

MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
December 1, 2010

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 Thompson, Dr. Winter, Dr. Peterson, Ms. Wade, and Mr. Rooney.

Board of Health Members Absent: Dr. Best.

Staff Members Present: Janet Zoellner – Nursing Director; Tim Banwell – Environmental Health Director; Sancee Siebold – Nursing Supervisor South Office; and Geri Waugh – Account Clerk.

Others Present: One of the Edgewood College student nurses.

Adopt Agenda

Chair Kraft stated that item 6.A.4 on the agenda will be postponed until the 1/5/11 Board of Health meeting. Dr. Winter made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Supervisor Peer seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Approval of Minutes 10/26/10

Ms. Zoellner stated that Sancee Siebold did attend the 10/26/10 Board of Health meeting. Her name had not been shown under ‘Staff Members Present’ in the Minutes of the 10/26/10 Board of Health Meeting.

Supervisor Peer made a motion to approve the minutes of the 10/26/10 Board of Health meeting as amended. Ms. Wade seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Citizen Participation

The student nurse from Edgewood College explained the public health nursing project she and some of the other student nurses have been working on during their clinical time at Rock County Health Department.

Unfinished Business

None at this time.

New Business

Administrative Division

Approval of Bills/Transfer of Funds

Chair Kraft asked what the invoice was for under #64200 in the amount of \$1,250.00 to Laura Saunders. Ms. Zoellner explained the public health nurses’ union contract provides \$400 in training funds for each nurse annually. Twenty-five percent of those funds for each nurse are used for education topics at the discretion of

administration. This \$1,250 amount billed by Laura Saunders is for her workshop speaker fee on motivational interviewing that was attended by the public health nurses in October.

Dr. Winter made a motion to approve the bills for the month of November, 2010 in the amount of \$6,818.83; Prepaid 2011 Budget Item in the amount of \$110.00; and bills for the Radon Screening Balance Sheet Account in the amount of \$1,206.75. Ms. Wade seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Transfer of Funds: The health department continues to send numerous correspondence via the postal service. Also, the department must send many packages via United Parcel Service (UPS) to the State Laboratory of Hygiene in Madison. These packages include rabies specimens and water samples. The fees charged by UPS have increased in 2010; \$300 of this transfer of funds will be used for the Pre-Approved Encumbrance Amendment for United Parcel Service for 2010. The total amount of the transfer is \$1,800, transferred from #64000 Medical Supplies to #63101 Postage. Supervisor Bostwick made a motion to approve the transfer of funds. Mr. Rooney seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Health Department Report

2011 Budget: The 2011 Budget was passed by the Rock County Board of Supervisors on 11/9/10.

Health Impact Assessment Grant: This \$10,000 grant is being awarded to the Rock County Health Department for 2011. The grant activities will involve the new large dairy farm in the Town of Bradford.

Sewer service areas: Health Department staff met with Planning Department staff recently concerning sewer service areas. There will be a meeting with WDNR on 1/21/11, and Mr. Banwell stated he will keep the Board of Health informed of any further developments.

SHOW: The Survey of the Health of Wisconsin (SHOW) will be returning to Rock County in 2011. These are the tentative dates for the 4 visits they will have in Rock County:

Town of Fulton: Weeks of January 3, January 10, and January 24.

Beloit City: Weeks of January 31, February 7, and February 21.

Janesville City: Weeks of September 12, September 19, and October 3.

Town of Rock: Weeks of October 3, October 10, and October 24.

