

**MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
July 5, 2012**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Kraft at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Health Members Present: Chair Kraft, Supervisor Peer, Supervisor Bostwick, Supervisor Rundle, Dr. Best, and Ms. Wade.

Board of Health Members Absent: Dr. Peterson, Dr. Winter, and Mr. Rooney.

Staff Members Present: Karen Cain – Health Officer; Timothy Banwell – Environmental Health Director, Sancee Siebold - Nursing Supervisor South Office; and Geri Waugh – Account Clerk.

Others Present: Craig Knutson – County Administrator.

Adopt Agenda

Ms. Wade made a motion to adopt the agenda. Supervisor Rundle seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Approval of Minutes 6/6/12

Supervisor Peer made a motion to approve the minutes of the 6/6/12 Board of Health meeting. Ms. Wade seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Citizen Participation

No citizen participation at this time.

Chair Kraft introduced Mike Rundle, the Rock County Board Supervisor from district 20, who is replacing Jane Thompson, and welcomed him to the Board of Health.

Unfinished Business

None at this time.

New Business

Administrative Division

Approval of Bills/Transfer of Funds

Supervisor Bostwick made a motion to approve the bills for the month of June, 2012 in the amount of \$3,991.46. Dr. Best seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

There are no transfers of funds this month.

Health Department Report

Ms. Cain reported there hadn't been air conditioning in the staff area of the health department's Janesville office on 7/2 & 7/3/12. The replacement part was installed in the late afternoon of 7/3/12, and the air conditioning is now working again.

Advameg Request: Ms. Cain stated Advameg, a company that owns several commercial internet websites, requested a report of Rock County Health Department's restaurant inspections, including the facility scores and violations, under the Freedom of Information Act. Ms. Cain sent the request to Corporation Counsel for their review and approval. Corporation Counsel approved the request, and Rock County IT Department created a CD with the requested information on it. The health department has already received payment for the CD from Advameg, and the CD will be sent to them. Mr. Banwell will advise the Food Advisory Committee of the possibility of facility scores being posted on Advameg's website.

EPA Brownfield Grant: Ms. Cain reported the City of Janesville has been awarded an EPA Brownfield Grant, of which \$10,000 is to be used for health monitoring of brownfield sites. However, the State of WI notified the health department of an additional \$150,000 in funds that may be available for the redevelopment of brownfield sites within the city of Janesville only – no other part of Rock County would be included in the funding. The City of Janesville will not be applying for these additional funds, and the grant application is due next week. Ms. Cain asked the Board members for permission to apply for this 2-year grant. Discussion followed. The consensus of the Board members was to approve the grant application.

Community Transformation Grant: Ms. Cain reminded the Board members she had talked about this grant application at the June 6th Board of Health meeting. At this point, the health department has not yet heard if our grant application will be funded. We hope to hear about this by July 15th.

Upcoming Immunization Changes: Ms. Cain stated the health department has an immunization clinic in Rock County nearly every workday. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) grant that provides the Vaccines for Children (VFC) may be undergoing some changes by 10/1/12. Currently, the health department is not required to validate whether or not a client has health insurance when they come in for vaccines. It has been proposed beginning 10/1/12 the CDC will no longer allow VFC vaccines to be administered to anyone who has any type of health insurance. If this change does occur, it will create a barrier to persons being immunized and will also mean a decrease in the health department's immunization revenue. Ms. Cain stated she doesn't know if the proposed change will take effect, and she will keep the Board of Health advised of further developments.

AHEC Intern: Mikaela Frazier, an AHEC intern, is working at the health department's Janesville office this summer. One of the projects she will be working on is a collaboration with Dane County Health Department looking at Rock County infant death data to try to determine why these infants have died.

Lead Paint in Rock County Buildings: Adam Elmer, one of the department's sanitarians, is working with Carl Varga from Rock County General Services to see if lead paint is present in Rock County buildings as part of assessing for employee risk.

Staff Changes: A new public health nurse, Joanna Allord, will begin employment on 7/9/12, replacing Serena Jahnke-Berg. She will be assigned to the Beloit (south) office.

A public health nurse, Jessica Hefty, has been on maternity leave, and has resigned effective July 17, 2012.

