

Community Health Board

LE SUEUR-WASECA

MINUTES

Le Sueur – Waseca Community Health Board

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

Held at the WEM High School

Members present: Brian Harguth, Doug Christopherson, Brad Krause, Danny O’Keefe, Steve Rohlfig, John King, David Preisler, and DeAnne Malterer.

Others present: Sarah Berry, Megan Kirby, Leah Cameron, Leah Frederick, Andrew Nicolin, Nicole Jarvis, Kristen Friedrichs, and Joe Martin.

Call to Order at 1:33pm by Chair Doug Christopherson

Review/Approval of Agenda. Agenda amended to add items to agenda item #8, 8a. Board structure and 8b. Strategic Planning

Motion to approve agenda by Brian Harguth; seconded by Steve Rohlfig. Motion carried.

Review/Approval of June 4th, 2024, minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of June 4th, 2024, by Deanne Malterer; seconded by John King. Motion carried.

Review recent items signed by Board agent, Sarah Berry

Emergency Preparedness funding. Funding not changed.

Brown-Nicollet SHIP dissolution

1. Updates from the State Community Health Services Advisory Committee – De Malterer

SCHSAC retreat in October. Speaker at retreat to discuss communication on public health transformation. Executive Committee meeting this Thursday. De expects the committee will approve a 2-year work plan. State funding to go towards building capacity.

2. Shared Staffing Updates - Megan

Shared supervisor position has been hired, Josh Ramaker who comes from Rice County and has experience working in community health. Shared supervisor starts August 19th. PHEP position interviewing Wednesday.

3. Environmental Health Update – Sarah

a. Waseca county environmental health specialist moving to do different work but bringing septic health with him. Waseca will need 1/3 FTE more to equal a 1.0 so reevaluating job description. Needing to look at where funding will come from for position. Can use RSG and COVID funds in the short term. Sarah Berry and Andrew Nicolin to cover for open position currently. Question from commissioner Rohlfig on whether Waseca will be hiring their own environmental staff. Sara reports that Waseca will be hiring their own staff, but environmental health may be shared between the two counties. Adding an environmental health lead position in one of the counties discussed. Commissioners report details need to be figured out and agreed upon.

b. Andrew Nicolin took mold and well calls related to Waterville flooding. 2 water tests clinics were set up as part of the flood response. Many positive water samples. 65 positive water samples the first round and 25 positive samples the second round. Department of Health handled notifying residents of positive results. Residents with positive results were guided

to disinfect their wells independently or hire a contractor.

4. Regional Innovation Grant Update – Megan

CHB decided to join Southwest and South central local public health. All counties in the region have worked together to apply for a Communications grant. Position would be a grant manager housed in Rice County. Grant manager would manage if goals are matching what public health is moving towards and also work with MSU students so students can see what public health work would look like. Project is 2 years. Began July 1st. Strategic planning with MDH is next step. Sarah reports MSU students get real data that local public health can use.

5. Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP) Memorandum of Agreement Draft – Kristen Friedrichs, Brown-Nicollet SHIP Coordinator

Brown-Nicollet board met in April to decide on how grants will be split. State discontinued all grants due to the split. Memorandum written to account for 3 counties (Brown, Nicollet, Le Sueur-Waseca). Kristen hopes to have final agreement before the end of the year. Sarah Berry is able to sign this agreement as board agent. SHIP meeting again in October. SHIP work is able to continue while agreement is worked out.

6. Foundational Public Health Capabilities – Megan

a. Emergency Preparedness and Response

Wanting to take time to review foundational public health capabilities.

After reviewing the cost and capacity assessment, public health wasn't meeting emergency preparedness and communications capabilities. RSG funding convo on how to weave funding into WIC and family home visits.

b. Communications

Reviewed foundational public health capability of communication. Goal is continuing ongoing relationships with media and tailoring communication to an audience. New shared community health supervisor will take the lead on some communication work.

7. Joint Executive Meeting Report Out

Joint executive committee met and discussed the current CHB bylaws and joint powers agreement. Joint powers agreement identified areas that need to be looked at. Discussed adding shared staffing to joint powers agreement. Discussion on make up of county health board and potential for a restructure to the board. Discussion on board structure to continue in agenda item #8a. Section C in the bylaws discussed as being removed from the bylaws and added to the joint power's agreement. Commissioner Priesler questioned if both counties need insurance or is this duplication. This is a question for MCIT. Discussion at meeting also surrounding if grant funding ends, how does the board move forward? Commissioner Christopherson reports the general agreement is that the position follows the grant unless the board can be convinced the position is essential. Joe Martin also reported the committee discussed an area in the joint power's agreement regarding the allocation of finances that is very unclear and needs to be rewritten.

8. Other –

a. Board Structure

Joint executive committee also discussed restructuring the board to include community members as

either voting members or an advisory committee. Model that was identified would include 2 community members (one from each county) from schools, healthcare, and mental health and 2 commissioners. All commissioners would attend one meeting per year which would be focused on voting on the budget for the year. Commissioners agree that restructure would be advisory at this point, but future could look different depending on the funding sources. Commissioner Harguth reports one issue that could happen is that the advisory committee and public health staff may not agree on anything and there aren't enough guidelines from the state to keep advisory board on track. Commissioner Priesler and Christopherson report the board would have the power to choose who is on the advisory committee to help prevent this. Commissioner Rohlfing inquired how the board decide who is on the committee, using schools as an example. 1 advisory committee member would come from a school in each county, would that person be the superintendent, principal, school counselor, etc.? Commissioners agree there would be monetary incentive for committee members. Christopherson reports that if the board wants to explore a different structure, a motion is needed. Commissioner Rohlfing motioned to explore scenarios of possible CHB restructure. Next CHB meeting is in October so board restructure can be brought to board again at that time. Commissioner King seconded motion to explore scenarios of possible CHB restructure. Motion carried.

b. Strategic Planning

Review of strategic planning that Le Sueur and Waseca completed with Mary Orban through MDH. Identified strategies of getting into community and strategies for regional and county connections chosen by Le Sueur-Waseca staff to focus on. Getting into community was chosen to connect with community and rebuild trust after COVID.

Motion by John King and seconded by De Malterer to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 3:03pm.

Respectfully submitted by Nicole Jarvis for DeAnne Malterer, Secretary.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, October 1st, 2024.