



April 2, 2019

Board of Health Minutes

Two Rivers Public Health Department

<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	
X		Dennis Reiter – Buffalo County Commissioner
X		Sue Hunter – Buffalo County Citizen
X		Dennis Rickertsen – Dawson County Commissioner
	X	Open – Dawson County Citizen
X		Scot Grams – Franklin County Supervisor
X		Mike Dallmann – Franklin County Citizen
	X	Glen Monter – Gosper County Supervisor
	X	Patty Bader – Gosper County Citizen
	X	Cindy Boehler – Harlan County Supervisor
X		Doris Brandon – Harlan County Citizen
X		Wayne Anderson – Kearney County Supervisor
X		Cody Krull – Kearney County Citizen
X		Barb Malm – Phelps County Commissioner
	X	Tana Fye – Phelps County Citizen
	X	Dr. Brady Beecham – Physician
X		Dr. Melissa Drain – Veterinarian
X		Dr. Robert Butz – Dentist
	X	Open – Minority Representative
	X	Nicole Buettner – Midlevel Practitioner

Also present: Jeremy Eschliman – Director TRPHD, Laura Steele – Assistant Director TRPHD, Roxanne Denny-Mickey TRPHD, Katie Mulligan TRPHD, and Susan Puckett TRPHD.

The Board of Health (BOH) meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by Hunter. Hunter stated the Nebraska Open Meeting Law was posted. Roll call completed by Eschliman, 10 present.

Public Comment.

Board comment

Dennis Reiter thanked the board for a letter that was sent wishing condolences for the recent passing of his mother.

Anderson apologized about the delay in selecting a member of Kearney County to represent at Board of Health meetings.

Approval of Agenda. Motion made by Krull to approve the agenda, second by Dallmann. Roll call vote, 10 ayes, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes from February 5, 2019 meeting. Motion made by Drain, second by Malm to approve minutes from February 5, 2019 meeting. Roll call vote, 7 ayes, (3 abstain Rickertsen, Brandon, Krull), **motion carried.**

Scot Grams arrives at 6:10 PM.

Board Education

Emergency Response Efforts to Recent Local Flooding

Katherine Mulligan, the Emergency Response Coordinator for TRPHD, discussed the recent flooding that impacted our jurisdiction in March. In the TRPHD jurisdiction, Buffalo County was most affected by the flooding. Impacted communities included Gibbon, Shelton, and Pleasanton. The estimated damage was \$25,000 per impacted household. Katherine explained that her role included communicating with community partners to help coordinate services and assistance to impacted communities. Katie was instrumental in activating the Kearney Community Organizations Actionable in Disasters (COAD), which is a local coalition of non-profits and emergency service providers. The COAD was able to coordinate dispatching resources on-site to impacted residents.

Immunization Program Development

Susan Puckett, Community Health Nurse, introduced TRPHD's effort to develop an Immunization program. Susan presented a 'test' handout to Board of Health members. The test focused on a measles outbreak scenario in our jurisdiction, where Susan would be tracking the spread of the outbreak. Through this activity, Susan emphasized that TRPHD's ability to respond to an outbreak would be enhanced with an immunization program. She explained that in a measles outbreak, unvaccinated children can be excluded from school settings, and miss out on valuable classroom time. If the health department were to respond to a measles outbreak, our response would be enhanced by an ability to provide measles vaccinations on-site. Susan explained that due to growing skepticism on childhood vaccinations, vaccine-preventable diseases, such as measles, are resurging. Measles was declared eradicated from the United States in 2000. However, Susan pointed out that measles was now circulating in the United States, with increased cases in populations that have a low rate of vaccination.

Susan explained that in Nebraska, only around 50% of individuals receive an annual influenza vaccination. This provides the perfect grounds for influenza to spread every flu season. If TRPHD is able to help increase the rate of people protected by the flu vaccination, we can save lives. Reiter mentioned that offering immunizations to children who, due to financial circumstances, would be unable to receive the vaccination and develop influenza, is an important

reason why public health can operate in the immunizations space and reduce inequities.

