

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Monday, December 11, 2006
5:15 PM

Present: Audrey Murphy, J.J. Tibbetts, MD., Harold Pfothenhauer,
John Kirchner, Joe VanDeurzen

Excused: Don Murray, Mary Scray

Staff Present: Judy Friederichs



1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 PM.

2. APPROVAL / MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented Tibbetts / Kirchner

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER 16, 2006

MOTION: To approve the minutes as mailed Kirchner / Tibbetts

MOTION CARRIED

4. 2007 BUDGET UPDATE

The budget that was approved by the Board of Health was approved by the County Board of Supervisors with the addition of funding for the Hearing and Vision program. Judy had gotten word that a proposal would be made to add this program back into the budget and had prepared budget numbers in case there were questions at the meeting. She was approached prior to the meeting by several board members who were in favor of the program. The motion to reinstate the program was passed by a strong margin.

John asked what the original reason for discontinuing the program was. Judy stated that the levy target provided by the County Executive last year required that cuts be made - this program was the only non-mandated program in the budget. The program was officially discontinued at the end of the last school year with cuts in staff at that time. Judy stated that staff

is now in the process of re-starting the program including recruitment of new staff. If everything goes smoothly, it's possible that some screening can still be done this school year. New staff will include 2 part-time nurses and a part-time aide.

Dr. Tibbetts stated that it's important to do hearing screening in the early fall before cold and flu season. Judy agreed that this is how it has always been done – and that they are looking at whether it might be possible in some smaller schools to do hearing and vision screening at the same time in order to be more efficient. Staff who have previously worked in this program stated that they put in a lot of extra personal time in the past – so efforts are being made to streamline the program and prevent staff from having to do work on their own time.

Harold asked whether students from outside of the county attending Brown County schools are served. Judy stated that this may occasionally happen but that Brown County students attending schools in other neighboring counties are sometimes served by those other county health departments also – so it comes out in the wash.

Audrey stated that all county schools are included unless they opt out of the program - the Pulaski school district is the only one that has chosen not to participate in the Brown County hearing and vision screening program. Joe said that De Pere also does not participate but pays tax dollars to support the program. Audrey and Judy said that according to state statute (effective August, 1993), municipalities that have their own health departments do not pay taxes to support their county's health department. Judy will send a copy of the statutory reference to board members.

Audrey stated that she is very pleased that this program has been reinstated. Joe said that one of the problems in cutting this program in the first place is that representatives from De Pere did not understand that their tax dollars do not support this program.

5. INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT WITH DE PERE FOR SCHOOL
INSPECTION OF TWO DE PERE SCHOOLS IN OUR JURISDICTION

Joe stated that this agreement has already been approved by the Human Services committee and will go to the full board on the 20th.

MOTION: To approve the memorandum of understanding between the city of De Pere and the Brown County Health Department

VanDeurzen/Pfotenhauer

DISCUSSION: Judy explained that this request came from the De Pere Health Department. There are 2 schools that are in Brown County's jurisdiction but in De Pere school districts. Since De Pere HD serves all of the other schools in the district, it would be more consistent for their inspector to serve all of the schools in the De Pere district. The state has approved this change in their contract with the two health departments.

MOTION CARRIED

6. GRANT APPLICATION FOR MEDICAL RESERVE CORPS

MOTION: To approve the grant application for Medical Reserved Corp as presented. Van Deurzen/Kirchner

DISCUSSION: Judy said that the Medical Reserve Corps is a component of Citizen Corps which has as its goal organization of medical volunteers who are trained to respond to community needs including disasters. Steve Johnson has organized an early stage of the group with about 5 volunteers – this grant is intended for expanding the capacity of Medical Reserve Corps that are already organized. The focus is to help build the volunteer network. If the department is awarded this grant, it will be used to contract with someone who can recruit, train and organize volunteers for this group. The grant application is due December 15th and will be submitted with the understanding that it is pending final approval from the County Board of Supervisors.