Pre-Approved Encumbrance Amendment

United Parcel Service's fees have increased, and the department sends many rabies specimens and water samples to the State Laboratory of Hygiene in Madison. The health department's current Pre-Approved Encumbrance for United Parcel Service for 2010 is \$2,700. This pre-approved encumbrance amendment will increase the amount from \$2,700 to \$3,000 for the remainder of 2010. Supervisor Peer made a motion to approve the Pre-Approved Encumbrance Amendment. Dr. Peterson seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Supervisor Peer made a motion to approve the proposed 2011 Environmental Health fee increases. Dr. Winter seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Environmental Health

Review of 2010 Environmental Health Division Activities

Disaster Relief Grant for Properties Impacted by the 2008 Flood: The health department secured a federal grant through the State Department of Health Services to assist well owners impacted by the 2008 flood. Experience has shown that flood-impacted wells can be chronically unsafe. This grant provided well testing for 255 private well owners; of these, 58 samples tested unsafe for coliform bacteria. It is significant to note that of the 58 coliform unsafe samples, further analysis identified 8 as E.coli unsafe, much higher than our laboratory's typical one or two E.coli unsafe samples per year. Grants were available to 18 property owners for chlorination and minor well repairs.

While the department implemented the grant, an unusual situation surfaced in the Town of Beloit. A severely contaminated well was discovered and after much investigation, the source of contamination was identified as a damaged pipe to a septic system leaking into the bedrock. Correcting the leak eliminated contamination in adjacent wells, but additional sampling in the neighborhood uncovered other contaminated wells that may not be associated with the original cause. The department's staff conducted a public meeting for the residents of the neighborhood to explain the known and potential issues impacting their wells. Sampling through WDNR and the State Lab of Hygiene is continuing through the winter and next spring.

Social Services Block Grant Emergency Disaster Relief: Funds became available for reimbursement of expenses incurred during the 2008 flood not covered by other disaster (such as FEMA) relief. The health department assembled documentation for hours spent responding to the flood, then submitted a grant application, and received \$49,576.

Prevention Block Grant: Data from the Local Emergency Response Plans was assembled into GIS for use by emergency responders during a release of an extremely hazardous substance. Zones of influence are estimated around facility storage sites and chemical hazard information is attached. Currently, the locations of vulnerable populations are being geolocated for estimating risk to nursing homes, daycare centers, schools, and other facilities during a chemical release.

Beach Sampling: Sampling of licensed beaches expanded this year to include a variety of lakes, streams, and rivers. Not only are the three licensed beaches a recreational venue for the public, but also many of the other surface water sources are used for fishing, swimming, and boating. It was the department's intent to better understand the public health risks associated with our community's surface water resources. At the end of the sampling season, the results showed that the Rock River was generally safe all season long. However, many of the smaller streams experienced periodic high levels of fecal coliform bacteria, often related to rainfall events. The 2011 sampling program will be planned to better identify the cause of the high counts. Public service announcements next spring will inform the public of how to prevent exposure to these risks.

Flooding at Clear Lake: Since 2006, the annual precipitation in southern Wisconsin has been higher than normal, causing not only the 2008 flood, but also rising ground water levels. As ground water levels rise, flooding can occur in lakes and marshlands without streams to drain away the excess water. Clear Lake and the surrounding area near Milton have been severely impacted by rising water submerging cottages along the shoreline. There are no solutions short of experiencing an extended period of drought. Submerged cottages at Clear Lake posed a potential safety and contamination problem. The Health Department convened a meeting of citizens, county and town representatives to develop solutions addressing these concerns. As of this time, the Town of Milton has a schedule for building removal.

2010 Flood: Perhaps lost in the other activities of 2010 is that this year the Rock River flooded. Depending on which monitoring station was read, on July 31, 2010 the Rock River crested at its 6th highest level. While significantly below the record 2008 flood, the health department did advise homeowners who had questions on well water sampling and problems associated with excessive precipitation and moisture.

Pool Operators Seminar: A swimming pool operators' seminar was held on February 17, 2010 that had 45 attendees from the 67 swimming pools licensed in Rock County. Particular interest to owners and operators of public swimming pools is compliance with the Virginia-Graham-Baker Act, which is a federal requirement to renovate the drains on pools to prevent entrapment of swimmers under water.