Board of Health members were interested in knowing whether this would introduce unwelcome competition to area clinics. Susan explained that the recent introduction of increased access of vaccination providers, including Target, Walgreens, and other informal health settings, this was not a concern. Board of Health members also asked why immunization rates were so low in Nebraska for influenza and measles. Susan explained that in Nebraska, immunizations required for school can be waived by either a religious waiver or due to a potential reaction, as documented by a provider.

Director's Report

Accreditation Update

Katherine Mulligan presented on TRPHD's efforts to become an accredited health department. She introduced the upcoming Accreditation site visit occurring on June 5th and 6th. The upcoming site visit is an opportunity for accreditation evaluators to work with TRPHD, board members, and community partners to identify areas of strength and improvement. Katherine reinforced that funding in the future could be tied to accreditation status for local public health departments.

Board of Health members were interested in knowing the associated cost of accreditation activities. Eschliman reported that the fee for accreditation was \$25,000 over five years, but that grant funding from the State of Nebraska covered ~90% of the fee. Board of Health members were also interested in knowing about the cost associated with maintaining the accreditation status. Eschliman explained that once the accreditation site visit was complete in June, that we would be reevaluated in three years to maintain accreditation.

Eschliman asked for consensus in hosting a 'mock' site-visit on May 14th with the Board. Board of Health members, by consensus, agreed to hold the next board meeting in Kearney on May 14th (Eschliman will send out the location of the meeting – currently to be determined) devoting a portion to the meeting to the mock site visit training. Eschliman additionally stated Board of Health members would be needed for the Accreditation site visit occurring on June 5 and 6, 2019 at the Holdrege office. Eschliman stated Vanessa West would be sending out an electronic poll to determine best time to schedule meeting with site review team.

Current Program Review

Steele presented on current program activities at TRPHD. During the month of March, Katherine Mulligan (Emergency Response Coordinator) and Cody Samuelson (TRIMRS Coordinator) responded to the flooding that occurred across the state. They were both active in convening community partners to help coordinate the local community response.

TRPHD also submitted a grant to Tyson to conduct lifestyle change classes on-site. TRPHD was excited to work with Tyson management to tailor an application around the goals of both agencies.

Countering Violent Extremism, a grant coming down from Homeland Security, will be ending in June. The goal of the program was to help form community-based intervention teams for individuals in a crisis. Board of Health members were interested in learning how the intervention team will be activated, and how the community can report potential violence.

Legislative Review

- i. **LB 130 Radon Resistant New Construction**
Eschliman introduced updates on LB 130. He explained that LB 130 had its first reading.
- ii. **LB 304 Exempt Certain Food Establishments (Cottage Food)**
Eschliman explained that unlicensed establishments would be able to sell food to the public without meeting certain health requirements. This would potentially lead to more food borne diseases.
- iii. **LB 149 Change in Provisions Relating to Vapor Products**
Eschliman explained that age restrictions on vaping have been moved down from 21 to 19, which endangers youth.
- iv. **LB 397 Change in Provisions Related to Tobacco Products**
Eschliman explained that this could potentially increase a cigarette tax up to \$1.50.

Strategic Plan Operational Strategies 2019-2021

Eschliman provided an update on the Operational Strategies 2019-2021. Of note, he explained that TRPHD had been conducting a 'road show' as a way to connect with all county boards in our jurisdiction. During the month of March, TRPHD staff visited with all county boards to provide updates on TRPHD programs.

Standing Committees

Executive (Butz, Hunter, Monter, Anderson)

Action to temporarily fill Vice-President position during Glen Monter's absence. Hunter opened nominations for an individual to fill the Vice-President position during Glen Monter's absence. Anderson nominated to fill position. Motion made by Rickertsen, second by Krull to close nominations. Roll call vote, 10 ayes (1 abstain Anderson), motion carried.

