

BRANCH-HILLSDALE-ST. JOSEPH
COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY
BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 27, 2008

The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency Board of Health meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by the Chairperson, Mike Dunlap, with the following members present:

David Pueschel, Al Ringenberg, Ken Lautzenheiser, Rod Olney, Robin Baker and Dale Swift.

Also Present: Steve Todd, Jennie Sholly, John Robertson, Donna Cowden, Laura Sutter, Maureen Petzko, Dr. Phillips, Rebecca Burns and Steve Betterly.

Mr. Swift moved to approve the agenda with two additions (SODON staff and Hillsdale Dental Clinic) with support from Mr. Pueschel. The motion carried.

Mr. Olney moved to approve the minutes as prepared from the previous meeting with support from Mr. Ringenberg. The motion carried.

Under Public Comment – there was nothing at this time

Communication

Dr. Phillips commented on the most recent legal case regarding autism and vaccinations and findings of no real evidence. He also reported on the number of cases of measles reported in the state of Michigan and talked about the flu mist push for 6 months of age and up.

Health Officer Report - Steve Todd gave his monthly report on the following: National Presidential Fitness challenge – the Office of the Surgeon General, Michigan Department of Community Health, is collaborating with the National President's Challenge to encourage Michiganian's to get up and move for 30 minutes per day, 5 days a week. This six week physical activity challenge is another way for Michigan to move toward becoming one of the healthiest states in the nation. The "Michigan Steps Up" healthy lifestyles initiative has partnered with many organizations to engage you, schools, faith based, healthcare and community based organizations to encourage healthy lifestyles and nutrition.

Dental clinics – In the six weeks since the three Rivers Public Health Dental clinic has been open, they have seen 1,033 patients. The clinic needs to service 3,500 – 5,000 patients annually to break even. The clinic is well on its way to meeting that goal.

Planning for a dental clinic in Hillsdale County has started. This past week Steve made a presentation regarding the dental clinic to the Hillsdale County commission during their strategic planning meeting. At the presentation he informed the commissioners that the dental clinic operated by the Hillsdale Hospital is scheduled to close at the end of March. A few patients from Hillsdale County have already started to travel over to our Three Rivers clinic and close to 30 patients from Branch County are currently being treated at the Three Rivers dental clinic.

Can you talk to your child about Sex? In cooperation with Sturgis, You and Families, our Agency is sponsoring a 90 minute workshop for parents to learn how to talk with their child about sex. On the evening of Tuesday, April 22, at the Sturgis Middle School we will be hosting "Talk Early Talk Often" workshop. This workshop is open to all parents in St. Joseph County and Branch County. Both counties have teen pregnancy rates well above the state's average. The purpose of the workshop is to provide parents with the skills and the encouragement to talk with their children about sex. This workshop has been in use statewide. Parents have the biggest influence on their child's behavior and parents can help protect their children from the risks of teen sexual activities.

Public Health Items – April has been proclaimed by the Governor as "Underage Drinking and Alcohol Awareness Month" Each of our three counties will be holding a "Town Hall Meeting" to bring attention to the problem Hillsdale County's meeting is March 27, at 7:00 p.m. at Perennial Park. Branch County 's Town Hall meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on March 31, at the Branch County Career Center and the Town Hall meeting for St. Joseph County will be at 7:00 p.m. on April 3 at Glen Oaks Community College.

The last thing Steve Todd touched on was correspondence received – a joint letter from the finance directors of the four Branch County school districts was received. They all have expressed their concern and dislike of not being exempt from paying for a State food License and associated inspection. This past fall the State food law was changed and the portion of the law that previously exempted schools from paying food license fees was removed. Our food Service fee schedule provides the schools with a reduced license fee similar to the fee that is charged to churches and other non-profit organizations.

Discussion took place regarding the President National Fitness Challenge invitation and expanding the invitation to the community at large – a report on the findings will be given at the next meeting.

Mr. Swift moved to accept and place on file the Health Officer's Report supported by Mr. Olney. The motion carried.

Financial Reports – Donna Cowden, Director of Finance reviewed the monthly reports as prepared with the Board members present. Mr. Olney moved to approve the reports supported by Mr. Pueschel. The motion carried.

Area Agency on Aging – Laura Sutter presented her monthly report to the Board members present

Prevention Services – Jennie Sholly reviewed her monthly reports with the members present.

Community Health Promotion - John Robertson reviewed the statistics with the members present.

SODON staffing was also discussed and John Robertson gave the members present an update on the progress being made to fill the vacant positions. John Robertson also discussed the CDE position for this program and advised the members present of a contract vs. employee status for this individual based on the specialized training required. After discussion, Mr. Lautzenhesier moved to approve a contract status for the CDE position within the SODON program, supported by Mr. Swift. The motion carried.

Environmental Health – Rebecca Burns reviewed the monthly reports with the members as well. Rebecca updated the members on Creative Health Institute, Well Drillers meeting and Soil Training.

Committee Reports –

Finance – The expenditures in the amount of \$264,571.45 be approved for payment as made in a motion by Mr. Olney. Support came from Mr. Lautzenheiser and the motion carried.

Program, Policy and Appeals – The committee met to continue the discussion of Environmental Health General Services fee increases left over from last month and the committee desired to refer this discussion back to the full Board for review, comment and direction.

Old Business – The issue of the proposed fee increase for Environmental Health General Services was once again discussed. After discussion Mr. Swift moved to approve the increase in fees effective March 31 with support from Mr. Baker. The motion carried.

New Business – Steve Todd discussed with the members present the dental clinic proposals for Hillsdale County.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 11: 45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Maureen Petzko, BA
Secretary to the Board of Health