



Public Health

Delta & Menominee Counties



Board of Health Meeting

Pinecrest Medical Care Facility
Powers, MI

Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 4, 2019

Board Members Present

Amanda Hess

Patrick Johnson, via Telephone

Larry Schei

Gerard Tatrow, via Telephone

Tom Trudgeon

Board Members Absent

Larry Johnson

Public Health Staff

Mike Snyder, Health Officer/ Administrator

Dr. Terry Frankovich, Medical Director

Nancy Wahl, Clerical Supervisor

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

The regular monthly meeting of the Delta-Menominee District Board of Health (BOH) was held on April 4, 2019. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. CDT by Chairman Trudgeon. Roll call was taken by the Clerical Supervisor, and is recorded above.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Schei moved the April 4, 2019 agenda be approved. Motion was supported by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously.

3. Public Comment

There was no public comment on the April 4, 2019 agenda.

4. Approval of February 28, 2019 Minutes

Ms. Hess moved the minutes from February 28, 2019, be approved and placed on file. Motion was supported by Mr. Schei and carried unanimously.

5. MERS Quarterly and Annual Statements

Mr. Snyder gave a brief overview on the MERS Quarterly and Annual Statements. Questions were answered by Mr. Snyder.

Mr. Patrick Johnson moved the MERS Quarterly and Annual Statements be acknowledged and placed on file. Motion was supported by Mr. Tatrow and carried unanimously.

6. Local Government Retirement System Annual Report (Form 5572)

Mr. Snyder gave a brief overview of the Local Government Retirement System Annual Report (Form 5572). Questions were answered by Mr. Snyder.

Mr. Schei moved the Local Government Retirement System Annual Report (Form 5572) be placed on file . Motion was supported by Ms. Hess and carried unanimously.

7. Review and Approval of February Check Register

The Board of Health reviewed the February check register. Questions were answered by Mr. Snyder.

Ms. Hess moved the February check register be approved and placed on file. Motion was supported by Mr. Schei and carried unanimously.

8. Medical Director's Report

Dr. Frankovich reported:

- **Syringe Services Program (SSP)** – These are expanded versions of the original needle exchanges begun in the 1980's to try and reduce the spread of HIV and hepatitis among intravenous drug users. Marquette County received funding in 2018 to begin a pilot SSP called New Points. The State will be offering funding to other U.P. districts this year to establish new SSP's. This is because the entire U.P. is considered at-risk for HIV outbreaks due to a high prevalence of intravenous drug use and high numbers of new hepatitis C infections in young adults across the U.P. – almost entirely caused by sharing of needles and other drug paraphernalia. Health Departments as governmental entities can legally dispense needles for non-medical use.

Until last year Michigan had only 4 SSP's, in spite of abundant evidence that they are effective public health tools to reduce the negative health consequences of drug use for substance users and the community at large. SSP's provide:

1. Sterile Needles, syringes and other injection equipment.
2. Safe disposal of used needles and syringes.
3. HIV and hepatitis testing and linkage to treatment.
4. Education about overdose prevention and safer injection practices, access to naloxone.

5. Referral to substance use disorder treatment, including medication-assisted treatment
6. Referral to medical, mental health, and social services.
7. Tools to prevent HIV, STDs, and viral hepatitis including counseling, condoms and vaccinations.

Proven benefits of SSP's:

- People who inject drugs (PWID) are 5 times as likely to enter treatment for substance use disorder.
- SSP's reduce needlestick injuries among first responders by providing proper disposal. Without these, 1 in 3 officers may be stuck with a needle during their career. Increasing safe disposal also protects the public from needlestick injuries.
- SSP's reduce the number of new HIV and hepatitis infections among PWID.
- SSP's save health care dollars by preventing infections. The estimated lifetime cost of treating one person living with HIV is more than \$400,000.

SSP's do not increase drug use or increase crime. This has been demonstrated repeatedly in areas operating SSP's.

MDHHS may provide approximately \$75,000 per Health Department District, to begin SSP's; the funds could be available this summer.

Note: Hepatitis C is a virus that attacks the liver and causes chronic infection in 75% of those infected. It is the leading cause of liver cancer in the U.S. It is spread primarily through contact with blood and in young adults that contact occurs through shared needles and other

drug paraphernalia. In 2011 Delta County diagnosed 29 new cases of chronic HepC, in 2017 it was twice that number. In Menominee County the total was 4 times greater in 2017 than 2011.

9. Health Officer's Report

Mr. Snyder reported:

- **MERS** – Experience Study -- Every 5 years MERS does an Experience Study. MERS reviews the current assumptions used by their actuaries and adopts changes to the assumptions for future use. The MERS Board has recently adopted changes to two assumptions used by the Actuaries. These changes include a reduction in the Anticipated Investment Return from 7.75% to 7.35% and a reduction in the Wage Inflation Assumption from 3.75% to 3:00%. These changes will be reflected in the actuarial received in 2021.
- **Drug Awareness Conference** – The annual Drug Awareness Conference will be held Monday, May 20th at the Island Resort & Casino (8:00-5:00, EDT). All BOH members are invited to attend, please contact me by May 5th if you plan to attend. Registration fee will be covered by PHDM.
- **Grant** – PHDM has received a \$5,000 grant from Delta Dental for our Fluoride/Varnish Program. The funds will also be used to purchase toothbrushes and Baby's 1st cups for WIC clients. You will see a \$5,000 adjustment to the WIC budget in the amended PHDM budget this July.
- **EH** – EH staff are conducting yearly restaurant inspections, menu review is part of the process. EH staff are finding fish/seafood are not honestly presented on

some menus; menus must be updated/changed. BOH members may receive calls from restaurant owners.

- **HepA Clinics** – Arrangements have been made with the Menominee County Jail to offer HepA vaccinations on-site to inmates and staff. There was a clinic this morning; the next clinic will be Friday, May 10th.
- **PHDM Staffing** – PHDM is still working to fill 3 positions; RD, Prevention Specialist and IT.

10. Public Comment (three minutes maximum)

What is a Prevention Specialist?

Mr. Snyder explained what a Prevention Specialist was and gave a brief overview of their job duties.

11. Board Member Comments

There were no board member comments.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ms. Hess made a motion the meeting be adjourned at 2:17 p.m. CDT. Motion was supported by Mr. Schei and carried unanimously.

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