

PUBLIC HEALTH SOLUTIONS District Health Department

Board of Health

May 16, 2024

Board Members in Attendance:

Larry Cerny	Donald Harmon	Janet Henning	Judy Henning
Dr. Bruce Kennedy	Stephanie Knight	Christy Lucking	Tim Pickering
Mark Schoenrock	Don Schuller		

Board Members Absent:

Dr. Josue Gutierrez	Richard Koch
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Staff Members in Attendance:

Kim Showalter, Director; Sonya Williamson, Fiscal Administrator; Debra L. Wendelin, Administrative Program Assistant, Jennifer Hansen, Environmental Health & Surveillance Coordinator

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 Tim Pickering, seconded by Don Schuller. All ayes, motion #1 carried.

Approval of Minutes:

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

Financial Reports: Acceptance:

Sonya Williamson presented on the Financial Reports. We are doing very well as we head into the last two month of our fiscal year. No major grant spenddowns to note this period. One item to mention on the Custom Transaction Detail Report is we have made our final payment to Kidwell for installation of upgraded electronic equipment and a door security system. Motion to approve the financial reports by Larry Cerny, seconded by Christy Lucking. All ayes, motion #3 carried.

FY24-25 Budget Draft for Review:

The FY2024-25 Funding Receipt reflects three larger grant awards that will be ending. Staff salaries that were added to new positions using the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding will need to be covered through other funding sources/categories. We have put together an internal FY25-26 budget allowing us to preplan where we see gaps in funding. Public health departments rely heavily on funding from the Legislative appropriations to expand and protect public health infrastructure across the state. President Mark Schoenrock reminded Board of Health members that is would be a good idea to host Senator Dorn and Senator Brandt again to a Board meeting. Kim shared that Senator Rickett's staff visited our department to learn more about public health and how it impacts our communities. Mark indicated that NACO (Nebraska Association of County Officials) was asked how they felt things were going with the Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS). Kim indicated that with several positions being cut at DHHS we are noticing a delay in processing and receiving our contracts and payments but policies/procedures seem to remain consistent. Kim has been appointed by NALHD (Nebraska Association of Local Health Directors) to a workgroup with the NACO board on inheritance tax issues as they affect public health support. The group will work on data to support the effect these cuts make on public health in our counties. We will need to push out information and education on public health that sets a clear picture of what services we provide through funding and how these will

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go away with a lack of funding. Kim is working on finding additional funding sources but noted that the Legislature is key in getting an increase in infrastructure dollars.

The Total FY2024-25 budget is balanced out for the year. We have 23 full-time employees (FTE's). For privacy purposes, total personnel include all employees. If you have a specific question or concern, please contact Kim personally. A reference guide has been added to the bottom of the budget with a mini-grant breakdown and complete name of grant programs. Kim does not see any significant concerns for this year but as a department we will need to tighten up as we head into the FY25-26 budget year.

A 4% cost-of-living increase was approved last year by the Board of Health into our merit rate increase system to be reviewed on an annual basis. The Board discussed how they wanted to determine the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for PHS employees each year. The SSA (Social Security Administration) provides a COLA of 3.2%. Mark reminded the Board that we need to remain competitive in the market to avoid a "revolving door" situation with our employees. After discussion, the Board agreed that the COLA should be revisited each year and a decision made at that time. A motion to approve a 3.2% COLA for this budget year to be reviewed on an annual basis by Stephanie Knight, seconded by Tim Pickering. All ayes, motion #4 carried. A formal budget will be presented to the Board at their July 2024 meeting. Please visit with Mark or Kim if you have any questions or concerns.

Program Report: Environmental Services (Jen Hansen)

Jen Hansen presented to the Board on environmental services in our district. A four-year local capacity building grant originating at the CDC and passed through to the State level identified three environmental health priorities (safe drinking water, air quality, lead poisoning prevention) and will be used to build local capacity to address these issues. One initiative toward air quality has been the funding and installation of a purple air monitor at Jefferson Community Health & Life (JCHL) hospital in Fairbury. Board members were interested in having a purple air monitor in each of our five-county district housed at the local hospital. As grant funding at this time permits the purchase and installation of one air purple monitor, Board members felt they would be able to obtain the necessary funds in the approximate amount of \$500-600 to purchase the air monitor through private sources. Kim will write an introductory letter explaining the purple air monitor system to Board Chair's and hospital CEO's (Chief Executive Officer) to see if we can form a partnership with our local counties to have a purple air monitor in each county.

