. Laura reminded the board that the county budget was set and Start Right was included in that budget. Changes to programming and potential

resources required would need to be reviewed for the upcoming 2023 budget cycle. Laura Scudiere anticipates to present program changes to the Board of health in January 2022 and to the Human Services Committee in February 2022.

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

Tim Buttke shared that Mount View Care Center 4<sup>th</sup> proposal was postponed to November. The plan is to reduce the bed counts and put the beds in reserve.

The group also discussed staffing issues in the nursing homes. Tim Buttke shared that the operations executive indicated that “they are in trouble and cannot and are struggling to staff their facilities.”

**8. Announcements**

- A. Sandi Cihlar thanked Laura Scudiere for including the communicable disease report. Sandi shared that having this information is great for the board to see. It gives them a look at the other issues that are occurring besides COVID. Board expressed desire to have more information on other communicable disease work within the county.

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

- A. Confirm December 14, 2021, meeting date and determine agenda topics

**10. Adjourn**

Motion to adjourn made by John Robinson, second by Craig McEwen. Meeting adjourned at 9:09 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kue Her, Secretary  
Kang Chu Yang, Recorder