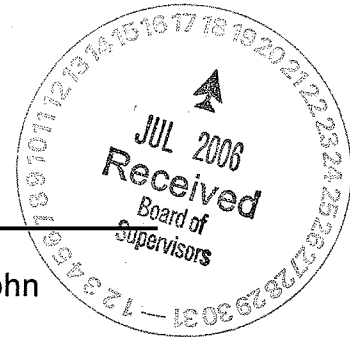


PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Monday, March 20, 2006
5:15 PM



Present: Audrey Murphy, J.J. Tibbetts, MD., Mary Scray, John Kirchner
Excused: Harold Pfothenauer, Joe VanDuerzen
Absent: Don Murray
Staff Present: Judy Friederichs, Ricki Krautkramer, John Paul
Guest Present: Mary Huelskamp, UWGB Student

1. INTRODUCTIONS AND CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:21 PM, Board members and staff introduced themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION: To Approve Scray/Tibbetts

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JANUARY 16, 2006

MOTION: To approve the minutes as mailed Tibbetts/Scray

MOTION CARRIED

4. HEARING AND VISION PROGRAM STATUS

Ricki Krautkramer, Nurse Manager stated that this program has been deleted from the department due to budget constraints. The program is still active at this time but is being "phased out" through the end of the school year. Ricki contacted staff in the 5 school districts in the county regarding their plans to continue screening in the schools. She distributed a handout summarizing her conversations with four of the five district staff she called (Denmark did not return her calls). A plan submitted by Karen Vande Sande in Green Bay was rejected by the administrative staff for the district – presumably because the plan involved adding duties to existing

staff that do not have time to perform those duties. Other districts have not had the time, staff or equipment to address the issue fully.

John K. asked if, with the elimination of this program is it our goal to assist the schools with their program? Ricki indicated that staff would be happy to provide technical assistance but could probably not do more than that.

Mary asked about the cost of equipment. Ricki said that the lighted vision-screening cabinets are about \$150 but are not essential to screening. Audiometers for hearing screening are around \$800 - \$900 – screening cannot be done without them. Mary asked if the audiometers that belong to the Health Department could be loaned out. Ricki stated that the machines need to be calibrated which is no longer in the budget – Ricki has been looking at the possibility of donating them to schools but would need to look at the issue of fairness. She also doesn't know if this is allowed per County policy. One new and very expensive piece of equipment cannot be donated and may have to be sold. Audrey stated that she is not anxious to be giving this equipment away and is also concerned about fairness.

Mary asked whether it would be possible to schedule a training session during the summer for volunteers. Ricki said that it would be more beneficial to train staff since training is not effective if it is not used right away. Ricki also said that her impression from the district staff that she talked to that training is not the issue for them – most are health professionals.

John K. asked whether Ricki could foresee the state ever mandating this program to the school districts. Ricki said no. Audrey stated that Wisconsin is one of only 18 states that do not mandate this service.

Ricki said that staff working in this program will stop working on screening in mid-March with the exception of one nurse who will continue until mid-May. Mary asked if district staff are planning to get back to Ricki with their plans – Ricki said that she had not asked them to do that.

Audrey said that she and Dr. Tibbetts had met with Dr. Nerad, Green Bay School District Superintendent on March 15th regarding this program. Dr. Nerad told them that the Board of Education has discussed this and has gone on record as supporting the need for hearing and vision screening for school-age children. Dr. Nerad also said that they do not have a solution at this point – the Green Bay school district has 2 nurses, one audiologist and one speech pathologist to serve the entire district.

Audrey called the Catholic diocese of Green Bay for a head-count of children in Catholic schools. There are 3,933 children enrolled.

Audrey proposed that the Board of Health go on record as supporting the need for hearing and vision screening irrespective of the funding source. Mary said that, although she supports the need for screening, she asked to clarify that there are other options for hearing and vision screening such as at doctor visits and that this support does not include a call for County funding.

MOTION: "The Board of Health goes on record as supporting the need for a hearing and vision screening program irrespective of the funding source."

Tibbets/Murphy

MOTION CARRIED

5. CHAPTER 38, NUISANCE ORDINANCE REVISION

Judy distributed copies of the odor portion of the Nuisance Ordinance that was revised by the County Board.

John Paul read the odor-related section of the old ordinance. The revised portion that was distributed (attached) indicates how this section was revised. This revision has been approved by the County Board and goes into effect after the County Executive signs the revised ordinance and after it is published in the local newspaper.

Judy indicated that the new ordinance is more specific making it more helpful for staff investigating odor complaints. The provisions are more enforceable but still subject to the discretion of the sanitarian investigating the complaint.

Audrey stated that a scale of fines should be determined by the Board so that the department does not have to decide on a fine for each individual violation. It was decided that Judy would check with John Jacques, set up a proposed schedule of fines and present it to the Board at a future meeting.

