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BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

10:00 AM

Conference Room A/B – Polk County Health Department

AGENDA

- Call to order – Chairman Brian Masters
- Approval of Agenda - All
- Public Comment
- Approval of Minutes from August 14, 2012 meeting - All
- Department Statistical Reports (for review only) –Sampson
- Old Business
 - 1) Home Care Study Update – Dana Frey
 - 2) Update on Public Health Accreditation Application – Sampson
 - 3) Status of 2013 Department Budget – Sampson
 - 5) Update on Communicable Disease Issues - Sampson
 - 6) Update on 317 Vaccine Issue - Leonard
- New Business
 - 1) The Community Guide for Boards of Health – Sampson
 - 2) Preliminary findings from State Review of Birth to 3 Program - Sampson
- Director's Report
 - 1) Public Health Legislative Updates – Sampson
 - 2) Public Health Research – Sampson
 - 3) Agency Updates – Sampson
- Board member Comments/Observances
- Adjourn

Enc: BOH minutes August 14, 2012

BOARD OF HEALTH

The Polk County Board of Health met in the conference room of the Health Department at 10:00 AM on September 11, 2012

Present:	Patricia Schmidt Dr. Arne Lagus	Brian Masters Kim Gearin	Rick Scoglio
Absent:	Tom Magnafici	Les Larsen	
Also:	Gretchen Sampson Bonnie Leonard	Julie Houman Sara Olson	Caralynn Hodgson

Chairman Masters called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Motion by Schmidt/Lagus to approve the agenda. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Welcome Sara Olson, to the Health Department. Sara is a casual nurse for the Home Care program.

Motion by Masters/Lagus to approve the minutes of the August 14, 2012 Board of Health meeting. All in favor. Motion carried.

Monthly Statistical Reports

Sampson reviewed the agency statistical and financial reports for August 2012; an Aging Report has been added for the Home Care program.

Old Business

1) Home Care Study

Administrator Frey was not present at the meeting but informed Sampson that he met with the Chisago County administrator regarding their Home Care closure. Chisago concluded that they couldn't continue to subsidize \$300,000 a year when there were so many other home care options available in Chisago County. Administrator Frey has indicated he wishes to call all other home care agencies in Polk County to assess capacity to take our patients. Home Care will remain in the budget for 2013.

2) Update on Public Health Accreditation

Last month, the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) asked the Health Department to clarify documents uploaded as evidence to meet the standards and measures for accreditation. Those clarifications were submitted on August 24, 2012. We are waiting to be assigned a site review team, which is anticipated to be late 2012 or early 2013.

3) Status of 2013 Budget

The 2013 budget is not final yet as the county is still waiting for final percentages for WRS. Sampson presented a budget summary document of the department's 2013 budgets in their latest form.

5) Update on Communicable Disease

Sampson reported that as of September 7, 2012, Wisconsin has data for West Nile virus cases. There have been 26 birds confirmed positive, 1 confirmed human case, 12 probable human cases, 2 deaths and 8 hospitalizations.

The Health Department recommends that the best way to prevent West Nile virus disease is to avoid mosquito bites: use insect repellent; wear long sleeves and pants during dawn and dusk; install screens on windows and doors; empty standing water from items outside your home such as flowerpots, buckets, covers, and wading pools, and change water in bird baths and pet dishes every 3-4 days. People should also clean gutters to drain properly.

Sampson stated that Influenza A (H3N2v) is a new variant of the swine flu being seen in pigs and humans. Most commonly, human infections with variant viruses occur in people with exposure to infected pigs (e.g. children near pigs at a fair or workers in the swine industry). As of September 11, 2012, Wisconsin has 18 confirmed cases of H3N2v. Swine influenza is not transmissible to people through eating properly handled pork.

Sampson reported that Yosemite National Park has an outbreak of Hantavirus. Hantaviruses are a group of viruses that may be carried by some rodents. People get HPS when they breathe in Hantaviruses. This can happen when rodent urine and droppings that contain Hantavirus are stirred up into the air. People can also become infected when they touch mouse or rat urine, droppings, or nesting materials that contain the virus and then touch their eyes, nose or mouth. Prevention includes keeping mice and rats out of your home, clean up mouse and rat urine, droppings and nesting materials with a disinfectant or a mixture of bleach and water. There have been no confirmed cases of Hantavirus in Wisconsin at this time.