Dr. Tibbetts said that there used to be an organization that defined roles and responsibilities of hospital medical staff during a disaster. This program was aligned by the medical staffs of the hospitals and provided official assignments for each member of the staff of all 3 hospitals at the time. He is concerned that nobody appears to be using those resources in their disaster plans – although the plans are tied into the emergency rooms.

MOTION CARRIED

7. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Judy stated that there has been a report of Dengue Fever which is typically contracted from infected mosquitoes in tropical climates. There is a tendency to bleed internally so use of aspirin, ibuprofen, etc. is avoided. There have also been reports of Histoplasmosis (1 case), Legionella (2 cases) and TB (5 suspect – one of which was found to be active).

A meeting was held for providers of STD services to discuss the latest information and resources available for control of Chlamydia and other

sexually-transmitted diseases. About 25 people attended this meeting. Information was provided by staff regarding intervention efforts toward controlling Chlamydia. One of the main goals of the meeting was to get feedback and ideas from attendees. Some of the ideas suggested by participants at the meeting were:

- More strategies for controlling STDs in students younger than college-aged.
- More incentives for surveillance in males (education and screening at sports physicals, etc.). Men don't seek medical care in general as readily as women do. Since sports physicals are very quick, information provided would have to be short and to-the-point.
- Presentations at parent network meetings at the high schools.

Audrey asked whether parents have to be notified if a 14-year-old is treated for an STD. Judy and Dr. Tibbetts stated that, no – they can be treated without parental notification.

John commented that the problem with parent network meetings might be that these are the parents who are already involved with their kids – it's the kids whose parents are not at these meetings who are more likely to experience these problems. It would still be a good avenue to look at in hopes that the information would trickle down to the parents and kids who need it. Dr. Tibbetts stated that Chlamydia is an equal-opportunity disease – and that the educational component is important to pass on to all parents and children. Harold agreed that education provided to children also tends to be passed on to their parents.

Audrey asked whether the state has any recommendations regarding these interventions. Judy said that the initiatives that the regional preparedness group is implementing are very much supported by the state. There are also some efforts going on in other states that look interesting such as text-messaging of STD information, self-testing, etc.

Audrey said that it is important for people to know that women can become sterile from Chlamydia. Dr. Tibbetts and Judy agreed and said that there are long-term effects for both men and women, and that this information would be very helpful to get out to children as young as 14.

Judy said that the department has about 170 doses of flu vaccine left. The agency has given about 825 doses through November 30th and has sold 170 doses to local providers who did not receive the vaccine they ordered in time. Joe asked how long people should continue to get their flu shot. Judy said that it can be done through the month of December – the shot takes 1-2 weeks to take full effect and the flu season lasts well

into February. 3 cases of influenza have been identified in the state – 2 cases of influenza A and 1 influenza B.

Dr. Tibbetts has submitted his name for a Pandemic Influenza Antiviral Advisory committee. This committee would look at recommendations for using anti-virals in a pandemic situation – Dr. Tibbetts would act as a medical advisor. Dr. Tibbetts stated that people taking statin drugs such as Lipitor, Lovastatin, Provastatin, etc. theoretically may have some protection against the effects of influenza. He stated that statins are strong anti-inflammatories and can attenuate the flu. This could be a fallback when anti-viral drugs such as Tamiflu become scarce.

In the future, a draft procedure for working with exemptions to the nuisance ordinance for odor, etc. will be presented to the Board of Health. This procedure will include what would constitute a valid exemption to this ordinance.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AS AUTHORIZED BY LAW

None.

9. ADJOURNMENT / MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2007

In order to arrange meetings around the budget process, Judy recommended holding meetings on the 3rd Monday of even months with a change to the 1st Monday in August and December. The tentative dates for meetings in 2007 will be:

Feb. 19th, April 16th, June 18th, August 6th, Oct. 15th, Dec. 10th

MOTION: To adjourn (6:15 PM) VanDeurzen / Pfothenauer

MOTION CARRIED