

**BAYFIELD COUNTY  
HEALTH BOARD MEETING  
Monday, April 16, 2007 – 4:30 P.M.**

Present: Winefred Punjak, Wayne Williams, Jim Beeksma, Dee Kittleson

Absent: Jim Crandell, Grace Heitsch, David Good

Staff: Cathy Ekholm, Millie Lindsey, Lynn Frechette

Others: Elaine Kopp; Steve Terry, NW Wisconsin CEP; Dan Peterson, MPA

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:32 pm by Chairperson Kittleson
2. **Approval of February 12, 2007 Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve the February 12, 2007 meeting minutes was made by Williams; motion seconded by Punjak. Motion carried.

The Director introduced Elaine Kopp and explained that she will be an appointed member of the Health Board. Elaine has retired from Ashland County Health Department. She was the coordinator of the Ashland County Home Care Program.

3. **Presentation by Dan Peterson and Steve Terry Regarding Proposed NW Wisconsin CEP Grant Submission to HRSA for a Federally Qualified Health Center**
  - Discussion and Possible action on Resolution Presented to the Board of Health Supporting this Grant Application.

Steve Terry informed the Board that he is the Executive Director of CEP (Concentrated Employment Program). He informed the Board as to what CEP is and the types of services they provide. A packet of informational materials was handed out. He has been seeing that there is a big concern for health care and health issues in Northwest Wisconsin. He saw this as an opportunity to explore what could be done about this problem. An application for a grant was written to the Otto Bremer Foundation. He was informed that CEP was successful in capturing a grant for \$35,000 to explore the need for a health center. The Bureau of Primary Health Care said Bayfield County listed the top 200 highest poverty counties with the least access to medical care in the United States. Bayfield County was included in that list. Grant funding could possibly be as much as \$600,000 for start up of a health care center. Mr. Terry stated that Dan Peterson is their consultant. He has done this before. He has set up other community health centers. He has written grants like this before. Mr. Peterson checked the feasibility of a health care center in this area. The handout was referenced regarding the timeline of steps that have already been taken and what the next steps are. Mr. Terry would like resolution from the Health Board and the Full County Board supporting his efforts in pursuing this grant for Bayfield County. Mr. Peterson stated that there are many communities in Bayfield County that are considered medically underserved. Everything in the grant is geared toward getting financing from the Bureau of Primary Health Care for a community health center. Public information has been collected and a project advisory committee has been established. Any or all of those present were invited to sit on the board. The goal is to build the governance board. By law this board needs to be between 9 and 21 people and 51 percent need to be consumers. In the first part of June

they will be drafting the developmental plan. The Primary Health Care Association of WI will do the final assessment of the plan. In a community health center you are required to provide a full range of services. You must contract for those services that you cannot provide. The Health Center would bill insurance, Medicare, and Medical Assistance for services, but if the client did not have any insurance coverage, they would be billed on a sliding fee scale. If patient needed to see someone outside health center, the health center would pay that bill. The grant will be submitted on May 23, 2007. The resolution Mr. Terry and Mr. Peterson would like adopted by the Health Board and the Full County Board, along with the abstract of the grant, was distributed. This is a recurring grant for \$600,000 each year. Once the clinic is opened, the government will give another \$100,000. It is possible to have \$1,000,000 the first year with the grant funds and the revenue collected. Once you receive the money, you need to be up and running in 120 days or they take the money back. Plans need to be made before the grant is awarded to make sure the center can be running within those 120 days. The advisory board will make the decision as to where the center will be located. Discussion was held as to where the best location(s) in the county would be. It makes the most sense to locate the clinic where the most need is. Mr. Peterson offered to do the startup if no one else can be found. He has done this for six other clinics. Concern was expressed that when the grant money runs out that the County will be asked for funding. It was explained that the money is to get the clinic up and running. Once the clinic is running, it will be supported by insurance dollars. The grant needs to be applied for every five years. This would be done by the executive director of the health center. Mr. Terry said that CEP is doing this because they feel it is a good opportunity for the area. CEP is a private nonprofit agency so they cannot run the grant but they would like to stay in the mix. A motion was made by Beeksma to adopt the resolution and send it to the Full County Board for approval; motion seconded by Williams. Motion carried. The beauty of the program is that there are continually expansion grants available.

#### **4. Home Care Report:**

- The census is steady where it has been for quite some time now.
- Budget: Revenue is \$23,737.00. Expenditures are \$48,797.00. The budget is going well.
- Contract for Therapy Services: Memorial Medical Center and Northern Lights Health Care were contacted about contracting for services. MMC is not interested. Northern Lights Health Care is very interested. The contract is waiting for the County Administrator's approval. The Board discussed Northern Lights Health Care doing home nursing. It was felt this would not impact our contract for therapy.

#### **5. Public Health Report**

- Budget: The revenue right now is coming mainly from the grants. The grants pay 1/12<sup>th</sup> of the contract amount each month. Our revenues are \$137,546.00. Expenses are \$152,218.00. There is more spending right now because of moving into new our new offices but that should slow down now.
- Staffing Update: Steven Moss took the position of the second environmental sanitarian position. He will be starting April 23, 2007. He is a graduate of Eau Claire. He has been living on Minnesota and has done a lot of education about environmental problems, such as news articles on mold, lead, etc. He does not have much experience with inspections

but he has educational experience. We will now go ahead with the Department of Agriculture contract and updating the policies, procedures, and fee schedule.

- Submission of Grant to NaCo: We are eligible to submit the grant because two people from the agency went to the conference. The grant deals with mental health access to care. It is hoped we will receive funding for this grant. We can then do a needs assessment regarding mental health issues in the county. We will focus on primary prevention. The feeling is that things like alcoholism, abuse, etc. are indicators of mental health problems. The County paid for Dee Kittleson and Millie Lindsey to go to the conference and NaCo paid the registration fees. If we get the grant we will be getting back 10 fold. A grant was written to Group Health Trust for employee wellness. We were awarded \$13,000. An Oral Health Grant will be written to the Children's Hospital of Milwaukee. Kittleson said John Blahnik sits on the health insurance board and. He said all the wellness activities have definitely impacted our health insurance rates. When thinking about grants, we looked back from 2000 to 2007. In 2000 we had 6 grants. In 2007 we have 17 grants and are looking at 2 more.
- Disease Surveillance: One of the objectives of the Bio-terrorism Grant is to look at the community and see what kinds of illnesses are prevalent now. We will be going to schools to talk with them about reporting to us what they are seeing for illnesses and how many children/staff it has affected. We need to get a baseline so we can tell when we are having a pandemic or outbreak. If we are seeing a peak, we can call the clinics and tell them to look for these symptoms in their patients. We will also be asking two employers to ask employees what symptoms they are experiencing when they call in sick. The Health Board discussed what businesses in the area could be contacted to help with this. It would be ideal to have one in the northern part of the county and one in the southern part of county.

6. **The Board may go in and out of Executive Session pursuant to Wisconsin Statutes 19.85(1)(c)(i) and 560.15(1)(a) for the purpose of discussing staffing issues.** David Good had asked to have this on the agenda. Since he is not here there was not a need to go into executive session. This will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

7. **Next Meeting Date:** Tuesday, June 19, 2007 at 4:30

8. **Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn was made by Williams; motion seconded by Beeksma. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Ekholm, Recording Secretary