

BAYFIELD COUNTY
HEALTH BOARD MEETING
Monday, June 2, 2008 – 4:00 p.m.

Present: Winefred Punjak, Wayne Williams, Elaine Kopp, Jim Beeksma., Jim Crandall, David Good

Absent: Dee Kittleson, Grace Heitsch, MD

Staff: Cathy Ekholm, Millie Lindsey,

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Vice-chair Beeksma.
2. **Approval of April 7, 2008 Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve the April 7, 2008 meeting minutes was made by Good; motion seconded by Crandall. A few corrections need to be made. Under item #3 Olby changed to Obey, item #6 under Oral Health Report change Short to Shore; and in item #8 in the seventh sentence the word not changed to no. Motion carried.
3. **Election of Chairperson and Vice-chairperson:** The Administrator recommended the election of officers not be done since Chairperson Kittleson was not present. The Health Board chose to go forward with election of officers. If someone who is not present declines the nomination either the vice-chair will take the chairman position or a revote will be done. Good nominated Kittleson for chairperson. A motion was made by Kopp to close nominations for chairperson. Kittleson was nominated chairperson by unanimous vote. Crandall nominated Beeksma for vice chair. A motion to close nominations for vice-chairman and elect Beeksma as vice-chairman was made. Motion seconded by Crandall. Beeksma elected vice-chairman by unanimous vote.
4. **Review of 2008 Budget:** The Public Health budget is \$850,000. The county tax levy is \$317,390. To date the expenses are \$572,000 and revenues are \$404,000. The Home Care budget is over as result of our continuing home care services into January. We budgeted \$7,600. Expenses are \$21,000 and revenues are \$9,000. We estimate spending about \$4,000 more before the cost report is finished and the program is closed out. The excess county tax levy needed will come from the contingency fund once all expenses and revenues are in. Medicare has finally informed us in writing that we could do a 13 month cost report.
5. **Staffing Update:**
 - a. **Public Health Nurse Vacancy:** This position has been open since March 6, 2008. We have been recruiting and have some strong candidates. The hope is to have the position filled by July 1, 2008. Reference checks need to be done before an offer can be made.
 - b. **Registered Dietician Retirement:** Charlie Wroblewski is retiring as of August 1, 2008. We have been advertising since January and have no applicants. The dietician works mostly in WIC. WIC is federal and state funded; there is no county tax levy involved. Our WIC program is for Ashland, Bayfield and Iron Counties. WIC travels to sites in all the counties to provide services. The State did not want to break up these Counties because the grant amount would be too small to do a good a job. If we cannot find a dietician before Charlie retires, that State said they would supervise an RN doing nutrition education until we can find someone to fill the dietician position. Sharing a dietician would not be a good option for us. It is unknown if the wage is comparable with the private sector. The State will allow us to hire someone that is not registered but will become registered within a year.
 - c. An application was made with NAHEC for summer help. We have an intern starting June 6, 2008. She will work on the Employees Wellness Program. She will be evaluating our program so when we submit our proposal to GHT for funding we will have a good plan. A marketing plan is also being considered.
6. **Communicable Disease Report**

