

PUBLIC HEALTH SOLUTIONS District Health Department

Board of Health

January 18, 2024

Board Members in Attendance:

Janet Henning Judy Henning Richard Koch Mark Schoenrock
Don Schuller

Board Members Absent:

Larry Cerny Dr. Bruce Kennedy Tim Pickering

Board Members Attending Virtually:

Dr. Josue Gutierrez Stephanie Knight Christy Lucking

Staff Members in Attendance:

Kim Showalter, Director; Sonya Williamson, Fiscal Administrator; Debra L. Wendelin, Administrative Program Assistant

Guest(s) in Attendance:

Donald Harmon, Beatrice, Nebraska

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 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 Janet Henning, seconded by Judy Henning. All ayes, motion #1 carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Previous meeting minutes were emailed before the meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by Don Schuller, seconded by Janet Henning. All ayes, motion #2 carried.

Financial Reports: Acceptance:

Sonya Williamson presented on the Financial Reports. We are halfway through our fiscal year (July 1- June 30) and are on target. Sonya is in the process of preparing quarterly financials for individual programs. One item to mention on the Custom Transaction Detail Report is a number of expenditures to purchase COVID-19 vaccine. Mark Schoenrock indicated that some of the line items have high percentages and if there is a need for concern. On the income side when our fiscal year is July-June some of that income is actually for items we invoiced in July that was for last year. Program Supplies on the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual (FY23-24) it is over budget which sometimes happens when we have an open position. If you take a look at the salary personnel line item, we are down on this which means we have an open position so program managers will work with their grant funders to shift funds from personnel down to supplies. State funders are usually pretty good about this when they know it is going towards their program as long as they justify it fits the activities. Some of that as we mentioned before is that grants either front load or end load and each grant cycle runs differently. Through the year each grant gets its own internal Excel spreadsheet along with a Quick Books report so we can track to make sure we are on target. A separate report has been run for general LB funds and we are still sitting where we will have carryover for this next year. We are overspent on vaccine expense. When the COVID-19 went from government prioritized to private you had to purchase upfront and make a guess as to how much you need and there is no returning the vaccine. We took into consideration what we used last year as a baseline when we purchased the vaccine. We expect to see a significant

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hit on the COVID-19 vaccine as it will expire soon and we haven't had the demand we expected for it. We did the best we could contacting other health departments to see if they needed any vaccine but they are in the same boat as we are. Kim shared that the immunization program has always been a concern for her. Over 90% of the individuals we see at our immunization clinic are uncompensated care and we can't bill them. The immunization program, without grant funding, runs in the red every year. We are going to start asking people...as we cannot force anyone...to contribute some amount of payment for their vaccine. Checks payable to Kidwell are for the upgrade we did to our security system to include the new Thrive clinic area. We needed to void a few checks as the billing software printed them twice. Mark Schoenrock requested a refresh for Board of Health members on what security our department has in place regarding our computer system. We have a two-step verification set up on all our computers to include staff email. We outsource our IT support with Network Consulting Services (NCS) in Beatrice. We just this year added cyber security and liability insurance to our policy. Motion to approve the financial reports by Janet Henning, seconded by Don Schuller. All ayes, motion #3 carried.

Election of Officers:

Current Executive Board Members:

Chairman – Mark Schoenrock

Vice President – Dr. Josue Gutierrez

Secretary/Treasurer – Don Schuller

Chairman Mark Schoenrock addressed board members to see if there was any interest to assume an executive position on the Board. As there did not appear to be an interest, current Executive Board Members confirmed they would be willing to continue to serve in their capacity. Motion to affirm current officers for the next year by Judy Henning, seconded by Janet Henning. All ayes, motion #4 carried.

BOH Legislative Review Committee (Discussion):

Committee Members:

Dr. Josue Gutierrez, Dr. Buce Kennedy, Stephanie Knight, Christing Lucking, Mark Schoenrock, Don Schuller

Mark Schoenrock shared with the Board that NACO (Nebraska Association of County Officials) meets today with Governor Pillen after his State of the State address this morning. The NACO review board will meet to discuss upcoming bills before the Legislature. Kim serves on the Legislative Committee of the Executive Board of the Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors (NALHD). In light of reviewing every bill that is being presented, the committee will take action on those bills that directly affect staff, department operation, and budget. Kim will connect with Board members on the legislative review committee on a day and time next week for them to meet. Kim is excited that a few PHS staff have shown an interest in what is going on in the Legislature and have been actively engaged in bills that affect our clients. We will form a small committee of staff and between the two groups we can get a lot done and keep a watch on what is going on.

Director's Report:

Health directors have sent their list of priorities to the secretary of NACO to include Directed Health Measures, dental/Medicaid reimbursement, and early childhood visitation. Those of you who were here in November when Senators Dorn and Brandt were here remember that our conversation hinged on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds being tied up in early childhood visitation. Senator Dorn signed off on Senator Vargas's bill to support and increase in early childhood funding.

