

BRANCH-HILLSDALE-ST. JOSEPH
COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF 10-23-08 MEETING

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, Ken Lautzenheiser, Rod Olney, Al Ringenberg, Dale Swift

Absent: Robin Baker

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

Mr. Pueschel moved to approve the Agenda as prepared with support from Mr. Swift. The motion carried.

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

No Public Comment at this time.

Under Communication Dr. Phillips, Medical Director, gave his monthly report which consisted updated information on the Smoke Free Bill, highlights from a Public Health Conference attended, CAFOs, Right to Farm and Public Health. Dr. Phillips also advised the members on hazardous household waste program plays a key role in protecting community health. Kalamazoo has an excellent year round program that handles and transfers hazardous chemicals, pesticides, heavy metals and electronic waste. The agency should consider the benefit of establishing a tri county ongoing program or perhaps partner with Kalamazoo.

MERS Presentation for Health Care Savings Program from Michael Overley was next on the Agenda. Discussion followed and it was moved by Mr. Swift to approve the Health Care Savings Program as presented with support from Mr. Pueschel. The motion carried.

Health Officer's report was presented by Steve Todd. Steve touched on the Smoking Ban House Bill 4163, earlier in the month a meeting was held with Rep. Bruce Casewell to discuss the Agency's position regarding the proposed smoking ban legislation. The discussion gave us an opportunity to present Rep. Casewell the public health benefits of a smoking ban and for us to learn why he was not able to support the legislation. A vote on this legislation may yet be held before the end of this year.

Steve also discussed with the members present the Dental Sealant Project and Clinics – he announced that we soon will begin a dental sealant project with funding from the

Sturgis Area Community Foundation. Each child will receive a dental exam, cleaning and sealants applied to the chewing surface of their permanent molars. The service is being offered to all the students at Eastwood elementary School in Sturgis. We will be using a private dental service to conduct the project. Several meetings have been held regarding proposed Public Health Dental Clinics in Hillsdale and Branch Counties. The Hillsdale clinic is now being planned as a stand alone clinic on the County's campus where our Health Department is currently located. The campus also includes the DHS, Lifeways, MSUE and Friend of the Court buildings. The clinic building may end up being part of a building project being planned by the Hillsdale County's nursing home. In Branch County we recently held a meeting with the Branch County Hospital to determine the space that would be available in the old K-mart building which is being renovated as a medical building.

Several community sewer projects have been presented to areas in our three counties. After a number of public informational meetings two of the projects have been tabled. The project in Colon Township which involved two lakes was not supported by the public. A large sewer project in Hillsdale County that would have involved three different townships and several lakes was also not supported by the community. It appears that a third sewer project which will sewer the lakefront properties of Fisher Lake in St. Joseph County is moving forward.

The agency is making a proposal to the County Health Plan to perform a Health Assessment on all their members. The assessment would consist of a 20 question survey. The survey will help identify areas of the member's lifestyle that if changed would help improve their overall health. I feel that this is one part of a community wellness program.

The majority of our nursing staff has been attending week long training at the Branch Area Career Center. The facility has proven ideal for training our staff on use of a new computer program for WIC. The trainers stated to Steve how well prepared the staff was for the training and how positive staff have been.

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

Financial Report – Donna Cowden reviewed the financial reports prepared with the members present. Mr. Lautzenheiser moved to accept and place on file the reports as prepared supported by Mr. Olney. The motion carried.

Area Agency on Aging – Laura Sutter, Coordinator, reviewed her monthly report with the members present together with updates regarding her program.

Prevention Services – Jennie Sholly, Director, reviewed her monthly reports with the members present together with updates her programs.

Community Health Promotion – John Robertson, Director, reviewed the monthly reports with updates as well.

Environmental Health – Rebecca Burns, Director, reviewed the monthly statistics with the members present.

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – The expenditures submitted for payment in the amount of \$269,247.36 was moved to be paid by Mr. Lautzenheiser supported by Mr. Swift. The motion carried.

Program, Policy and Appeals Committee – none

Old Business

Nothing at this time

New Business

The proposed Affirmation of Nondiscrimination was discussed. It was moved by Mr. Ringenberg to approve supported by Mr. Lautzenheiser. The motion carried.

Other

Nothing at this time

With no further business to be discussed, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be on **December 4, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. in the Coldwater office.**

Respectfully Submitted By:

Maureen Petzko, BA
Secretary to the Board of Health