

PUBLIC HEALTH SOLUTIONS District Health Department

Board of Health

September 15, 2022

Board Members in Attendance:

Dave Bruning	Larry Cerny	Janet Henning	Judy Henning
Dr. Bruce Kennedy	Christy Lucking	Stephanie Knight	Dave Norton
Tim Pickering	Mark Schoenrock	Don Schuller	

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Josue Gutierrez

Staff Members in Attendance:

Kim Showalter, Director; Sonya Williamson, Fiscal Administrator; Debra L. Wendelin, Program Support Technician

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Mark Schoenrock. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting required by law.

Approval of Agenda:

Meeting agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve the agenda by Don Schuller, seconded by Dave Norton. All ayes, motion #1 carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Previous meeting minutes were emailed before the meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by Dave Bruning, seconded by Larry Cerny. All ayes, motion #2 carried.

Financial Reports: Acceptance:

Sonya Williamson presented on the Financial Reports. The Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual (FY22-23) has the new budget figures included. We are approximately two months into the new fiscal year. The Custom Transaction Detail Report indicates no unusual expenses at this time. As we approach the beginning of our School Kids Immunization Program (SKIP) you will see larger expenses for flu vaccine. The Healthy Families America (HFA) program ended their fiscal year (October 1-September 30) with large expenditures to spend down grant funds. These expenses include a remodel in Angela Johnson's (Program Coordinator) Crete office and a new copier for the Beatrice office. Dave Bruning asked for further explanation of check #17853 payable to the UPS Store in the amount of \$6,340. This expense is for printing SKIP flu forms (flu consent, COVID-19 consent, Vaccine Information System (VIS) statement). Over 10,000 copies are sent out one time a year to district schools for disbursement to parents to sign up their child(ren) to receive the flu and/or COVID-19 vaccine. Tim Pickering wondered if we have a bid process in place for printing large quantities. In the past we have checked a few other printing locations. Kim will look into a bid process for future large orders. Dave Bruning mentioned check #17852 to United Healthcare in the amount of \$18,303.42. This total represents the monthly expenditure for paid employee healthcare premiums which amounts to roughly \$890 per covered employee. Dave Bruning asked for clarification on check #17744 in the amount of \$29,466.43 to US Bank. Each month we receive one master purchase card statement and each employee receives their own statement of purchases. Employee statements, along with detailed attached receipts, are matched up to the master purchase card statement. Grant programs are spending down to clear out any remaining funds to avoid having to do a carry over. Employees have a \$500/month and \$250/single limits and are required to email the Fiscal Administrator to request a special temporary increase. Dana Cole & Company conducted an on-site annual audit in mid-August and will present

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the audit at the November Board of Health (BOH) meeting. A single audit was completed on the COVID-19 immunization grant. Motion to approve the financial reports by Dave Bruning, seconded by Janet Henning. All ayes, motion #3 carried.

Director's Report:

Kim has completed her presentation to each district County Board. Annual presentations to each district board will be completed after the annual budget is passed. Kim would like to see staff involved by giving quick updates to county boards sharing all the incredible things they are doing in our district and the resources we provide.

Kim's goal by the end of the fiscal year is to have in place a contracted attorney that will work with our Executive Committee to tighten up our Board of Health policies.

We will have approximately \$550,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to obligate to capital projects, a one-time project, or infrastructure projects to be used within 30 months. Part of this funding will support a .5 FTE for

Megan Garcia to support and maintain a collaborative effort towards moving forward with our Partners for a Healthy Community Alliance. We are also looking at other projects to alleviate our issue with storage space.

A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) grant to the State of Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to improve workforce development in public health is in place to provide us with funding to secure two new positions within our department. We currently have a Community Health Worker on staff through this funding. We will look at hiring a high-level statistical Epidemiologist that will be reimbursed through the State and be considered a temporary employee (1-2 years). This person will work with our programs and services to include developing our own dashboard of statistics on our website. There is also a statewide proposal in the works to provide funding for Environmental Health Specialists to local health departments. Kim will provide more info on this as more is known.

Mark Schoenrock shared with BOH members that the methamphetamine bill has been pulled off the table at this time. The challenge they are facing is insufficient data to define the scope and definition of the problem. Jefferson County reported in the last six months 77% of incoming court cases were methamphetamine-related. Children who are exposed to methamphetamine at home or who have parents who are addicted to methamphetamine not only have issues at school but a lot of societal issues as well. Condemning methamphetamine houses resulting in a vacant lot puts a strain on available housing that is already at a detriment. Tim Pickering noted that Hebron pays an incentive to builders to build on vacant lots to increase available housing.

