



Calhoun County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2019

Board of Health

Mary Jo Byrne, Chairperson
Mark Crawford, Vice-Chair
Steve Frisbie
Nancy Mullett

Health Department

Brigette Reichenbaugh, Deputy Health
Officer
Kevin Green
Amanda Smith
Kyler Watson

Absent

Sonja Elder
Rebecca Fleury
James McKernan
Eric Pessell

County

Megan Banning, Deputy Controller

Meeting called to order

Byrne called the meeting to order at 8:05am.

Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

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

Public Comment

No public comment

Opioid Grant

Dr. William Nettleton, Medical Director, discussed the proposed \$55,000 Syringe Services Program (SSP) grant offered by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). This grant has been built into the FY20 budget and will be presented to the Board of Commission for approval on September 5, 2019. The MDHHS provided the following language in regards to the proposed SSP:

MDHHS is interested in expanding community access to harm reduction programs as part of comprehensive approach to the opioid epidemic. Federal funds from the SOR grant are being used to support new programs in FY2020. The goal is for programs to exist in every Michigan geography such that if persons do decide to inject drugs that they never have to reuse a needle or syringe to do so. But in instances where funding is limited,

MDHHS has used a data driven approach to prioritize the most vulnerable Michigan geographies for receipt of these funds. Funding has often been provided to local health departments for several reasons:

- LHDs understand the makeup of their community better than the State
- LHDs and health officers are well positioned to have discussions with key local partners about administering a program locally
- LHDs and health officers are well positioned to approach local governing authorities with respect to drug paraphernalia ordinances
- LHDs understand their funding barriers best
- Funding to LHDs can be flexible such that dollars could be subcontracted out to community based organizations if that is the most sensible approach

The ultimate goal of the project is to implement a syringe service program that offers comprehensive and person-centered care to persons who uses substances to help them reduce the amount of harm they do to themselves or others; keeping them alive and well such that one day they can achieve recovery. While that is the ultimate goal of the project, MDHHS understands that starting an SSP is no small feat. Implementation of a program involves communication and coordination with local legislators, law enforcement, health systems, community organizations, the public, faith-based organizations, etc. Often policies and procedures need to be drafted, staff need to be hired and trained, physical space or mobile units must be procured, and supplies need to be ordered. To that end, MDHHS hopes to partner with funded sites to work towards SSP implementation within the grant period, with the expectation that it may take several months to make all the necessary preparations.

According to Dr. Nettleton, a SSP is a community-based public health program that provides comprehensive harm reduction services such as sterile needles and other injection equipment, safe disposal containers, HIV and hepatitis testing, education about overdose prevention, referral to substance use disorder treatment, and tools to prevent infection disease. Dr. Nettleton presented highlights of successful programs around the country that have reduced other health related issues such as Bloodborne disease spread in the population using needles to inject illicit drugs. Dr. Nettleton will work with various community partners to continue exploring a SSP for Calhoun County.

The Health Board asked for more information and data sources to research before any formal support will be offered. We did offer a vote to continue exploring but not implement. More information will be provided at upcoming BOH and community meetings.

Frisbie motioned for approval to move forward with educating and researching the potential for implementation of a SSP in Calhoun County. Crawford supported. All in favor, motion passed.

FY20 Budget Approval

Banning presented the FY20 Budget which included:

- Fee schedule increases
- New blended rates for healthcare costs
- Revenue sources and distribution
- Expenditures
- Programmatic summary

- CCPHD alignment with the Community Health Needs Assessment's top four priorities
- Proposed FTE's
- Fund balance

Mullett motioned for approval of the FY20 budget as proposed. Frisbie supported. All in favor, motion passed.

Finance Update

Banning presented the July 2019 Month-End Update. The update included:

- Health fund revenue
- Revenues by program
- Health fund expenditures
- Expenditures by program
- The State expected to provide \$10M to Local Public Health Departments for the current fiscal year; however, due to conflicting statute language, distribution is not expected until November of 2019 but will be recorded in the current FY. Distribution will be based on the current ELPHS distribution formula. CCPHD expects an additional \$130K, which is also expected to continue in future budgets.

Tuberculosis (TB) Update

A 48 year old male, transient worker from out-of-state, has been diagnosed with a highly infectious case of pulmonary TB in Calhoun County. After three weeks in the hospital, CCPHD was able to move him into a house where communicable disease nurses will conduct direct observational therapy for 3-4 months. Once three negative sputum cultures are confirmed, he can return to his family. CCPHD does not know the source of how he contracted TB, T-spots were administered to the crew he worked with, and the department has reached out to other states where he has worked. CCPHD is currently reimbursing an interpreter due to his limited English, and covering the cost of rent and utilities.

Health Officer's Report

Reichenbaugh presented the Health Officer report. The report included:

- Resignation of Diana Buist, WIC Program Manager
- The Community Health and WIC Supervisor positions have both been posted

Meeting adjourned at 9:30am.

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