- a. **Food-borne Outbreak Summary:** There have been two food-borne outbreaks. Both were norovirus. The first notification was received the first part of April and involved 12 people. About two weeks later there was another report. This started in Ashland County and moved into Bayfield County. About 42 people were affected. The Health Board was informed as to how norovirus is spread. The report you get determines how to proceed with the investigation. Questioning the individuals involved usually narrows down where source is. If it is from a restaurant, we like to get food that was served to test. People need to take stool specimens to be tested to see what the infection is. It is pretty unusual for people to get an infection from eating in a restaurant, it is usually from home.
 - b. **Measles Outbreak Summary:** We received a telephone call from a school district saying one of their kids was diagnosed with measles. The child and the siblings were tested for measles and the tests were negative. There are seven confirmed cases of measles in Wisconsin. There have not been any cases reported since April 24. The cases in Milwaukee started with a two year-old in a day care that was not vaccinated. Since there were children under one year of age in the day care, and children under age one cannot be vaccinated, all the children under age one had to be isolated at home. Illinois now has two cases reported. The cases in Wisconsin started in Switzerland. It looks like the Illinois case is coming from Italy.
7. **Home Care Update:** The Medicare cost report was sent to the accounting firm last Friday. Now the Medicaid cost report needs to be done. This report is not as in-depth. We have asked to be able to do a 13 month cost report there also. We are waiting for a response.
8. **Public Health Report:**
- a. **Wellness Activities:** Seventy-five employees and spouses had HRA's done this year. This is down from 95 last year. Those doing this are setting very good goals. The Wellness Committee will be working on doing a strategic plan. All the goals from the last strategic plan have been. There are plans for more events like Walk Around Lake Superior. As people start seeing a difference in their health and keep up with the changes they have made, this should help decrease insurance premiums. One reason the numbers participating is down is because people are worried about confidentiality. We need to do more education on the confidentiality of this screening. We need to try harder to engage the highway department. No one from highway attended. We talked with them about what can be done to help eliminate barriers. One possibility is having another session in the spring or fall when it is less busy for just highway employees. An offer was also made to do it when they have their meeting in Washburn. The Highway Department testing will have to be paid for with county tax levy because they are not insured with GHT. We have written and received approval for a tobacco cessation program. The County will provide tobacco cessation aids. The employee will need to sign a contract saying he or she will quit, sign up for the help line and meet twice with Terri. When that is done the employee will get reimbursed for the tobacco cessation aid they purchased.
 - b. **School Nurse Grant and Consortium:** We are part of a consortium involving the Health Department and the four school districts in Bayfield County. We provide the nursing services to the schools. Bayfield School is fiscal manager. We provide service about one and one-half days per week each to Drummond and South Shore Schools. Bayfield and Washburn Schools have their own nurses. The schools are very happy. We applied for this grant for next year. Bayfield School will again be the fiscal manager.
 - c. **Oral Health Activities:** Oral Health program runs September through June. Sealants were applied to second, third, sixth and seventh grade children's teeth in South Shore, Washburn St. Louis and Bayfield Schools. Retention checks were done on eighth graders. One hundred twenty-nine children were seen. A total of 645 sealants were applied. Fifty-one children were referred to the dentist. Those people on Medical Assistance are still having trouble finding a dentist. The Lakes Community Health Center is looking at opening a dental clinic in Ashland. The dentist they have

communicated with has done dentistry in a public health setting and is looking to relocate to this area. A Community Health Center can bill for the exact cost for dentistry. Dentists in private practice have to take what Medical Assistance will pay. Red Cliff has stopped accepting non-native client because they are so busy. Five hundred forty-one varnishes were applied, 435 screenings were done and 441 children were taught how to brush their teeth. We are mainly targeting 3 and 4 yr olds. We have recently started putting varnishes on children at WIC clinics. Most of the WIC clients are on Medical Assistance. Medical Assistance revenue is supporting the program. The hygienist dental exam is now accepted for the Headstart dental exam. This has not been the case in the past. Again, we will be able to bill Medical Assistance for this service.

9. **Environmental Health**

- a. **Beach Monitoring Activities:** UW-Oshkosh students are doing the monitoring. Weekly monitoring is being done on Lake Superior beaches. They test for non-pathogenic eColi. The Health Department has the authority to close beaches. Depending on the amount of eColi present, there is either warning sign or a beach closed sign is posted. The students let us know if a beach is posted and the Health Department contacts the clerk of the town/village/city to let them know the beach is posted. They are also informed when the posting is removed.
- b. **Inspections/Facilities:** Houses that are rented need to be inspected and licensed from Health Department to rent. Permits are needed from both the Zoning and Health Departments for tourist rooming houses. There are 441 establishments in Bayfield County and to date 122 have been inspected. This number changes every day.

10. **Other Items That May Come Before the Board:** The 2008 Public Health Conference is in Madison. The County has a policy that we cannot buy food out of county tax levy. We have had 3 dentists volunteering 3 days with their staff to help us. We would like to have a small get together to show our appreciation. It would just be hors d'oeuvres at Stage North. The County Policy also state that on limited occasions the governing board can approve paying for food. Kopp felt that in this situation it would be appropriate. A motion was made by Kopp; seconded by Beeksma for food to be purchased for an appreciation get together at Stage North for the volunteer dentists and their staff. The cost should be somewhere between \$35 and \$50. Motion carried.
11. **Next Meeting Date:** Changing the meeting date was discussed. Mondays are not good for Kittleson. The next meeting is set for Friday, August 8, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.
12. **Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn was made by Crandall; motion seconded by Good. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Cathy Ekholm, Recording Secretary