



Washtenaw County Board of Health

Minutes

March 25, 2022, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Learning Resource Center LRC

4135 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor, MI 48108

Superior Room

Present: Gina Dahlem, Leon Golson, Justin Hodge, Maria Militzer, Carla Pretto-Kernahan, Carrie Rheingans, Katie Scott, Kathleen Stroud, Elisabeth Vanderpool

Absent: James Carty, Morghan Williams Boydston

Staff: Jimena Loveluck, Ruth Kraut, Juan Marquez, Jane Nickert, Hannah Lane, Russell O'Brien

Guests:

1. Call to Order

Elisabeth Vanderpool called the meeting to order at 9:04 AM.

2. Introductions and Welcome New Board Members

Board members welcomed the new members and introduced themselves.

3. Public Comment

None

4. Board Member Response to Public Comment

None

5. Approval of Agenda (Action)

Motion by J. Hodge, seconded by C. Rheingans, to approve the agenda.

Motion approved unanimously.

6. Approval of February 25, 2022, Meeting Minutes (Action)

Motion by K. Scott, seconded by J. Hodge, to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2022, meeting. Discussion from Carrie Rheingans to remove Neel Hajra listed as Present.

Motion approved unanimously with the change.

7. Executive Committee Report from February 17, 2022

Board members received the Executive Committee minutes.

They discussed the agenda for this meeting and the proposed slate of officers and Appeals Subcommittee.

8. Board of Health Officer and Appeals Subcommittee Election

The Executive Committee recommended the following slate of board officers:

Gina Dahlem – Chair

Elisabeth Vanderpool – First Vice-Chair

Leon Golson – Second Vice-Chair

The Executive Committee recommended the following slate for the Appeals Subcommittee:



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James Carty – Chair
Morghan Boydston
Carrie Rheingans
Elisabeth Vanderpool – Alternate

*Motion by J. Hodge, seconded by C. Rheingans, to approve the slate of officers and Appeals Subcommittee recommended by the Executive Committee.
Motion approved unanimously.*

Kathleen Stroud asked for staff to email a new member list to the BOH with contact information and terms. Staff will send board members that information and it is also listed on the website and will be updated soon.

9. Community Voices Report

Maria Militzer reported that Mexiquenses En Michigan is in the process of filing for tax exempt status and will continue working with the Health Department (HD) in the distribution of masks, other PPE, and vaccines. The Spanish Community Interpreter Project is still going. There are 17 participants at this point, and they are reaching out to organizations in the county that want to engage with Latinx in the county.

10. COVID-19 Readiness, Response, Recovery Framework

Dr. Juan Marquez, Medical Director, presented to the Board of Health (BOH) on the COVID-19 readiness, response, and recovery framework. Board members received the slide show, and it is available in the meeting recording.

Dr. Marquez said Washtenaw County (WC) is currently in the recovery phase, post-surge, and watching what is happening in the UK and other countries. WC has a reasonable supply of masks and home tests ready for the next surge. COVID-19 community levels were discussed. Dr. Marquez went into detail on the recommendations for each level. In low and medium, there is no longer a broad recommendation to wear a mask in indoor public locations. The universal recommendation for masking is at the high level. The CDC shifted to recommending universal masking when level is high instead of breaking it down by different categories like schools and public.

COVID-19 vaccination rates by age for WC were discussed. Kathleen Stroud asked about vaccine availability for kids under 5. Dr. Marquez said that Pfizer and Moderna for under age 5 are both being reviewed by the FDA. WC already has plans in place to roll it out at clinics as soon as it is approved. Elisabeth Vanderpool suggested it would be beneficial to have a town hall for parents with kids under 5 to hear from them about the best ways to target messaging for this group.

11. Washtenaw Rescue Plan Public Health Investments

Jimena Loveluck provided an update on the American Rescue Plan funding. She started with a brief background summary of a public health millage discussed in 2020. The Health Department (HD) leadership team developed an outline of how additional funding would be used if it became available and shared it with the Board of Commissioners (BOC). There was not enough support for the millage to move forward so there was a substitute resolution approved for administration to work with the HD in developing a proposal for public health investments using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and potentially other county funding.

The HD presented a 4-year plan highlighting 3 major areas. Board members received documents with the ARPA Package approved by the BOC on 2/16/2022 and the Washtenaw Rescue Plan Public Health Investment Proposal.



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The HD is anticipating several challenges with this funding because some of what was proposed may not be eligible to be funded. Also, funding only 1 year at a time creates challenges. The HD anticipates starting on some of this work in June. Katie Scott shared that she is looking at research and information on how long it takes to create population level change through public health initiatives, so that she can share that with Commissioners. Additional funds, not just ARPA, would be required. Community engagement forms the foundation for the work in an ongoing manner, not just retrieving information, but doing the work in partnership throughout the whole process. The HD will be working on the strategy moving forward and will provide board members updates.

12. BOC Liaison Report

Katie Scott shared a few updates about the BOC. They will be thinking about the budget year-round rather than highly focused budget season. The Pollution Prevention Program pause passed. Justin Hodge added that the BOH by-laws were approved, and the new members were added.

Carrie Rheingans asked about the process for allocating opioid settlement funds. Katie Scott said they don't know yet and public comment is a good place to make suggestions.

13. Old Business

- **Pollution Prevention Program Pause**

Jimena Loveluck updated board members on the Pollution Prevention Program pause. There is a letter being sent out to regulated businesses as a notification and a way to receive feedback about the pause. Kristen Schweighoefer, Environmental Health Director, is gathering input from EH staff before a broader engagement with relevant businesses. The Pollution Prevention Program is being paused so that that the department can evaluate, assess, and update the regulation that hasn't been updated since the mid-1990s.

- **Public Health Nurse Recruitment and Retention**

Human resources is connecting the HD with a recruitment agency that Community Mental Health has had success with filling positions. Anticipating a change in salaries after the MAG salary survey was done in the County.

14. New Business

- **Sanitarian of the Year – Jackie Bates**

Jackie Bates received the Samuel M Stephenson Sanitarian of the Year award at the Michigan Environmental Health Association annual meeting.

15. Adjournment

Motion by J. Hodge, seconded by K. Stroud, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion approved unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Minutes taken by Russell O'Brien