Sampson stated that Wisconsin has 3 confirmed cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis; Polk County has 1 confirmed horse with EEE. Eastern equine encephalitis virus (EEEV) is transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected mosquito. Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) is a rare illness in humans, and only a few cases are reported in the United States each year. Sampson advised that the same recommendations for West Nile virus prevention apply to EEE.

Leonard reported that Polk County has 10 reported cases of Pertussis (whooping cough). The vaccine is not as effective as it used to be but it has fewer side effects and is safer. Of the 10 cases, all were children under the age of 10 and all but 1 had been immunized. It has been recommended that adolescences age 11 and up should get a DTAP booster. The illness is not as severe to those who have been immunized.

Board members can find more information on communicable diseases at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/>

6) Update on 317 Vaccine Issue

Leonard reported that beginning October 1, 2012, individuals whose insurance covers immunizations will not be able to be immunized with state supplied vaccine (i.e., federally purchased 317 vaccine), even if the insurance includes a high deductible or co-pay, or the plan's deductible has not been met. Communication about this policy change will go out to healthcare providers, schools and the public.

New Business

1) Community Guide for Boards of Health

Sampson distributed handouts promoting use of *The Community Guide* as a resource for evidence-based practices about what works to improve public health. She urged BOH members to be familiar with this guide when evaluating public health programs or proposed activities. She reviewed the handout on tobacco prevention. Sampson stated that the Community Guide is a credible resource with many uses because it is based on a scientific systematic review process and answers questions critical to almost everyone interested in community health and well-being such as:

- What interventions have and have not worked?
- In which populations and settings has the intervention worked or not worked?
- What might the intervention cost? What should I expect for my investment?
- Does the intervention lead to any other benefits or harms?
- What interventions need more research before we know if they work or not?

Board members can view the Community Guide electronically at:

<http://www.thecommunityguide.org/index.html>

2) Preliminary findings from State Review of Birth to 3 Program

Sampson reported that two state health department officials were onsite August 28, 2012 to conduct a comprehensive review of the county Birth to 3 program including: review files of children served, individualized family service plans and the PPS data system. They noted 1 area of non-compliance but overall it was a very positive review. A written report will follow.

Director's Report

1) Public Health Legislative Updates:

Sampson distributed an article from APHA regarding Sequestration. In 2011, Congress passed the Budget Control Act which established caps on defense and nondefense discretionary programs such as public health, environmental protection, law enforcement, transportation etc., which will reduce this funding by \$1 trillion over 10 years. What this means for Public Health is an 8% cut across the board starting early next year if no congressional action occurs. Sampson stated it is important to talk to our legislators and educate them on the effects this could have on public health and other health related programming.

Sampson stated that there will be a candidate forum on October 15, 2012 in Hudson. All senate and assembly candidates in surrounding districts are invited. Board of Health members are encouraged to attend or forward questions to Sampson.

Sampson distributed a letter from the CDC regarding consumption of raw milk. This is an issue that surfaces every few years in Wisconsin. Sampson stated it is important to understand the risks of drinking raw milk, especially since children usually bear the brunt of severe illness associated with consumption. Raw milk contains bacteria, and some of them can be harmful. More info at: <http://www.cdc.gov/Features/rawmilk/>

2) Public Health Research:

Sampson distributed an article published by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) on the Emerging Concepts for Decision Making in a Changing Public Health World. The article provides guidance for public health officials and policymakers in prioritizing vital public health functions in a shifting political and fiscal landscape.

3) Agency Update

Sampson reported that an offer has been made for the occupational therapy position in the Birth to Three program but we have received no applications for a speech language pathologist.

The Health Department is working to update its Strategic Plan 2009-2013 and a draft should be ready at the next meeting.

Schmidt recommended an interesting documentary available on Netflix regarding plastic bags and the harmful effects. The documentary is called "Bag it".

Schmidt reported that the Polk County ADRC and UW Extension are hosting a one day FREE program called Final Affairs. The program is a guide to arranging your personal and legal issues. This program is open to all community members in and around Polk and Burnett Counties. It is on Thursday, September 27, 2012 from 8:30am – 4:00pm at the Luck Lutheran Church, 510 East Foster Ave., Luck, WI. See brochure: <http://polk.uwex.edu/files/2012/08/Final-Affairs-Flyer3.pdf>

Motion by Schmidt/Lagus to adjourn. All in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 pm.

The next Board of Health meeting will be November 13, 2012 at 10:00 A.M.