

**BAYFIELD COUNTY  
HEALTH BOARD MEETING  
Friday, December 12, 2008 10:00 A.M.**

Present: Wayne Williams, Winefred Punjak, David Good, Jim Crandall, Dee Kittleson, Elaine Kopp

Absent: Jim Beeksma

Employees: Millie Lindsey, Cathy Ekholm

Others: Terri Timmers, Northern Division Office of Public Health; Melissa Nicoletti, contracted Dental Hygienist

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Chairperson Kittleson.
2. **Approval of October 10, 2008 Meeting Minutes:** A motion to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2008 meeting as presented was made by Williams; motion seconded by Good. Motion carried.
3. **Presentation by Terri Timmers, Director, Northern Regional Office of Public Health:** A survey was taken to find the needs of local public health offices and to try to address the needs. Handouts were given to the Board members showing chain of command and staff duties at the regional office. The roll of public health was explained. Public Health promotes protecting health. It deals with changing cultural thinking for unhealthy behaviors. During the last century, life expectancy has increased by 30 years; 25 years of which are due to Public Health. A handout with the top 10 Public Health reasons life expectancy has increased was given to the Board. The Board was presented with a summary of the responsibilities and authority of local health departments, health boards and health officers as defined by WI State Statute. There is a map available that tracks cancer by area. Cancer shows up in clusters. There are different kinds of cancer within these clusters without a common cause. Most Public Health money coming to us is Federal money; very little comes from the State. The largest portion of Public Health dollars used to be focused on Maternal Child Health. More is now going toward environmental issues and chronic disease.

Grace Heitsch joined meeting at 10:36 a.m.

4. **Review of 2008 Budget:** The budget report does not reflect the deferred revenue that is being used. Also covered in this report are the extra expenses for home care. Grants end on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Some can carry into the next year and some cannot. We like to expend all grant dollars. We do not like to carry over dollars. When the budget is broken down, the revenues cover the expenses.
5. **Public Health Report:** A grant request has been submitted to Group Health Trust for wellness dollars for 2009. In the past we have received \$13,100 from Group Health Trust. This year the request is for \$25,000. This helps pay for the wellness fair. We get aggregated data from Group Health Trust regarding the impact the health risk appraisals are having on insurance costs. In the past two years health-related costs have decreased \$1,000 per person. Insurance premiums have gone up three percent instead of the anticipated ten percent. The insurance company believes this is due to wellness activities. The aggregate shows such things like cholesterol levels and blood pressures have gone down. For next year we are looking at giving participants \$25.00 for participating in the health screening, doing the health risk appraisal and following up with a public health nurse. The other \$25.00 will be given if the person gets involved in other activities offered. The Board thought it would be a good idea to write an article about the changes this has made in County employees and insurance rates.

Eight hundred fifty influenza vaccines were given this year. This is down from previous years. Numbers for other providers has gone up so people are still being immunized but just through a different provider. We cannot get the total number of Bayfield County residents who received an influenza vaccination. Not everyone enters adults into WIR. Also, not all Bayfield County residents receive the vaccination in Wisconsin. We have given more influenza vaccinations to children this

year than any other year. This is partly due to the State Immunization Program providing no cost vaccine for those 6 months to 18 years.

Next week we will be going into the schools to do school-based immunization clinics. Due to the new school immunization law, we are trying to get kids caught up on their immunizations before next school year.

6. **Staffing Update:** Two employees are on leave; one public health nurse and the sanitarian. Both are due back on January 5, 2009. Interviews were held for the second sanitarian position. The position was offered to one of the applicants. We hope to have the position filled by the first part of January.
7. **Update on the Request by The Lakes Community Health Center to Use Health Department Space:** The Lakes Community Health Center is still trying to recruit a physician. They are still interested in using health department space when they get a physician on staff. Expanding services into the eastern part of the county is something they would still like to do. The proposal is for the Health Department to move the coroner's office and have that as an exam room. The physician would be here two days per week. Health Center staff would accompany the physician. We would greet the patients. The Health Center would be willing to have the physician see inmates on the days he/she is here. That would save the County transportation costs.
8. **Environmental Health:**
  - a. **Inspections/Facilities:** The focus has been on inspecting lodging facilities. We are focusing on inspecting food establishments. Almost all of the businesses in Bayfield County have been inspected. The schools have had the first inspection done.
  - b. **Increased Environmental Health License Fees:** The license fee increase has passed at the State level. The new fees will start in June 2009. It was explained that we are an agent of the State. The State sets the fees. Counties are able to adopt the State fee schedule or have their own fee schedule. Per contract with the State, we reimburse the State 10 percent of the fees collected. Traditionally our fees have been the same as the State. We do not have to reimburse late fees or preinspections fees. A motion to adopt the State license fee schedule was made by Williams; motion seconded by Kopp. Motion carried. The Board was reminded that per County Ordinance, if we adopt the State fee schedule we do not need to bring it to the County Board for approval.

Heitsch asked what it would take to make workplaces smoke-free in the county. A County Ordinance would not cover cities or the reservation. The Health Board could make a resolution supporting a smoke-free county. The tavern league is strongly against this. We also need to look at the readiness of the County, the cities within the county, and the reservation. This would be where we need to start. Marilyn Jenkins, our Tobacco Coordinator has her ear on the subject. It was mentioned that the question could be put as a referendum in April if it was felt the people were ready. There would be enough money in the Tobacco Grant to pay for the cost for doing this. It was suggested looking at what Ashland or Minnesota have in place. Depending on timing for getting a referendum on the ballot we may have to meet in January.

9. **Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, January 16, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. in the EOC.
10. **Adjourn:** A motion to adjourn was made by Crandall; motion seconded by Heitsch. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Cathy Ekholm, Recording Secretary