Partners for a Healthy Community Alliance will meet tomorrow for a two-hour district-wide strategic planning session with group action planning. Kim shared these conversations, i.e., methamphetamine issues, are conversations we want to have within this group. We have real power when we have all partners at the table. Kim thanked all Board members who will travel to Crete tomorrow for the meeting as we reinvigorate the group and take a look at who needs to be at the table and who is important to be at the table. Stephanie Knight indicated hospital Chief Executive Officer's (CEO's) would be willing to meet with her and suggested Kim host a Zoom meeting with them. Mark Schoenrock stressed to BOH members how important it is that they have a good relationship with hospital CEOs in their county.

Shari Wurtz-Miller, CEO of Blue Valley Community Action Partnership (BVCA), reached out to Kim regarding BVCA's Community Improvement Plan. Our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and Community Health Assessment (CHA) are due in 2023. It was suggested that we meet with a consultant group and do a community assessment plan jointly sharing focus groups (English and

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Spanish) once we know what we are looking for upon completion of a district-wide survey. District hospitals are interested in pursuing these partners as well and it makes sense we do this together as one big effort avoiding duplication of services, avoiding gaps in services, and coming together to present to county boards.

A new software system, Juvare, is coming to us from DHHS. Juvare collaborates between public health departments and health-care systems to prepare for potential coronavirus outbreaks i.e., monitoring critical service availability and bed availability. We will work to support our hospitals in getting up to speed on the system.

COVID-19 positive cases as reported by DHHS are going down while Monkeypox numbers are leveling off.

October is a busy month for our department as we prepare for flu-season. We will bring our SKIP flu program to district schools providing 3-4,000 flu shots to students/faculty. We will again this year include the option to get a COVID-19 vaccine. We've had an almost non-existent flu season the last two years during the COVID-19 outbreak. We anticipate a more impactful flu season this year and encourage everyone to get a flu shot.

Our dental program is really taking off. Chelsea Muckey, dental coordinator, works with patients to provide dental screenings and dental education by reaching out and talking to pregnant moms, providing dental education in our home-visiting program, and utilizing tele-dentistry.

Our HFA program has been busy the last few months working on the accreditation process. The program requires national accreditation in order to continue forward. An on-site accreditation team will be here in two weeks. HFA is now fully staffed so will hopefully end the year closer to their projected budget.

Open Forum:

Mark Schoenrock shared that County Boards have an issue in recruiting and retaining their workforce. Mark wanted to make sure that our pay scale at PHS is competitive so that we don't have staff leaving for positions elsewhere. Kim assured Mark she feels we have worked very hard to get where we are at and that we are comparative in compensation with other health departments. Stephanie Knight indicated Fillmore County Hospital retains their employees by not only offering a pay increase but a bonus that is based on inflation so that it can be adjusted each year.

Dr. Bruce Kennedy wanted the Board's thoughts on having a district-wide dental Mission of Mercy clinic. Dental practitioners come together in one location to provide dental work for free. Adults with Medicaid can't get into a dentist and children on Medicaid are seen based on a ratio. Medicaid reimbursement seems to be the issue in dentists not accepting Medicaid patients. We would need to look for a central location for our district. Kim shared with Dr. Kennedy that she would dedicate staff to assist him if he wants to pursue the clinic further.

Mark Schoenrock queried Board members if they have heard any anti-public health sentiment in their counties. Comments have been heard regarding mask mandates and restrictions with several complaints shared about not having trust in the CDC. Kim stated there was a tricky balance to be maintained between being perceived as 'pushing' mandates at people and maintaining the trust of the public. She stated throughout the pandemic it was important to remember that when the event was over, the health department still needed to be trusted and seen as a resource to the public. She feels PHS has done a fairly good job of maintaining the balance as much as possible.

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Christy Lucking inquired as to whether the current Board of Health policy was on our website. It is not currently on our website so Kim will email the policy to all Board members. Dave Bruning wanted to know if there was a legal firm that specializes in BOH policy. Kim indicated that she is unaware of firms that specialize in this matter. Our department currently uses Cline, Williams, and Wright and would likely utilize their services, if needed, for specific issues.

The next Board of Health Meeting is Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in Crete, NE.

Being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned.

Debra L. Wendelin
Program Support Technician

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PUBLIC HEALTH SOLUTIONS

Board Members Roll Call & Roll Call Votes

Meeting Date: 09-15-2022

Board Members		MOTIONS																		
		Roll Call		1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9
	Present	Absent	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay	Yea	Nay
Dave Bruning	X		X	X																
Larry Cerny	X		X	X																
Dr. Josue Gutierrez		X																		
Janet Henning	X		X	X																
Judy Henning	X		X	X																
Dr. Bruce Kennedy	X		X	X																
Stephanie Knight	X																			
Christy Lucking	X		X	X																
Dave Norton	X		X	X																
Jim Pickering	X		X	X																
Mark Schoenrock	X		X	X																
Don Schuller	X		X	X																
Totals	11	1	10	0	10	0														