

BRANCH-HILLSDALE-ST. JOSEPH
COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY
BOARD OF HEALTH
October 28, 2004
MEETING MINUTES

The October 28, 2004 Board of Health meeting was called to order by the Chairperson, Rodney Olney, with the following members present: Alice Britton, David Pueschel, Maxine Vanlerberg, Terry MacDonald and Monte Bordner.

Absent: John Dobberteen

Also Present: Duke E. Anderson, Steve Todd, Maureen Petzko, Jennie Sholly, Donna Cowden, John Robertson, Laura Sutter and Candy Cox.

Terry MacDonald moved to approve the Agenda as presented with support from Alice Britton. The motion carried.

Terry MacDonald moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting with support from David Pueschel. The motion carried.

Under Public comment there was nothing at this time.

Communication – Duke Anderson, Health Officer, reviewed the financial reports as presented with the members present. Mrs. Britton moved to accept and place on file the reports with support from Mrs. Vanlerberg. The motion carried.

The Health Officer's Report was distributed and discussed. Flue Shot Crisis was the topic of discussion. Duke summarized this from an article in Newsweek November 1, 2004 – "As recently as three weeks ago, most health officials (local, state and federal) assumed that 100 million Americans would have access to flu shots this fall. That was before British health authorities shut down a Liverpool production plant operated by the U.S. Company Chiron. Overnight, the projected U.S. vaccine supply shrank by nearly half, prompting restrictions on access, a surge in demand and a mounting sense of panic among doctors, patients and parents."

Until a few weeks ago, there were just two major flu shot vendors in the U.S., Chiron and another U.S. company, Aventis. Several years ago there were many other flu shot vendors. Why so few today? There are at least two reasons. One, the flu shot business is not a large financial margin industry. Production risks are significant for the limited reimbursement available. Secondly, the liability risk continues to be significant, at least according to the pharmaceutical industry.

Our agency ordered 4,000 doses from Aventis early in the year. Initially, we received one half of the order with it being somewhat unclear whether or not we would receive the other half. We have since received the balance of the flu shot order distribution of flu

shots to exclusively high priority groups: older citizens, the very young, people with chronic health conditions, and appropriate health care workers. Still the demand far exceeds the supply through our agency and elsewhere. Federal and State officials are attempting to somehow bridge the gap between flu shot demand of 90-100 million and the current supply of 60 million.

Duke indicated that he is more concerned about the gaps in federal and state public health policy that would prove extremely devastating in the event of a more potent strain of the flu next year and in years to come.

Borgess Southwest Michigan TeleHealth Network is a collaborative project to link regional hospitals, health departments and health clinics by two way radio video conferencing. Duke was part of a meeting that took place on October 8 to voice that our agency would be very interested in participation at a reasonable cost through this collaborative effort.

Duke commented on the meeting he had recently with Congressman Fred Upton in Centreville to discuss funding concerns related to basic maternal and child public health issues and programs at the local level.

Duke also reported on the state funding decisions that have been made regarding the AIDS/HIV Prevention and Emergency Preparedness programs. For the AIDS/HIV program the State has decided to pull the bulk of the allocated money back to 16 identified high impact health departments. These high impact departments are generally located in urbanized counties. For the rest of 29 local health departments the state will reimburse through December 31st to take care of transition costs. Allegedly, our agency's AIDS/HIV Prevention Minimum Program Requirements, Accreditation Standards, and HIV counseling requirements will be scaled back. In Fiscal 2004, the AIDS/HIV Prevention Grant was \$37,870 for the agency. For the Emergency Preparedness Grant the news is somewhat better. Originally cut from \$299,196 to \$238,430. This amount has now been increased to \$257,204 for Fiscal 2005.

Area Agency on Aging - Laura Sutter, Coordinator for the program gave her report to the members present together with the distribution of the latest edition of the magazine for the older Americans. David Pueschel moved to accept the report with support from Alice Britton. The motion carried.

Prevention Services – At this time a presentation of the WIC program was given by Jennie Sholly. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is attached.

The Service Statistics for the month were reviewed by the members present.

The Communicable Disease Report was also reviewed by the members present.

Discussion was held regarding the availability of the flu vaccine and it was suggested by Monte Bordner that perhaps a proposed Resolution shall be drafted for the next meeting

directed to the state and federal level for future use. This was made into a form of a motion which was supported by Alice Britton. The motion carried.

Health Promotion
Nothing at this time

Environmental Health
The monthly reports were reviewed by the members present. Steve Todd, Director of Environmental Health also discussed the salt level in the water of 83 households currently in Leonidas

Committee Reports:
Finance Committee reviewed the expenditures submitted for review and payment. Mr. Bordner moved to approve and pay as submitted supported by Mrs. Vanlerberg. The motion carried

Program, Policy and Appeals Committee – Nothing at this time.

Old Business-
Nothing at this time

New Business-
The next meeting of the Board of Health was scheduled for December 9, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. in the Coldwater office. This was moved by Mrs. Vanlerberg and supported by Mr. Bordner. The motion carried.

With nothing further to be discussed, Mrs. Britton moved to adjourn the meeting supported by Mrs. Vanlerberg. The motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Maureen S. Petzko, BA
Secretary to the Board of Health