Motion to approve Wayne Anderson, filling the Vice-President position during Glen Monter's absence. Motion made by Dallmann, second by Butz. Roll call vote, 10 ayes (1 abstain Anderson), motion carried.

Personnel (Butz, Hunter, Monter, Reiter)

Motion to enter closed session regarding the Director's evaluation. Motion made by Rickertsen, second by Drain. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

All TRPHD staff exited. Board entered closed session at 7:29PM RE: Director's annual evaluation.

Motion to exit closed session regarding Director's evaluation. Motion made by Dallmann, second by Brandon. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried. Board exited closed session at 7:55PM.

Motion to commend Eschliman on annual performance and increase annual salary by \$2000 made by Rickertsen, second by Dallmann. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Finance (Krull, Monter, Hunter, Dallmann)

Recommendation to approve January and February 2019 financial report. Krull introduced the January and February 2019 financial report. Krull noted that there is currently a deficit of \$94,000 (revenues-expenses). Eschliman reported the possibility of reducing the deficit to ~\$60,000 by the end of the fiscal year. The deficit was driven largely by dental class deficit and bad debt associated with emergency response. Cost controls were introduced, including postponing dental services.

Motion made by Drain, second by Brandon to approve January and February 2019 financial report. Roll call vote, all ayes, motion carried.

Dental Program Class Discussion

Eschliman informed the board that cost controls had been instituted to help control the budget deficit. This included postponing dental services until new revenue opportunities were secured. The budget deficit was driven by contractor expenses and contractor mileage. Butz reported that dental services were good. However, he noted that some dental services in long-term care settings were work that aids, employees, and nurses should already be doing. He explained that more attention could be paid to training long-term care staff to offer preventative care.

Update on financial institution transition

Eschliman provided an update on the financial institution transition. Eschliman reported majority of liquid assets have been transferred and all processes running smoothly. The financial transition will have significant positive ramifications for our interest revenue on cash assets.

Recommendation to approve additional signatory for financial institutions. Board recommends Barb Malm to be a signatory. Motion made by Anderson, second by Rickertsen to approve Barb Malm as a financial signatory. Roll call vote, 10 ayes (1 abstain Malm), motion carried.

Renewal of lease on Kearney office (3715 29th Ave, Suite A2, Kearney, NE)

Eschliman informed the board that the Kearney office lease will be expiring at the end of May and the plan was to transition to a month to month lease until additional analysis could be completed. Eschliman discussed that the office is an open space concept, and is not set up for public traffic. The space was originally developed as a test for employee positioning and more effectively servicing of the district's most populous county-Buffalo. Employees have expressed concern regarding the potential for HIPPA violations when we receive public traffic, as there is the potential to overhear employees following up on surveillance investigations. In addition, employees must compete with people being on the phone at the same time, which causes a decrease in productivity and motivation. Eschliman informed the board that he identified an alternative office space in Kearney that could address the deficiencies of the current space and allow for better staff positioning. Anderson stated that if staff think it isn't sufficient space or design to conduct programmatic work, then it is time to start thinking about a different office space. Krull recommended the formation of an adhoc building committee to find building space.

Old Business – None.

New Business

Approval of Mallory Dean for Dawson County Citizen. Rickertsen stated Mallory was recently approved by the Dawson County Commissioners for this position. **Motion made by Butz, second by Drain to approve Mallory Dean for the Dawson County Citizen position on the board.** Roll call vote, all ayes, **motion carried.**

Approval of the Community Health Assessment 2017 – 2019. Eschliman described the reformatting of the Community Health Assessment 2017-2019 and presented it for review and approval by the board. **Motion made by Krull, second by Dallmann to approve the Community Health Assessment 2017-2019 as presented.** Roll call vote, all ayes, **motion carried.**

Adjournment

Motion by Reiter, second by Malm to adjourn meeting. Adjournment by consensus.

The Two Rivers Public Health Department Board of Health meeting was called to adjourn at 8:23 PM by Hunter.

Respectfully submitted,



Dr. Robert Butz

Secretary

(LS/JE)