



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

February 25, 2022, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Learning Resource Center LRC
4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48108
Superior Room

Present: James Carty, Gina Dahlem, Leon Golson, Justin Hodge, Carrie Rheingans, Katie Scott, Elisabeth Vanderpool
Absent: Kathleen Stroud, Morghan Williams Boydston
Staff: Jimena Loveluck, Ruth Kraut, Adam Paberzs, Russell O'Brien
Guests: Allecia Wilson, Patricia Cook

1. Call to Order

Justin Hodge called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM.

Roll-call check-in.

2. Public Comment

Patricia Cook asked about the percentage of residents vaccinated at Clark Towers. She said none of the amenities in the building are open and asked how the management is working with Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) but has not received an answer. She said there are inequities in the diverse group of seniors living there. **

3. Board Member Response to Public Comment

James Carty asked Jimena Loveluck if it was possible to get granular data on residents at Clark Towers. Jimena replied that it would be challenging because of the personal health information needed and permission of the residents. Management could do a voluntary survey to see the number of residents vaccinated. Ruth Kraut added that the narrowest that the Health Department (HD) can get publicly is down to the census tract. In Washtenaw County 86% of residents aged 65 and older are vaccinated.

4. Approval of Agenda (Action)

*Motion by J. Carty, seconded by G. Dahlem, to approve the agenda. Discussion from C. Rheingans to move agenda item Board of Health By-Laws (Action) up to after Executive Committee Report.
Motion approved unanimously.*

*Motion by J. Carty, seconded by G. Dahlem, to approve the amended agenda.
Motion approved unanimously.*

5. Approval of December 10, 2021 and February 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes (Action)

*Motion by L. Golson, seconded by E. Vanderpool, to approve the minutes of the December 10, 2021 and February 11, 2022 meetings.
Motion approved unanimously.*

6. Executive Committee Report from January 20, 2022

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes.

Justin Hodge gave a summary of what was discussed including mask and vaccine distribution, strategies around test kit distribution, by-law changes, and the pause of the Pollution Prevention Program.



Washtenaw County Board of Health

No discussion about the report.

7. Community Voices and Health for All Report

Maria Militzer reported for Community Voices on the continuing collaboration with the HD for mask and COVID test distribution among Latinx neighborhoods. She announced a language access initiative that is taking off as well as a Spanish interpreter project. Community interpreter training will start for Spanish/English speaking residents in the county to continue growing capacity to meet the language needs. The hope is that it will be a model to provide language access to other minority speaking communities in the county.

Carrie Rheingans asked about the funding for the community interpreter program. Maria replied that funding came from the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, United Way, and the University of Michigan Research and Clinical Support. They are also pushing for a greater collaboration with organizations so that these interpreters can provide services free of cost to residents and hosting organizations.

8. Washtenaw County Medical Examiner Presentation – Dr. Allecia Wilson

Dr. Allecia Wilson presented to the BOH about the Medical Examiner's Office (MEO). Board members received the presentation via email. The HD is required to provide this service in the community and contracts with the University of Michigan for these services. Dr. Wilson's presentation included information on the team at UofM, a brief history, jurisdiction of the MEO, types of deaths reportable to the MEO, annual statistics, difference between cause & manner of death, and the MEO's response during the COVID-19 pandemic.

9. Update on COVID-19 Response

Adam Paberzs gave an update on the HD's COVID-19 response. The HD has distributed over 113,000 KN95 masks and over 23,000 home test kits (28,000 individual tests) since January 1, 2022. Early in January, staff got together to discuss prioritization criteria for how the supplies should be distributed. Limited supplies meant that they had to be very intentional and thoughtful about where the supplies were going. Some examples of prioritization criteria developed are people that live in zip codes and neighborhoods that have been disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, people that experience barriers accessing resources, and people that had close contact or are in quarantine. Different strategies were used to get resources out as quickly and effectively as possible, including direct distribution to faith and community-based organizations, collaboration with partners for distribution events, and deliveries to people that could not make it to other events. There will be a distribution event at Coachville Mobile Home Park today. Adam thanked the Racial Equity Office and the Office of Community and Economic Development for making events possible through the masks and test kits they received from the State of Michigan.

10. BOC Liaison Report

• Pollution Prevention Program Action

Katie Scott shared that the Pollution Prevention Program action passed on the first reading but there were some questions that they will be looking to have answered before the second reading.

• Washtenaw Rescue Plan

The second iteration of funds for the Washtenaw Rescue Plan passed. This includes funding for a mobile support system, a large chunk of funding for the Health Department, and money for community priority funds.

11. Old Business

• Board of Health By-Laws (Action)



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Justin Hodge shared that the Board of Health (BOH) by-laws item was pulled from the last Board of Commissioners (BOC) meeting because there were some commissioners not comfortable with the line that BOC liaisons could not serve on the Executive Committee. They requested the BOH look at this and see if they want to strike the language. The BOC can change this language if they want to even if the BOH does not change it. No motion was made.

- **Board of Health Appointments**

Jimena Loveluck said the BOH appointments should happen at the Next BOC meeting on March 2, 2022. BOH officer elections will take place at the March 25, 2022 meeting. The executive committee recommends a slate of officers, so anyone that is interested should contact Jimena or Justin.

12. New Business

- **Public Health Nurse Recruitment and Retention**

Jimena Loveluck talked about the challenges in filling HD nursing positions. They are incredibly foundational to the HD in being able to provide services. Compensation is very challenging compared to other nurse positions outside of the HD.

- **ARC Towards Justice Project**

Jimena shared this is a project the HD is working on with the School of Public Health from UofM. It will focus on the internal systems and structure of the HD and the work done to advance antiracist public health practices. More to come.

13. Adjournment

*Motion by C. Rheingans, seconded by J. Carty, to adjourn the meeting.
Motion approved unanimously.*

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien

** Note: WCHD provides vaccination data by [census tracts](#) but cannot provide building-level information. COVID vaccinations have been provided at Clark Towners, and home visits remain available. COVID-19 [guidance](#) for businesses, organizations, and workers is available on the website or by contacting the department. Health Department records confirm previous communication with this resident regarding concerns related to Clark Towers.