

## **Minutes of the Board of Health Meeting**

### **Health Department of Northwest Michigan May 6, 2014**

**Call to order:** A regular meeting of the Board of Health was held in the Conference Room at the Health Department in Charlevoix, Michigan on May 6, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 A.M. Vice-Chairperson David Howelman presiding and Linda Yaroch, Health Officer. Six members of the Board of Health were in attendance, establishing a quorum.

**Members in attendance:** Karen Bargy, David Howelman, Larry Cassidy, Larry Sullivan, Ronald Reinhard, Doug Johnson

**Members excused/absent:** Les Atchison, Richard Sumerix

**Staff in attendance:** Linda Yaroch, Dr. Josh Meyerson, Bradley Rider, Patricia Fralick, Jane Sundmacher, Scott Kendzierski, Erika Van Dam, Susan Pulaski

**Staff excused/absent:** Tina Lamont

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Ronald Reinhardt to approve the March 4, 2014 meeting minutes as presented supported by Larry Cassidy. All yeas. Motion carried.

**Public Comment:** None.

#### **STAFF REPORTS**

Written reports were distributed with agenda for review prior to the meeting from Linda Yaroch, Dr. Josh Meyerson, and Scott Kendzieski.

- Linda Yaroch, RN, MPH, Health Officer - highlighted accomplishments on the Access to Care portion of the Priority Workplan for 2013 and 2014 Priority Workplan. Larry Cassidy thanked Linda on the health department's response and transition to the Affordable Care Act and coordination of services. Great job advocating for the clients to provide them information and enrollment in the Health Insurance Marketplace.
- Joshua Meyerson, MD, MPH, Medical Director
- Scott Kendzierski, MS, REHS, Director of Environmental Services – gave an overview of the Environmental Health Division 2013 Workplan and 2014. He discussed Health Space Implementation the software package to replace the two programs that the environmental health division currently uses. Larry Levengood and Bill Lubs have retired. We are not filling Larry's position this year. Mike Jones has assumed Larry's responsibilities. Chuck Edwards, environmental health sanitarian from Antrim County will replace Bill Lub's position in the Gaylord office. We are in the recruitment process to replace the Antrim County sanitarian position.
- Bradley Rider, MBA, Director of Administrative Services – gave an overview of the Administrative Services 2013 Priority Workplan, thanked his supervisors, Lisa Faust has 22 years with the agency, Dan Powers has 15 years and Dan Reynolds has 2 years. We will continue to upgrade and standardize agency Policy and Procedure format. As a part of the 2014 Priority Workplan, we will continue to implement new software for Finance, Family Health and Adult Health. We will also, update/complete Employee Compensation Study this year; the last one was in 2008 as well as pursue meaningful use for Dental Clinics North Division.

**MICHIGAN COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION** – Josh Meyerson discussed Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies to reduce dental decay and improve oral health in our area communities. He distributed materials on the history of fluoride in drinking water. The Michigan Department of Community Health stands firm in its commitment for community water fluoridation. He discussed the levels of natural and adjusted fluoride in the Municipal Water Systems in our four counties. There was discussion.

**RESOLUTION - IN SUPPORT OF COMMUNITY WATER FLUORIDATION** - Dr. Meyerson presented the following resolution:

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan supports community water fluoridation programs. Fluoridation of public water supplies in the United States began over 60 years ago in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Currently almost seven million Michigan residents have access to community water fluoridation to reduce dental decay and improve oral health.

Fluoridation is still the most cost effective and efficient way to prevent dental disease. It is an ideal public health measure that benefits everyone regardless of their ability to access other preventive services. The U.S. Centers for disease Control and Prevention has recognized “the fluoridation of drinking water as one of ten great public health achievements of the twentieth century.”

Community Water Fluoridation is given strong support and active promotion by over 100 prominent, credible health agencies including the World Health Organization, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, American Dental Association and American Medical Association.

The safety of community water fluoridation has been researched extensively since its inception as a public health measure in 1945. Scientific study reviews continue to demonstrate the safety and efficacy of fluoridation. At the recommended fluoride levels for optimal oral health, there are no adverse health effects.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan supports community water fluoridation as a safe, cost effective, and efficient public health measure to reduce dental decay and improve citizens’ health in our communities.

**MOTION:** Motion by Karen Bary to approve the Community Water Fluoridation resolution as submitted; supported by Doug Johnson. All yeas. Motion carried.

**PRESENTATION: TOBACCO USE OVERVIEW BY ERIKA VAN DAM, FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH SUPERVISOR AND SUSAN PULASKI, COMMUNITY HEALTH COORDATOR**

Erika gave a presentation on Tobacco Use and Maternal Smoking. She presented stats depicting number of adults currently smoking by demographics among vulnerable groups in Michigan for 2012. Ten percent of women smoke while pregnant in Michigan. Prenatal smoking remains one of the most common preventable causes of infant morbidity and mortality and is associated with babies having 30% higher odds of being born premature and more likely to be born with low birth weight. They also are up to three times more likely to die of SID’s, increased risk for stillbirth, cleft lip & palate and increased risk for diagnosis of asthma during the first 5 years.

She reported that Tobacco Use can be significantly reduced by fully funding tobacco control programs; increasing the price of tobacco products; enacting comprehensive smoke-free policies controlling access to tobacco products; reducing tobacco advertising and promotion and implementing anti-tobacco media campaigns encouraging and assisting tobacco users to quit. She distributed a booklet "Let's Make the Next Generation Tobacco-Free, a Guide to 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Surgeon General's Report on Smoking and Health.

Susan shared a new tobacco awareness You Tube video by SAFE Youth. Safe Youth members are high school students from Charlevoix and Emmet counties who take part in efforts to raise awareness of substance abuse, expose issues that are of concern and encourage their peers to be tobacco, alcohol and drug free. The SAFE Youth student volunteers created this new video to deliver some alarming facts about the harmful effects of tobacco on our bodies and on our communities. They found that nine out of 10 smokers began smoking before age 18. There are more than 15,000 new youth smokers each year in Michigan. Susan also distributed a list of Michigan Tobacco Free Parks and Beaches as of January 30, 2014 in our state.

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE - ACCOUNTS PAYABLE**

**MOTION:** David Howelman reported that the finance committee met and recommends approval of the March, 2014 bills in the amount of \$735,478.38 and employee expenses of \$19,849.06 supported by Larry Cassidy. April, 2014 bills in the amount of \$475,075.24 and employees expenses of \$24,080.76 supported by Larry Sullivan. Motion carried. All yeas.

**Unfinished Business:** None.

**Other Business:** None.

**Adjournment:** Tuesday, June 3, 2014 at 10:00 A.M. in the Conference Room of the Health Department, Charlevoix, Michigan was fixed as the time and place of the next meeting of the Board of Health.

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,**



Linda Yaroch, Health Officer



Les Atchison, Chairperson