



**Jefferson County Board of Health
Regular Meeting Minutes: August 11, 2023 at 9:00am
In Person at WVU Extension Office at 1948 Wiltshire Rd, Kearneysville, WV 25430
and Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Board Members Present:

Karen Bailey-Chapman (Chair, Remote)
Elliot Simon (Vice Chair)
Ann Smith
Anh Nguyen
Brandon Blake
Jennifer Krouse (County Commissioner, Ex Officio)

Board Members Absent:

None

Also Present: Terrence Reidy, MD (Health Officer), Gino Sisco (Administrator), Gillian Beach (Environmental Health Manager, remote), Bevin Keiter (Epidemiologist), Mason Weikle (Threat Prep Coordinator), Robin Pence (LPN), Lincy Gregory (Nurse Director), Katie Blunt (Peer Recovery Coach), Charli Heilmann (CoxHollidaYoung), Nathan Cochran (Jefferson County Prosecuting Attorney, remote),

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Karen Bailey Chapman at 9:00 am

Jefferson County Commissioner Jennifer Krouse was welcomed. She is the new ex-officio member of the Board of Health.

Minutes from July 14, 2023 regular meeting were reviewed. Anh Nguyen made a motion to accept the July 14, 2023 meeting minutes, Ann Smith seconded, motion passes unanimously (4-0). Note: Mr. Simon was not present for the vote.

Public Comment:

- None

Unfinished Business

Update on Vacancies-

- Social Worker: Mr. Sisco stated that a Social Worker was interviewed for the Quick Response Team (QRT).

New Business

Election of Officers for the Jefferson County Board of Health: Discussion/Action

Ms. Bailey-Chapman said that per bylaws, the election of officers takes place each year for the Board of Health. (The elections were delayed from July pending the appointment by the County Commission of a Board member for the 2023-2028 term).

Ms. Nguyen made a motion to nominate Karen Bailey Chapman as Chair of the Jefferson County Board of Health, Brandon Blake seconded, motion passes (3-0), Note: Mr. Simon was not present for the vote.

Ann Smith made a motion to nominate Brandon Blake as Vice-Chair of the Jefferson County Board of Health, Karen Bailey Chapman seconded, motion passes (3-0) with two abstentions (Anh Nguyen, Elliot Simon)

CoxHollidaYoung Update- Charli Heilmann provided an overview of the June 2023 financial report and the preliminary July 2023 financial report.

June 2023 Final Financial Report- The unreconciled bank balance of \$485,000 is \$110,000 above the conservative reserve requirement. Total revenue for June was \$158,000, reduced by salaries and wages of \$84,000 and operating expenses of \$20,000. This led to a surplus for the month of June of \$54,000. Fiscal year to date total revenue is \$1.4 million dollars, reduced by salaries and wages of \$1,000,000 and operating expenses of \$339,000, which leads to a year-to-date surplus of \$13,000. Total revenue for the fiscal year was 9% below the budgeted amounts, salaries and wages were 14% below and operating expenses were 30% above budgeted amounts.

Ann Smith made a motion to approve the June 2023 Financial Report as presented, Brandon Blake seconded, motion passes unanimously (5-0).

July 2023 Preliminary Financial Report- Preliminary numbers were presented and discussed by the Board.

The unreconciled bank balance of \$532,000 is \$183,000 above the conservative reserve requirement. The total surplus year to date is \$46,000. Mr. Sisco noted that the improvements in days to pay for Grants is due to the increase in staffing at the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health.

New Services being offered at the Health Department:

Dr. Reidy shared a PowerPoint of the ten leading causes of death in the USA, broken down by age groups and the changes from 2000 to 2020. In the age groups from 1 -34 years Unintentional Injuries were the major cause of death in 2000 with homicide and suicide among the top 4 causes. In 2020 Unintentional Injuries are still the major cause of death for ages 1-34 years but now are also the leading cause of death for the 35 to 44 age group. The fatal Unintentional Injuries in 2000 were most frequently due motor vehicle/traffic in all age groups. In 2020 the number of traffic deaths remained similar but deaths due to poisonings has greatly increased in the adolescent and young and early middle-age groups and exceeds the traffic deaths. The increased poisoning deaths are due to opioid overdoses.

Rapid HIV and Blood Lead Level Testing:

Robin Pence, LPN introduced herself to the Board of Health. The Jefferson County Health Department, in conjunction with the State Office of Laboratory Services, will provide Rapid HIV and Blood Lead Level Testing. These services will be offered at no expense to the client using a simple fingerstick. Ms. Pence said the goal for the Rapid HIV test is to reach out to members of the community who are at a higher risk of infection and get a quick result and access to testing, counselling about the results, and treatment. The initial result of the HIV test will come back in one minute. A positive test will lead to a second test being performed with a result in about 20 minutes. If the second test comes back positive, the health department will link them to treatment and care.

