

Board of Health Minutes

March 10, 2022

Attendance: Rita Metzger, Shirley Fessler, Catherine Wagner, Jonathan Neils, Nick Muench, Shannon Wanek, Dave Nickels. Also attending: Bob Ziegelbauer Excused: None Absent: Dr. Brian Konowalchuk,

Regular Business:

The meeting was called to order by Rita Metzger at 5:01 p.m. The minutes of the February 2021 Board of Health meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Jonathon Neils and seconded by Shannon Wanek to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Health Officer Report:

Board of Health news: We are still looking for a Board member to replace Dr. Nelson. Propose reducing meeting frequency to quarterly to make membership more attractive. Will consider and decide at next meeting.

- COVID-19 Update
 - COVID-19 cases continue to decline in Manitowoc County. The 7 day average is down from 46 cases/day at last month's meeting to 3 cases/day today.
 - COVID-19 hospitalizations in the NE region steadily decreasing as well, with a 7 day average of 47 people hospitalized/day.
 - COVID-19 deaths slowing down, with 8 deaths reported in February.
 - The majority of cases, hospitalizations, and deaths in the County are among those not fully vaccinated for COVID-19.
 - Late last month, CDC updated its COVID-19 Community Recommendations, prioritizing hospitalization rates and hospital capacity over rates of infection alone. The new guidelines better reflect this phase of the pandemic, including widespread immunity through vaccination and prior infection as well as better access to testing and treatments.
 - Manitowoc County has seen a steep drop in infections and hospitalizations over the last several weeks. Updated metrics now put Manitowoc at a 'low' level. Universal masking is no longer recommended for the general public.
 - Masks continue to be recommended for those who have COVID symptoms, test positive, or have been recently exposed to someone with COVID-19.
- Community Health Assessment Update
 - The 2022 Community Health Assessment is ongoing. Phone surveys and key informant interviews should be completed by the end of the month, and an online survey will be made available for the community soon. Results are expected in early summer and will be posted publicly.
- 2021 Annual Report
 - Manitowoc County saw a rebound in some disease counts that had shown lower incidence during 2020, such as enteric diseases and STIs. This is likely due to a resumption of social gathering and other norms that were discontinued throughout much of 2020. The Health Department also saw several cases of active tuberculosis (<5, data suppressed) in 2021.
 - COVID-19 continued to be a significant public health threat in 2021, with 8,726 positive cases, 494 hospitalizations, and 87 deaths. COVID-19 was the third leading cause of death and accounted for 9% of all deaths of Manitowoc County residents in 2021.
 - The Health Department operated successful vaccine clinics in 2021, administering 23,988 COVID vaccinations in the county.
 - The percentage of children and teens up to date on their routine vaccinations is down, and the percentage of students with immunization waivers is up. Improving vaccination coverage is an identified priority for the Health Department in 2022.
 - The number of children with an identified lead levels above 5 µ/dl almost doubled from 2020, potentially due to increased time at home and reduced screening during the pandemic.

- Environmental Health continued to inspect and license retail food establishments, campgrounds, swimming pools, and motels. They also responded to notifications of human health hazards, responded to animal bites, and collected water samples.
- Public Health Emergency Preparedness participated in full scale and table top exercises, and was pivotal in the planning and implementation of mass vaccine clinics for the County.
- WIC served 1441 participants in 2021, providing supplemental nutritious foods, nutrition education, and breastfeeding information/education for pregnant & postpartum women, infants, and children under the age of 5.

Environmental Health Manager Report

- Requesting consent to hire a 1.0 FTE Registered Sanitarian following retirement of 0.8 FTE Environmental Technician.
- DATCP contract requires the hire of an RS or RS eligible individual to complete contract objectives
- DATCP agent evaluation completed end of 2021 indicated case load per agent too high.
- Nick Muench proposed a motion to approve, Shirley Fessler seconded.
- Approved unanimously.

Nurse Manager Report

Communicable Disease Report

- COVID-19 remains the number one reported infectious disease in the County, with 553 confirmed and 105 probable cases reported in February. Chlamydia remains the second most reported disease in the county with 13 confirmed cases last month.
- PHN orientation to non-COVID things going well. Policies and procedures are being systematically reviewed and revised
- PHN position is still open.

WIC Director Report:

The initial caseload for February is 950 participants, 574 families. Contracted caseload starting February is 933 participants. The final for January was 930 participants, 563 families.

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

The next meeting date for the Board of Health will be May 12, 2022 at 5:00 PM in the public health building. A motion to adjourn was made by Jonathon Neils and seconded by Shannon Wanek. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:17.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephanie Lambert, Acting Secretary