

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES

Thursday April 13th, 2023

4:00pm to 5:00pm

Benton County Service Center

CALL TO ORDER @ 1604

Introductions: Completed.

BOH Members Present: Dr. Maggie Mangold, Wendy Michels, Braxton Morrison, Lisa Staab, Kaitlyn Emrich, Gary Bierschenk

Staff: Katie Cox, Barbara Greenlee, Matt Even

Guests: Becky Nowachek

Approve Minutes: Braxton 1st, Wendy 2nd, motion passed unanimously.

Approve Agenda: Wendy 1st, Lisa 2nd, motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Updates provided by subcommittees to investigate County based vs. subcontracted Public Health service options.

Subcontracted services subcommittee: Kaitlyn and Wendy. Attached BC BOH Subcontractor responses.

County based services subcommittee: Dr. Mangold and Braxton. Reports Board of Supervisors favorable for County Based Agency.

Active discussion amongst all Board of Health members related to Public and Environmental Health structure options and best options for Benton County; County based vs. Subcontracted services, County based stand-alone department vs. combined department with Environmental Health, along with staff positions, titles, and job requirements. Becky will provide job descriptions and contact information to the Board to reach out to other agencies for further insight.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Motion to approve Structure of Benton County Health.
Motion made by Kaitlyn Emrich, As of July 1, 2024, to utilize Public Health Funds to support Public Health Staff and use of Environmental Health staff for a County based Public Health Department. Braxton 2nd, motion passed unanimously.
2. Becky Nowachek, Open Meeting laws discussion. Will send additional resources to the BOH on Open Meeting Law (Chapter 21, closed session is 21.5) as well as information from the Iowa Public Information Board.

PUBLIC HEALTH

1. Population Health Services
 - a. Leadership and Governance
 - VGH CHNA completed, HIP underway. Will utilize CHNA FY22 for FY24. Katie to submit CHNA FY22 and current HIP, ongoing HIP per Public Health.

- Continued education for PH staff: Public Health Conference in Ames March 28th and 29th Braxton and Amanda attended.
- Continued PH clinics for SHIP, COVID19 vaccines, and quarterly Sexual Health Clinics partnered with LCPH. Virginia Gay Hospital/Public Health will continue all services and offering Vaccine Clinics until June 30th, 2023.
- SHIP informational session scheduled for Saturday April 29th.
- Communicable Diseases: Syphilis, Avian Influenza x 1, E. coli Shgt x1. (Per Epi; On average over the last four years, 76 disease reports were received for Benton County. Some of those reports would have been immediately closed as not a case based on the labs received, some would have been handled at the state level, and some would have not been followed up on (i.e. Campy). The number of investigations hinges on a few things: the number of diseases reported, the number of diseases that are true cases, the number of diseases that require local follow-up, and the number of cases that meet case definition. This only includes CADE diseases, so no STDs, TB or Hep C/B, which means it is not a perfect representation of what would have required follow-up locally.)
- Joint meeting/training session requested with hand off per Scott Seltrecht Field Epidemiologist.

2. Health Promotion

- PH Website update; Amanda working on updates, community page. Will transition over for FY24.
- HACAP partnership – Feeding America program continued.
- Resumed twice monthly Blood Pressure clinics at HACAP November 1st. continued.
- PHEP; Power disruption tabletop exercise 3/22/23 in Fayette for SA6 partners. Caring For Those in Need When the Power Is Out, Identify PH role in grid failure crisis. Collaboration process with Emergency Management and community partners for evacuation. In Attendance for Benton County; Scott Hansen EM, Bill Bevins VGH, Amanda Seiler and Katie Cox PH.
- 3/29/23 Pink Stiletto event Belle Plaine: Education provided on Preventative Care and Health Maintenance for Women, including Benton County health system resources. Reviewed available screenings and recommendations for ages 20s-90's and provided "Taking Steps for a Healthier you" checklist based on age to individual attendees. Blood pressure screenings were performed on attendees and exhibitors. Approximately 65 in attendance.
- 4/1/23 Health Fair: Approximately 250 in attendance including attendees and exhibitors. Networking with 47 unique Health and Wellness Community Resources. Public Health hosted and provided /education and resources on; Preventative care and Blood pressure screenings, COVID19 information and free at home test kits, Emergency Preparedness information and free disaster home kits, Hand Hygiene education along with hands on exercise with Glitterbug program and Reach out and Read program with free book distribution.

- Upcoming Events: 4/29 SHIP seminar, June: Hazmat Tabletop exercise, Party in the park and Benton County Fair.

3. Strengthen Local Public Health Infrastructure

- COVID19 AAR kick off meeting 1/27/23. Underway. John Carter interviewing community partners, to be completed by 6/30/23.
- SHL SARS-CoV-2 wastewater surveillance program. Wastewater surveillance data can be an early warning signal in a community as people infected with SARS-CoV-2 can shed virus in their feces, even if they do not have any symptoms. The ability to trend SARS-CoV-2 levels in wastewater provides valuable data that can support local public health departmental efforts to prevent the spread of COVID-19 within a community. Vinton Contact: Craig Walker/Shawn Usher for wastewater samples – Results BCPH: Benton County Public Health.
- COVID19: As of April 1st, the COVID-19 Reporting Dashboard was removed from the Iowa HHS website. Iowa HHS will use the weekly respiratory report to share COVID-19 surveillance data.
- Iowa HHS will determine a statewide Overall COVID-19 Activity level similar to the Overall Influenza Activity level shared on previous versions of the respiratory report. The COVID-19 activity level will be based on COVID lab positive percentage, hospitalizations and deaths compared to previous weeks and seasons. The Iowa HHS activity level is calculated differently than CDC's community or transmission levels but may be useful to have as a similar metric to guide decisions.

58.6% Benton County residents fully vaccinated.

Continued monthly Covid vaccine clinics; at home services and on-site vaccine clinics to ensure vaccine coverage within the county until June 30th, 2023.

4. Transition to County based department.

- a. Supplies and equipment. List provided with dates purchased and funding used. Will need storage space as transition over.
- b. Breakdown of current funding: Reviewed per Board. LPHS, Multiyear response, and PHEP grants. Current funding ends June 30th, 2023, there will be no carry over funds for FY24.
- c. LPHS grant FY 24. Katie to complete.
- d. Public Health 6 – Year Emergency Response Grant signed per Dr. Mangold.

HOME HEALTH

1. Non-population Health Services: Will transition ongoing care for current clients served. In process.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

1. None

Public Comments: None

ADJOURNMENT @ 1753

Braxton1st, Wendy 2nd. (BOH Approval)

Next Meeting: April 26th, 2023, at 1600 at Benton County Service Center.
Wendy 1st, Lisa 2nd. (BOH Approval)