Executive Session:

A motion to go into Executive Session at 9:28 am by Dr. Bruce Kennedy, seconded by Tim Pickering. All ayes, motion #5 carried. A motion to go out of Executive Session at 9:48 am by Tim Pickering, seconded by Larry Cerny. Motion #6 carried.

Director's Report:

"Thank you" to Board of Health members for the gift cards presented to staff in recognition of National Public Health Week.

Staff have completed Session 2 of a Values Workshop that identified five core PHS values (integrity, empower, transparency, teamwork, adaptability) and how we can intentionally demonstrate these values in all aspects of our work and our organization.

Several staff have been attending workshops and training on prenatal health. Dr. Bob Rauner, President, Partnership for a Healthy Nebraska, has 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 moms into prenatal care.

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We are working through several options to include asking our counties to support dental screening in their schools. We have put our in-house dental screenings on hold at this moment as we try to figure out how to make the program sustainable.

Sonya has been busy training on Bamboo, a human resources program that will house all our policies and procedures, benefits, PTO, and performance evaluations to name a few. One huge part of the new system is an on-boarding piece.

Our "People in our Community" series is working to bring people back to social connections. Part 1 of this series was a presentation from the Mayan Cultural Center in Omaha. Here in Crete, we have a large population of Mayan immigrants that are hard to reach because they separate themselves out from the Spanish speaking individuals. Individuals from the Mayan Culture shared with us on how we can provide resources to them with respect to their culture. Next Monday Part 2 of this series will focus on our military culture. Jill will be presenting along with a panel of veterans and military families. These presentations will be available on Zoom for anyone who is interested.

Kim is one of the health directors in the state that has been selected to be on a statewide DHHS health priority committee. The committee will meet with DHHS to look at collected data and determine health priorities, much similar to a CHIP (Community Health Improvement Plan), for the state.

Kim will assume a leadership role in the southeast Nebraska health departments CATCH (Community Access to Coordinated Health Care) program working on care management from providers to health departments. Our Community Health Workers (CHW's) working with patients of Dr. Gutierrez or hospitals needing help with chronic disease management come to our CHW's and we don't get any reimbursement through private insurance, Medicaid or Medicare. This group will try to get reimbursement rates going and get Nebraska to put CHW's into Medicaid and managed care so we can be reimbursed for their services.

A motion to approve the Director's Report by Don Schuller, seconded by Donald Harmon. All ayes, motion #7 carried.

Open Forum:

Dr. Bruce Kennedy informed the Board that on July 28 the Board of Trustees of the Nebraska Dental Association will have a day-long training on how to contact your senators and how to prepare for presenting to legislative committees testifying on your behalf.

Mark Schoenrock shared that he has been approached by a number of people across District 32 to become a candidate for the Legislature. Mark wanted the Board to know he is seriously considering this but hasn't made a formal decision at this time.

The next Board of Health Meeting is Thursday, July 18, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. in Crete, NE.

Deb will contact all Board Members the end of June before a Notice of Public Meeting is posted to see if the meeting needs to be rescheduled.

Being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned.

Debra L. Wendelin
Administrative Program Assistant

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PUBLIC HEALTH SOLUTIONS

Board Members Roll Call & Roll Call Votes

Meeting Date: 05-16-2024

		MOTIONS																		
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		X		X		X		X		X		X		X					
Dr. Josue Gutierrez		X																		
Donald Harmon	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X					
Janet Henning	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X					
Judy Henning	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X					
Dr. Bruce Kennedy	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X					
Stephanie Knight	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X					
Richard Koch		X																		
Christy Lucking	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X					
Tim Pickering	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X					
Mark Schoenrock	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X					
Don Schuller	X		X		X		X		X		X		X		X					
Totals	10	2	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0	10	0				