A public health nurse, Erica Jenson, will begin maternity leave on 7/9/12.

The coordinator for the STI Prevention Grant, Jenna Lovaas, began employment on 6/25/12. She works 2 days per week.

Possible Approval of Town Well Sampling Program

Mr. Banwell stated the health department would like to increase the number of water testing being done on private wells in Rock County. In order to do this, the department would like to approach townships in Rock County to offer discounted cost of water testing in the hope of having more wells tested. We would include this water testing program in the department's 2013 budget request. The goal is to sample at least 20 wells per township, and the department would like to have at least 3 townships participate in this program in 2013 – possibly the Towns of Milton, Lima, and Johnstown. Supervisor Bostwick made a motion to approve the town well sampling program. Ms. Wade seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Environmental Health

Radon Testing in Rock County Communities

Mr. Banwell stated approximately 40% of all residential property in Rock County has elevated levels of radon. Elevated levels of radon means radon gas has been measured at 4 picocurie/liter or higher in the living areas of homes, a condition that can expose the residents to the risk of lung cancer. Radon is a natural occurring gas that seeps into basements and crawl spaces and becomes trapped within the home. Radon is a radioactive substance breathed deep into the lungs. When the radioactive energy is released, the soft tissue of the lung is damaged and over time can lead to lung cancer. Radon is believed to be the second leading cause of lung cancer behind tobacco smoke. Exposure to radon is preventable, and the first step for prevention is testing your home for the presence of radon. If you do have radon at elevated levels, there are practical and affordable methods effective at reducing your exposure to acceptable levels.

Rock County Health Department has been successful at promoting radon testing in a large number of homes – approximately 1,900 homes countywide. Checking the percentage of addresses tested for radon by community shows there is a large difference in the rate of radon testing. In the towns of Janesville and Harmony, approximately 5% of all addresses have tested for radon, while the Village of Orfordville and City of Edgerton are at 0.8% and 0.9% respectively. These radon testing rates are for the number of radon tests through the Rock County Health Department; there are other commercially available radon testing opportunities available to the public.

A strategy has been developed to reach addresses in the least radon-tested communities. Radon test kits can be mailed from the Rock County Health Department's office. The accessibility of our office to the public is limited to normal working hours. A form can be downloaded from our website and mailed with a check for \$13 to the health department, and a test kit will be mailed to the citizen. News releases will promote the webpage availability of radon test kits. We are also placing posters around the county with tear-off request forms that can also be mailed in with the \$13 check. Presentations will be offered to local schools and civic groups.

Public Health Nursing

HIV Partner Services Update

Ms. Siebold stated HIV Partner Services is a prevention intervention aimed at:

- Identifying sex and/or needle sharing partners of the HIV infected client

- Locating and notifying the partners of possible exposure to HIV
- Offering the partners HIV prevention, counseling, testing and referrals

Purpose of the Program:

- Assist the HIV infected client and partners to gain access to counseling, testing, medical evaluation, treatment, prevention and support services
- Interrupt HIV transmission by providing services to partners to avoid infection or transmission to others

Who provides services:

- 3 public health nurses from the Rock County Health Department – 2 in north office and 1 in south office

Areas covered:

- Rock, Walworth, Green, and Lafayette Counties

How do we get clients:

- Notification by Wisconsin AIDS/HIV Program
- Testing done at the Rock County Health Department

What is new:

- Partner Services Web-Database
- Linkage to Care

Linkage to Care is a grant the AIDS Network has to assist HIV positive clients with care. They can provide transportation to care if needed and also encourage HIV positive clients to obtain treatment.

There are 5 new HIV positive cases so far in 2012. There were 11 cases referred, but 6 of those referrals were previously diagnosed elsewhere and moved into the area.

Communications and Announcements

None at this time.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Per Section 19.85 (1)(c), Wisconsin Statutes – Performance Evaluation of Health Officer

Dr. Best made a motion to go into Executive Session. Supervisor Bostwick seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED by unanimous roll call vote.

Dr. Best made a motion to go out of Executive Session. Ms. Wade seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Adjournment

Supervisor Rundle made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Bostwick seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Geri Waugh, Recorder
Not Official Until Approved by the Board of Health