A couple of new projects coming our way. Dr. Bob Rauner, President, Partnership for a Healthy Nebraska, and his group came to us sharing they have a grant project working in the Lincoln/Omaha area trying to affect infant mortality rates in Nebraska by increasing healthy birth rates and getting more

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moms into prenatal care. Dr. Rauner accessed data that specifically stated that when you look at a map of Nebraska at women that get recommended for prenatal visits the three communities where that was not happening are the three with meat packing plants in Grand Island, Lexington and Crete. We will receive grant funding up to \$50,000 the first year to form focus groups in our community, especially women working at Smithfield, to increase healthy birthrates and incentivize women to seek prenatal care.

The Community Access to Coordinated Health Care (CATCH) grant supports health department work for patients in the traditional healthcare system. That population healthcare group we don't get reimbursed for and hospitals and clinics do that themselves and health departments that do a lot of care are not getting reimbursed for it. At a higher level we are trying to work at how we can get reimbursement for the nurses in the health departments that are doing it. Dr. Josue Gutierrez will refer to us clients struggling with chronic health issues and our nurses will provide intense nurse case management. We receive approximately \$17,000 a year to run the program and work with Dr. Gutierrez on referrals.

Kim's State of the Department has been moved to February to allow the Leadership Team to meet and set priorities for 2024.

Maria Bastilio has been hired as a Community Health Worker for our clinical department area. Jen Hansen has accepted the position of Surveillance Coordinator. We currently have an opening for an Emergency Response Coordinator.

We will be moving forward with the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) priorities of Behavioral Health and Equitable Access to all Resources. We will do some work internally with our staff first mapping out what we already do in these areas to figure out what we are doing and then we will start getting the larger group, Partners for a Health Community, together to see who is doing what and then what do we need to do to improve services

Health departments are in discussion with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regarding intense desk audits. The State went through and decided they would have tiers or levels of desk audits. They looked at our official audits filed with the State and if you had any findings in your audit you go into a high-risk category. The problem is all health departments are ending up in this high-risk category because we all have the same thing on our audit. All the health departments are small enough, except for Lincoln-Lancaster and Dodge, that we don't have 12 employees with their eyes on financial activities. Health departments haven't been officially notified of this but a few departments have talked to the finance director at DHHS and are requesting a meeting to discuss.

Nearly every health department completed a report originating from an organization in Ohio encompassing a list of essential health services offered in Nebraska by local health departments. This report will be provided to the Nebraska DHHS and will show the cost of providing essential health services in Nebraska. The report will show the number of staff and budget you need to perform these services well. It will be interesting to see when this report comes back the cost of doing business in public health in Nebraska.

An internet security organization contacted the health director association and is offering a free internet drill to 19 health departments. They try to hack our system and get around things to see where weaknesses are in our system. Kim will notify NCS to let them know we want to complete this drill so they can know if there any gaps in security services that they are providing for us.

Thrive, our new clinic model, will offer wellness and prevention services to our district with a target start date in February. Individual health services include Nurse Health Coaching, a McKinney-Vento Clinic,

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Immunizations and School Kids Immunization Program (SKIP), Dental, Blood Pressure Clinics, and Lead Case Management. We will establish a fee for these services and work with Blue Valley Community Action (BVCA) for those that qualify for resources. Community Wellness services include Tai Chi Classes, Living Well Classes, Baby & Me Classes, Question, Persuade, and Refer (QPR), Mental Health First Aid, to name a few. We now have the technology available to be able to offer tele-nurse for nurse health coaching to all residents in our five-county district. We have acquired Proprio as our new language assistance carrier which provides us with the capability of on-screen video and American Sign Language. Kim is working on writing up a proposal to fund an additional nurse. Our six-month goal is to review which area the most requests for service are located and decide if we want to spend the day there one time a month. We are posting on social media that “something new is sprouting” at PHS and will start taking appointments in February. We have had a lot of interest and are excited to see how this goes.

At our next Board of Health meeting, we will bring back program reports. We don't always capture at our meetings all the good things staff are doing in our district.

We will be writing a small grant to provide us with funding to support a Community Health Worker (CHW) to travel to Fairbury on sets days each month to help with Medicaid application assistance. We have also been asked to provide flu/COVID-19 vaccinations in preschool settings. We would take this opportunity to incorporate our Teddy Bear Clinic into these preschool clinics to increase immunizations this year.

Open Forum with Senators Brandt and Dorn:

Mark Schoenrock thanked Board of Health members, PHS and staff for the calls, flowers and messages he received following his bicycle accident.

We will go back to our original 8:30 am start time at the March meeting.

The next Board of Health Meeting is Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in Crete, NE

Being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned.

Debra L. Wendelin
Administrative Program Assistant

PUBLIC HEALTH SOLUTIONS
Board Members Roll Call & Roll Call Votes
Meeting Date: 01-18-2024

		M O T I O N S																			
Board Members	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	
Larry Cerny		X																			
Dr. Josue Gutierrez	X		X		X		X		X												
Janet Henning	X		X		X		X		X												
Judy Henning	X		X		X		X		X												
Dr. Bruce Kennedy		X																			
Stephanie Knight	X		X		X		X		X												
Richard Koch	X		X		X		X		X												
Christy Lucking	X		X		X		X		X												
Tim Pickering		X																			
Mark Schoenrock	X		X		X		X		X												
Don Schuller	X		X		X		X		X												
Totals	8	3	8	0	8	0	8	0	8												