

BRANCH-HILLSDALE-ST. JOSEPH
COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES OF 10-22-09

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

Robin Baker, Dale Swift, Dave Pueschel, Geraldine Spieth and Mike Dunlap

Absent: Rod Olney

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

Geraldine Spieth moved to approve the agenda as presented supported by Dave Pueschel. The motion carried.

Robin Baker moved to approve the minutes from the previous meeting supported by Dale Swift. The motion carried.

Under Public Comment – there was nothing at this time

Communication

Medical Director Comments – Dr. Phillips commented on the HINI flu in our area. Discussion followed.

Health Officer Report – Steve Todd reported on the following:

1. State Budget

We are 3 weeks into the 2009 fiscal year and we do not have the final budget allocations from the State. However, we have had to make staffing cuts and program reductions in the early childhood programs that we conduct in all 3 counties. The cuts were necessary because of funding cuts that have been projected. We laid off 4 of the 6 parenting educators in our Healthy Beginnings program in Hillsdale County, 2 staff of the 2 ½ staff in the Family Success program in Branch County and 2 of the 4 staff from the Healthy Families program in St. Joseph County. These programs have had proven results in reducing child abuse by directly working with parents. We have often heard that to help fix some of the social problems in our community we need to go “up stream” and work to control the flow. These programs have produced results and they are a shame to lose.

When the 2009/10 State budget is passed it will most likely include cuts to the Local Public Health Operation funding we receive for our core Public Health programs. We are also still awaiting word from each of our 3 counties as to any reduction in the funding allocation that they provide for mandated Public Health functions. This year's request that we made to each County did not include any increase over funding requested last year. With continued decreases in funding we will be forced to make reductions in staffing and programs that we offer.

2. H1N1 Flu Vaccinations

We began receiving a small weekly allocation of H1N1 vaccine. The first shipment was received the week of October 12th. The vaccine has come in two forms, one being a nasal mist and the second being multi dose vials of injectable vaccine. The vaccine has been delivered to the 4 area hospitals for the vaccination of Hospital staff, Health Care workers and Medical Providers. Small supplies of vaccine have also been provided to Doctor's offices for the treatment of their patients that fall within the CDC's first priority group. We have been working cooperatively with local OB/GYN offices to offer vaccinations to pregnant women. We will be conducting localized clinics for EMTs, first responders and law enforcement. We are making plans to conduct vaccination clinics for young preschool children in the near future.

Our major responsibility is to offer H1N1 vaccinations to the main portion of the first priority group which are school aged children and young adults. To accomplish this we have delivered packets of information to each school in our district (27,000 packets). The schools have used various methods to get these packets home to the parents. The packet explains the H1N1 vaccination program and asks the parent to return a permission slip to the school to indicate if they wish to have their child vaccinated or not. Vaccination clinics will be scheduled in schools based on the availability of vaccine. We are planning on starting school clinics the first week in November. We have hired temporary staff to aid us in conducting these clinics in all counties concurrently.

We have consulted with schools and assisted with their decisions to close school, cancel activities and postpone events due to high absenteeism.

Mike Dunlap moved to approve the Health Officer's Report with support from Dave Pueschel. The motion carried.

Financial Report – Donna Cowden, Director of Finance, reviewed the monthly reports with members of the Board of Health. Donna Cowden pointed out that we were 5% under budget to date. Dale Swift moved to accept and place on file the reports supported by Mike Dunlap. The motion carried.

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Area Agency on Aging – Laura Sutter, Coordinator, reviewed her report with the members present and reported on the following:

The National Association of State Units on Aging and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging conscious of the financial pressures facing states and the federal government, have developed a coordinated national long term care strategy that will generate savings in Medicaid and Medicare at the federal and state levels while enabling older adults and individuals with disabilities to get the support they need to successfully age where they want to – in their own home and community. Discussion followed. Another topic discussed was the Michigan’s Aging and Disability Resource Center Grant Highlights. Dave Pueschel moved to accept the reports supported by Dale Swift. The motion carried.

Prevention Services – Jennie Sholly, Director, reviewed the monthly statistics and the Updated Report with the members present. Mike Dunlap moved to accept the reports supported by Robin Baker. The motion carried.

Community Health Promotion – John Robertson, Director, reviewed his monthly reports with the members present. He also advised the members on the HINI target groups, the agency’s plan to vaccinate in all three counties. Dale Swift moved to accept the report supported by Geraldine Spieth. The motion carried.

Environmental Health- Rebecca Burns, Director, reviewed the monthly reports with the members present. Rebecca also reviewed the Food establishments report and advised the members that the report indicated that Warren Family Restaurant is closed and this is not the case – it is open. Rebecca Burns also discussed the Managers Certification Rules effective October 2 with the members present. Geraldine Spieth moved to accept the reports supported by Mike Dunlap. The motion carried.

Committee Reports –

Finance Committee – Mike Dunlap moved to approve the expenditures submitted for payment supported by Dave Pueschel. The motion carried.

The Finance Committee met with the Health Officer prior to the meeting regarding a proposal to purchase 8 tables (conference room style) and 24 chairs for the Three Rivers office conference room. Discussion regarding this took place and it was recommended by the committee to the full Board of Health to approve the requested proposal not to exceed the amount of \$7,637.00 by Mike Dunlap supported by Robin Baker. The motion carried.

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

Old Business – nothing at this time

New Business – nothing at this time

Other –

Mention of MSU Extensions being targeted due to the State budget crisis and all was asked to contact our legislative body to save the MSU Extensions in all three counties.

With nothing further to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

The next Board of Health meeting will be on December 3, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. in the Coldwater office.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Maureen Petzko, BA
Secretary to the Board of Health