

LAKE REGION DISTRICT HEALTH UNIT

Board of Health Meeting

October 24th, 2023

5:30 P.M.

Members Present

Dr. Derek Wayman MD
Mike Christenson P
Elonda Nord R
Terry Hoffert P
Blaine Volk R
Tammy Kuk B
Glenda Collier E
Doris Griffin B

Staff & Others Present

Denton Heisler, Administrator
Wendy Frelich, RN, DON, Ramsey County
Charlotte Rardon, Insurance & Data
Candace Berg, EH Director

Members Absent

James Allmaras E

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Blaine Volk.

Motion was made by Doris Griffin to approve the minutes of the July 17th, 2023, Board of Health meeting. Second to the motion by Glenda Collier. All members voting "Aye". Motion carried.

Tammy Kuk requested a minor change in her statement in the Special Board Meeting minutes on September 12th, 2023. Motion by Terry Hoffert to approve the revised Special Board Meeting minutes, seconded by Glenda Collier. All members voting "Aye". Motion carried.

The Quarterly Newsletter reviewed, and Denton spoke about the new hires.

Quarterly financial reports discussed by Denton. We purchased more influenza and Covid vaccine. Covid vaccine is now private purchase. Denton stated that Wendy Frelich, RN, DON is being very conservative with purchasing the Covid Vaccines. Covid vaccine is returnable and very expensive. Elonda Nord discussed the budget increase and the two administrators that we were still paying for along with the increased amount of vaccine being purchased. Blaine agreed and discussed the understanding of the negative \$32,000, "Vaccines are a huge expense". Terry Hoffert said, "Anytime you see a negative sign it's a scary thing." Terry Hoffert had a question about the profit and loss. Sheri Bertsch was not present at the meeting to explain the financials. Sheri Bertsch will explain them at the next meeting. Terry Hoffert inquired about Family Planning budget line item WSI insurance. Sheri Bertsch will address this at the next Board meeting for clarification. Board members' questions were discussed and answered. Glenda Collier made a motion to approve the quarterly financial statements as presented. Second to the motion by Mike Christenson. All members voting "Aye", Motion carried.

Bills were discussed and questions answered for the quarter. Motion made by Terry Hoffert to accept the bills for the quarter. Second to the motion by Glenda Collier. Roll call vote taken. All members voting "Aye". Motion carried.

Old Business: NDIRF (North Dakota Insurance Reserve Fund). Denton brought up the Zink appeal issue and how we are waiting for IT and the emails to be collected and reviewed. So, information can be sent to Gaustad Attorney in Grand Forks. Board members questions and concerns were answered by Denton. Blaine said, "we need to make revisions to the process of applying and approving an application or permit".

New Business: Candace Berg spoke about the state guidelines and how we are going above and beyond. Candace requested to have a public hearing to make some EH regulations to follow state guidelines. Candace wants to change the LRDHU regulations to have less inspections and have them follow the state guidelines that are used widely across the state. All Board members agreed and told Candace to go ahead and hold a public hearing and bring back any comments or concerns to the January board meeting.

Candace spoke regarding the MOU with the Department of Health, Food and Lodging for the school kitchens, tanning, and childcare kitchens. Candace stated that with the number of inspections required in the 4 counties that are covered by the MOU and the other inspections that she does in the seven counties it is too much to complete. The board agreed that with the funding we cannot add another position at this time. The board asked Candace what portion or portions of the MOU she would like to give up and she stated that she would prefer to give back the school kitchen inspections back to the state. Mike Christenson proposed to give back the responsibilities for the schools to the state. Terry Hoffert made a motion to give up the school part. A Second to the motion came from Tammy Kuk. All members voting "Aye". Motion carried. Blaine suggested that we notify the state that we will no longer provide the services. Denton stated that he will review the MOU and send the written notice in accordance with the MOU. Denton also stated that he will work with the state to re-write the MOU.

Denton brought up the grant that we recently received from the Department of Health to help start and operate a syringe exchange program in the Lake Region. Denton stated that he wanted to preface the importance of the program to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Not only the users could be affected but also those they encounter, such as loved ones. Denton explained we are in the very early stage of getting a syringe exchange program to Devils Lake. Tammy Kuk stated that kids could come in contact with an infected needle cleaning a ditch after someone throws it out. Denton stated that the program would be partnering with Evolution Counseling to bring prevention in our area. All questions from the Board members were answered. Derek Wayman stated that there are arguments to both sides but that there are more and more cases of hepatitis in the area. Denton stated that the next steps would involve a public hearing and Terry Hoffert motioned to go ahead with the public hearing. Derek Wayman to second motion. All board members present other than Mike Christianson voting "Aye", motion carried.

Denton Heisler addressed the board asking that they remove from policy the mandatory flu vaccination as well as make mention that the Covid vaccination also is not mandatory. Denton mentioned the lawsuits that are on the rise from the mandatory vaccinations, as well as the exemptions that are relatively easy to get if a person doesn't want to take them. He stated that if an employee wanted a

vaccination, we would provide them and if they don't, we would not force them. Tammy Kuk and Glenda Collier agreed that it should be the person's choice. Tammy Kuk made a motion to approve. Glenda Collier second the motion. All members voting "Aye". Motion carried.

Denton Heisler asked the board for approval to form a committee for Environmental Health Processes: Denton Heisler proposed getting a committee together to improve the process and forms for septic system application to make it easier to understand and complete for the public, contractors, and the department. There was discussion by the board about the approval of an application and how as it currently stands the approval of a permit does not allow the person or contractor to go ahead with the system, it still needs an inspection and approval. Elonda Nord stated that if she was granted a permit, she would assume she could put the system in no questions and Blaine Volk agreed. Elonda Nord made a motion to make a committee for environmental health to revise the process. Derek Wayman seconded the motion. All members voting "Aye". Motion carried.

Environmental Health Report follow-up. Denton Heisler notified the board about a grievance from Brandon Thomas (owner of the house) to Terry Novack (contractor). Denton informed the Board of the information provided was for their review and states currently investigating complaint as well as the issue is in court litigation. Denton stated that the complainant is asking the board to ban the contractor from doing business in our unit. The board agreed that more information would be helpful, and Denton stated that hopefully we will have more information to make a determination at the January Board meeting.

Denton informed the board of the next Board Meeting is scheduled for January 23rd, 2024, in the basement room at the Ramsey County Courthouse.

Meeting adjourned.

Chairman

Secretary/Treasurer

Date

Date