



Calhoun County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2015

Board of Health

Dr. Mahesh Karamchandani, Chairperson
Nancy Mullett, Vice-Chairperson
Mary Jo Byrne
Amy Davis
Kathy-Sue Dunn, County Commissioner
Ronnie Sims

County Administration

Kelli Scott

Absent

Rick Hensley

Meeting called to order

Karamchandani called the meeting to order at 8:04 am.

Agenda

Byrne motioned for approval of the agenda. Davis seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Davis motioned for approval of the consent agenda. Byrne seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Public Comment

No public comment

Presentations

Meyer-Niedzwiecki presented and explained a resolution supporting the efforts of Tobacco-Free Michigan to raise the minimum age of legal access to tobacco products in Michigan to 21.

- Hawaii is the only state that has raised the legal limit for purchasing tobacco to 21.
- There are approximately 60 cities and townships throughout the United States that have raised the legal limit for obtaining tobacco to 21.

Question was asked as to whether this proposed change would be a legislative action or a ballot proposal voted on by the citizens of Michigan. This would be a law enacted by the legislation.

Health Department

Deb Metzgar
James Rutherford, Health Officer
Michelle Thorne, Personal Health
Manager

Other

Carol Meyer-Niedzwiecki,
Substance Abuse Council

Mullet motioned that the Calhoun County Board of Health support the “Raising the Minimum Age of Legal Access to Tobacco Products in Michigan to Age 21 Resolution.” Davis seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Karamchandani has already signed this same resolution on behalf of the Calhoun County Cancer Coalition. Because of that, Mullett will sign the resolution on behalf of the Calhoun County Board of Health.

Thorne presented a slideshow of pictures chronicling her recent mission trip to Burma. Some of her personal experiences that she shared are listed below.

- Burma is located in Southeast Asia. In Burma they refer to their country as Myanmar, but the United States still refers to it as Burma.
- Over 135 different languages and dialects are spoken by five million people in one city.
- Burma has a population of over 51 million.
- Burmese people living in Battle Creek are primarily from an ethnic group of people called the Chin and occasionally the Karen.
- There are two economic classes: very rich and very poor. Although, cellphones are a staple now.
- Technology is advanced in Burma. Most hotels have Wi-Fi available.
- Trash is dumped in the streets. Burma does not have the resources or the knowledge to understand why this is a problem.
- There are public washing stations where people wash their dishes.
- Burmese people think lighter skin is beautiful and that if you are fat you are rich, because you have money to buy food.
- The medical team included a doctor, dentist, two nurses, and two non-medical helpers. The clinic had a dirt floor and bamboo walls. The people that the team treated are about two hours from the closest hospital. The team’s goal is to do whatever they can to help the people while they are there.

Health Officer Report

Rutherford presented the Health Officer Report. The report included:

- The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has given the Calhoun County Public Health Department (CCPHD) their approval to start offering Family Planning services starting on October 1, 2015.

Davis motioned to support the implementation of a Family Planning program at the CCPHD. Sims seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

- Staffing within the county IT department has not grown enough over the past seven years to effectively support the needs and growth within the CCPHD during that same time period. An assessment was done that supported the fact that the CCPHD needs its own dedicated IT support.
- The FYE16 budget planning process is underway. Rutherford asked for volunteers from the board to review the budget before it is presented to the full Board of Health. Mullett volunteered to review the budget.

- Hensley has reportedly taken a job out of state, therefore creating a vacancy on the Board of Health. Rutherford asked for volunteers to find a replacement for Hensley. Dunn and Byrne volunteered.
- Rutherford has been in discussions with Kellogg Community College and the Calhoun Intermediate School District to take over the C1B1 program, however, no resolution has been made to date. Funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation for this program ends at the end of September 2015. If Rutherford is not able to find a new home for C1B1, unfortunately that program will have to end.

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 a.m.

For a copy of the presentation or the Health Officer report, please contact Deb Metzgar at 269-969-6463 or via email at dmetzgar@calhouncountymi.gov