Blood lead level testing is recommended for all children. Lead poisoning can occur from exposure to lead in old paint, water, or other sources. The rapid screening test is done by a fingerstick. If the level is elevated, the child will be referred to have a venous blood sample tested. If this is elevated the primary care practitioner will evaluate the child to determine if treatment is needed and the West Virginia Office of Environmental Health Services will evaluate the housing and other potential sources of lead exposure.

Substance Use Disorder Peer Recovery Support

Katie Blunt introduced herself. She is a Peer Recovery Specialist who is a community health worker with a lived experience, connection, and understanding of the culture of those suffering from substance use disorders. Ms. Blunt said that for many in the county knowledge about substance use and access to help is lacking. She hopes to help people rebuild and recover. Ms. Blunt said the Quick Response Team (QRT) will keep up with current drug trends, provide naloxone and naloxone training and provide referrals for resources for essential needs.

Ms. Blunt said that ideally the QRT will be linked with the EMS and Police Departments receive reports on overdoses from these agencies. The QRT will be participating in multiple upcoming outreach events including the county fair and Save A Life Day.

Office-Based Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder: Discussion/Action

Lincy Gregory, RN introduced herself. The Jefferson County Health Department is hoping to help opiate substance use disorder clients receive treatment with office-based medication assistance (OB-MAT). This would use the medication buprenorphine or naltrexone. A combination of buprenorphine and naloxone (Narcan®) is commonly referred to by the brand name Suboxone®. To provide this treatment the practitioners must have the proper training and licensure, which she and Dr. Reidy have.

When a person decides that they want to get into recovery they would meet with a provider and potentially be started on the medication. They would have a weekly meeting with a provider, counseling with a therapist, and urine drug testing. The patient would transition through subsequent phases of the program. For many patients a maintenance phase is appropriate and can last many months or years.

To provide this service we must follow the specific State regulations and be registered and monitored by the West Virginia Office of Health Facility Licensure & Certification (OHFLAC). The registration requires “A copy of the governing bodies written authorization empowering the CEO or his/her designee to authorize specialized individuals to sign the application and act on its behalf.”

There were questions regarding the financial model. We do not presently have any grant subsidy. Like other medical practices will rely on patient insurance enrollment and reimbursement.

Elliot Simon made a motion to approve the Office Based Medication and Treatment Program, provided that there is a quarterly evaluation report and financial progress report, Anh Nguyen seconded, the motion passes unanimously (5-0).

Agency Activity Reports:

- Environmental Activity Report- Gillian Beach reported that the sanitarian staff completed 164 inspections and 24 plan reviews in the past month. Ms. Beach said that one other sanitarian attended and presented at the NEHA Conference in New Orleans, LA. She is setting up interviews for the fourth sanitarian position vacancy.
- Threat Preparedness Report- Mason Weikle reported that the health department will be setting up a booth at the Jefferson County Fair during the week August 20- August 26. He also said that he is partnering with the Red Cross to do a shelter facility checklist for the 11 shelter locations in Jefferson County.
- Clinical Activity Report- Ms. Gregory said that for July:

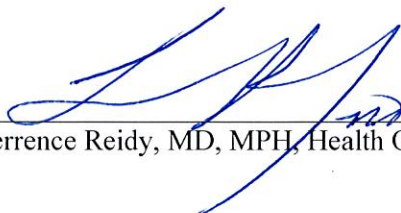
- Family Planning the clinical staff had 28 encounters.
 - Breast and Cervical Screening Program had 3 patient encounters.
 - Sexually transmitted infection patient encounters were 11. Three treated with medications.
 - Total number of vaccinations administered was 82 (64 were childhood vaccines.)
 - 3 COVID vaccinations
 - Influenza vaccination should be arriving in the coming weeks.
- Epidemiologist Report- Ms. Keiter noted there have been several calls about Covid. Current cases are similar to the national data. She also said there is nothing abnormal regarding reportable diseases in Jefferson County. The main cases she has noticed are enteric diseases, which are microorganisms such as viruses, bacteria, and parasites. She emphasized the most important things are to ensure proper cooking of food and handwashing.
 - Health Officer Report- Dr. Reidy said the back-to-school vaccination clinics are ongoing. A new vaccination for Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) which will mark the first time it is available. We need further information on insurance coverage of this before ordering it since this vaccine will be covered under Part D of Medicare rather than Part B which covered office-based vaccinations. The prior Covid vaccines are being phased out and are no longer being shipped. Since the Public Health Emergency ended in May 2023 the COVID vaccine will no longer be free but should be covered by insurances. Moderna, Pfizer, and Novavax are manufacturing newer versions of vaccines against the class of COVID variant now circulating. It is anticipated that data on efficacy of these vaccines will soon be presented and reviewed by the FDA and CDC, and possibly available by the end of September.
 - Health Administrator Report- Mr. Sisco noted that we had a good end to the fiscal year. He pointed out the increase in the clinical service revenue this past year.

Ann Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Anh Nguyen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously (5-0).

Next Meeting- Scheduled for September 8, 2023, at 9:00 am

Meeting adjourned 10:31 AM.

Respectfully submitted,


 Terrence Reidy, MD, MPH, Health Officer

9/8/23