6. UPDATE: MORRISON WELL CONTAMINATION

John indicated that contaminated wells in the Morrison area began to be identified in February. The first contaminated wells were identified by a private lab. The Department has been offering free well testing kits for the township to address this problem. The testing will continue through the end of March and will be re-evaluated at that point.

About 20% of wells in the area have tested positive for total coliform bacteria in the Health Department lab. 9 of 101 (about 2%) positive wells have tested positive for E. Coli bacteria. An increase in wells testing positive coincides with heavy rains or thaws causing runoff.

Dr. Tibbetts asked what the average depth of the wells in that area is. John did not know the answer but said that the DNR will probably recommend that new or problem wells should be cased to 150 to 200 feet.

Mary asked if the samples were physically collected by Health Department staff. John stated that a few samples were collected by the well driller but most were collected by the land owner. Mary asked if people are given careful instruction as to how to collect the sample since the sample can be contaminated by the person collecting it. John said that people are given instructions.

Mary asked if the department has any resources for DNA testing. John said that the DNR did take two samples from two E. Coli-positive wells to be sent to Florida for DNA testing. He did not know if the testing would break down the identification beyond the species of animal involved.

Judy and John facilitated a group meeting with the agencies involved to work on planning for addressing this problem in the future. Some of the things discussed included data-sharing and further testing. The DNR will be doing some further, comprehensive testing of about 300 wells.

John K. asked how often well owners are required to test their wells. John said that people are never required to test their wells but it is recommended that they are tested annually. The problem was brought to light when people began to see and smell what they thought was manure in their water.

Experts involved expect to see more positive wells when the ground thaws. Land-spreading of manure has been halted by the township. John K. asked whether there has been any discussion regarding Morrison tying into the new water line from Manitowoc. This has not been discussed at this point.

Mary asked what has changed in the last 20 – 30 years that has made this more of a problem. Dr. Tibbetts and John K. said that the growth in population in general and the increase in “mega-farms” and erosion all contribute to the problem.

Judy said that the Land Conservation intends to work with large farming operations to find ways to deal with the volume of manure and how to dispose of it. John K. said that three large manure pits or lagoons have

been built in Door County, for example to deal with the manure generated by large farms.

Judy said that the Health Department and local providers are keeping up with surveillance on diseases that might possibly be related to the well contamination.

Audrey asked if the Department will be reimbursed for the cost of this testing. Judy said that the County Board did approve some money for Land Conservation that will be used in part to reimburse the Health Department for these costs.

Judy distributed some information that is available on the Health Department website for people concerned about well contamination. Mary said that this information is what the public needs to reduce the amount of hysteria over this issue. Mary indicated that Land Conservation is very active in trying to find ways for farmers to dispose of manure.

Dr. Tibbetts asked what people do when they chlorinate their wells repeatedly and still test positive. Judy and John indicated that the DNR has provided additional information to distribute to people in this situation. There will be an additional package of testing made available from UW Stevens Point that homeowners can choose to participate in.

7. OUTDOOR WATER STOVES

John P. distributed information regarding outdoor water stoves (attached). Dr. Tibbetts had brought the issue to his attention through an ad Dr. Tibbetts saw in the newspaper. There are some environmental concerns created by the use of these stoves. John viewed a stove that was emitting a large amount of smoke.

The handout John distributed described toxic chemicals that can be emitted by these stoves. There have only been two complaints issued to the Department regarding water stoves. There are some ordinances in local municipalities addressing the use of water stoves but no uniform rules. John and Dr. Tibbetts attended a meeting in Outagamie County regarding what they are doing to address concerns.

Dr. Tibbetts indicated that the restrictions in Neenah/Menasha effectively prohibit the use of water stoves in urban areas.

Mary stated that she is from Northern Wisconsin where these stoves are everywhere. She said that people stoke the stoves at night and do not burn garbage and are considerate to their neighbors in their use. Dr.

Tibbetts and John K. agreed that the stoves are very useful in rural areas but should not be used in the city.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Judy reported on a clerical staff person who is on maternity leave; a part-time health aide who has taken a full-time position elsewhere; and a nurse who was slated to be laid off due to the elimination of the hearing & vision program but has found a new job.

The Health Department has been selected as a pilot for a new communicable disease electronic reporting system (WEDDS) being developed by the state. The pilot will take place some time between June and fall. Staff will continue to use the current system in addition to the new system until the program is finalized.

There was a probable case of Invasive Strep A, and cases of E coli (likely exposed outside of the county), and a case of blastomycosis reported since the last meeting.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

None

10. ADJOURNMENT / NEXT MEETING

Judy suggested meeting every month for a while. Since the usual meeting time is April 17th which is the day after Easter, the Board agreed to meet on Monday, April 24th at 5:15PM.

MOTION: To Adjourn at 6:45 PM Tibbetts/Scray

MOTION CARRIED