



Calhoun County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2022

Board of Health

Mary Jo Byrne, Chairperson
Mark Crawford, Vice-Chair
Vivian Davis
Sonja Elder
Derek King

Health Department

Eric Pessell, Health Officer
Hailey Black
Kevin Green
Victor Jovanovich
Dr. William Nettleton
Ruth Reese
Brigette Reichenbaugh
Asha Ritchie
Amanda Smith

County

Kelli Scott, County Administrator
Megan Banning, Deputy Controller

Absent

Rebecca Fleury
Jeannie Goodrich

Meeting called to order

Byrne called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

Agenda

Crawford moved for agenda approval. Davis supported. All in favor, motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Crawford moved for approval of the consent agenda. Elder supported. All in favor, motion passed.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Presentation

Ritchie presented our Syringe Service Program (SSP) overview. The overview included:

- Project Access is a Harm Reduction Program in Calhoun County
 - Provides single-use supplies, safer sex supplies, and naloxone
- Chronic Hepatitis C case counts are greater in Calhoun County versus the State of Michigan
- Timeline
 - 2019 Awarded Funding
 - 2020 COVID-19
 - 2022 services and outreach provided

- The program currently has five participants
- In partnership with the Substance Abuse Council, Calhoun County is getting Narcan vending machines
- Once fully established in Battle Creek, plan to reach out to other areas in Calhoun County

Finance Update

Banning presented a financial update. The update included:

- Revenues
- Expenditures
- 2021 year-end
 - Fund balance increase of \$300,000 from FY21

Elder mentioned Grace Health is providing internet services to qualified patients for a three-year period for \$10 per month. I pads and hotspots will soon be available to qualified homeless patients.

Other Business

Elder motioned to re-appoint Crawford as Vice-Chair of the Board of Health (BOH). King seconded. All in favor.

COVID-19 Response Update

Pessell presented a COVID-19 update. The update included summarizing the Health Officer's Report as follows:

- The pandemic continues.
- Partnerships and collaborations have been brought into a sharper focus throughout the pandemic.
- Some staff continue to work remotely, more efficient in certain departments.
- To date, over 28,000 confirmed cases have been reported in Calhoun County and 524 deaths. In the last week, 20 confirmed cases have been reported, this is the lowest number reported since last summer.
- Hospitalizations have decreased and report they are now in a recovery phase.
- CDC reports cases are not as important as our hospitals surging.
- Quarantine order was removed last week for the entire county.
- Credit was given to schools throughout this pandemic, we can't thank them enough for their efforts in keeping children in school.

Byrne thanked the Calhoun County Public Health Department (CCPHD) for their hard work. Pessell thanked Reichenbaugh for providing CCPHD updates to the BOH and CCPHD staff.

Meeting adjourned at 10:02am.

For a copy of the presentation or the Health Officer report, please contact Amanda Smith at 269-969-6477 or via email at asmith@calhouncountymi.gov