Healthy Homes Grant: This grant was received from the State Department of Health Services. Grant activities include meeting with persons in their homes to help identify hazards and develop strategies to eliminate them. Safety devices are made available to residents along with follow-up contact. In collaboration with the nursing division through the end of November, the staff has conducted 63 healthy homes visits.

Unwanted Medication Collection: With help from a State Department of Agriculture grant, four collection events were held in 2010. The Health Department held meetings this year to foster interest in operating a 24/7 drop-off box for unwanted medications. As a result of those meetings, resources from a special county fund assisted the Milton Police Department with implementing a 24/7 collection box at their department. Other local law enforcement agencies are considering their own drop box. This year, approximately 2,100 pounds of unwanted medications have been collected.

Kountry Kourt Mobile Home Park: This mobile home park in the Town of Plymouth had their operating license revoked in June, 2010 by the town. After a lengthy compliance schedule, the owner of the mobile home park failed to meet the minimum standards. The owner is currently in legal proceedings to appeal the revocation. The health department is working with the Town of Plymouth to resolve issues that develop.

Food Safety Program: Surveys were taken of food establishment operators this year. A training needs survey determined that there is a need for training food establishment workers. Onsite training in establishments was preferred over more formal classroom training. Another survey asked the value of the inspection, inspection report, and professionalism of the inspection staff. The new tablet computer inspection reports were liked by almost all respondents of the survey. An almost unanimous positive response was received for the value of the reports and professionalism of the staff.

Onsite training visits were scheduled with ten operators in which health department staff met with facility staff and reviewed the inspection report. When a high-risk violation was a special concern, a risk management plan was developed by the operator. Visits were well received by the establishment operators and their staff. Follow-up inspections in 2011 will evaluate the impact of these visits on future inspections.

In December, 2009 the State Department of Agriculture evaluated the health department's food safety program. The evaluation was very favorable and the health department met with the State in September for the evaluation review. The State has made recommendations that the health department has responded to with a timeline for changes.

Public Education: The health educator hired by the health department in 2010 has been helpful in sending out a variety of public service announcements on radon, rabies, food safety, blue green algae, well water testing, carbon monoxide, and childhood lead poisoning. The health department's website also lists beach water results, food recalls, Rx collection dates, and air pollution alerts. Booths on environmental health programs were

located at health fairs and the City of Janesville open house. Presentations were done for the Rock County Towns Association, Janesville Rental Owners' Association, and a forum at the Pontiac Convention Center.

Swimming Pool Inspections: Inspections are being recorded on the tablet computer similar to the food safety program. Inspection reports are now easily readable and inspection results are downloaded for further program evaluation.

Public Health Nursing

Obtaining Relevant Data for Programming

Ms. Zoellner stated the public health nursing division is able to use the Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) website to obtain statistics on infant mortality, low birthweight infants, and other related information. However, the information on that website is not very current; the latest information available is from 2008.

Madison/Dane County previously had poor rates of infant mortality, but they now those rates are much better, but there was no known reason why the rates had improved so significantly. Madison/Dane County Health Department has an epidemiologist on staff who is able to review their data.

Ms. Cain and Ms. Zoellner recently met with the Madison/Dane County health officer at his request to discuss the possibility of utilizing the Dane County's epidemiologist to study Rock County's birth and death data to see what programming would help in lowering Rock County's infant mortality rates, and also assist with other public health nursing programming.

Rock County Health Department would need to pay for raw data from the State, which would probably be approximately \$3,000-\$4,000. Ms. Zoellner stated the Board of Health did not need to make a decision at this point about spending any funds on such a project, but she did want the Board consider giving approval for the Health Department to proceed with finding out more information about how the project would work.

Dr. Winter made a motion to approve having the Health Department proceed with getting more information on this data collection. Supervisor Thompson seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

Communications and Announcements

None at this time.

Adjournment

Mr. Rooney made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Wade seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Geri Waugh, Recorder

Not Official Until Approved by the Board of Health