

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Tuesday, September 16, 2008
5:30 PM

Present: Audrey Murphy, Harold Pfothenauer, J. Tibbetts, M.D., Joe Van Deurzen
Excused: Mary Scray
Absent: Don Murray
Staff Present: Judy Friederichs, John Paul

1. CALL TO ORDER / INTRODUCTIONS / BOARD STATUS UPDATE

Judy stated that she had sent a follow-up message to the gentleman at the Hmong Community Center regarding the recruitment of a member from their community. He told Judy that he would talk with the director of the center to try to find someone who might be interested.

Audrey said that it is necessary to try to find representation from the diverse cultures in our community not only in an effort to represent the community but also to satisfy the requirements of the state's health department audit. She further stated that it is important to get this position filled since two board members' terms expire at the end of the year.

2. APPROVAL / MODIFICATION OF AGENDA

Motion: To Approve the agenda as presented. VanDeurzen / Tibbetts

MOTION CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF JULY 22, 2008

Motion: To receive and place on file. VanDeurzen / Pfothenauer

MOTION CARRIED

4. STATUS: ODOR COMPLAINTS

John Paul distributed an article that appeared in the Press Gazette regarding Smithfield's (formerly Packerland Packing) plan to raise exhaust stacks to reduce odor.

So far this year, there have been 83 complaints regarding odor at Smithfield – 32 of those complaints were not verifiable for a variety of reasons.

There have been only two days of complaints regarding Allen Canning with a total of four complaints. Two of those complaints were related to odor that originated in Oconto County from land-application of waste water from Allen. Corporate Counsel's office expressed concern about the health department pursuing complaints about odor that does not originate in our county.

Dr. Tibbetts stated that he disagrees with Corporation Counsel's assessment that this would not be under Brown County's jurisdiction – the odor originates from Allen Canning's byproduct, therefore they should be responsible for it. Judy said that she believes the ordinance states that within a certain distance from the county's boundary we may still have jurisdiction. However, in other areas of public health follow-up (food-borne illness, animal bites, etc.), the agency with primary responsibility is the one whose jurisdiction is the source of the problem.

John said that there were a couple of odor complaints regarding Whitfield Auto and Beck Cabinets. The sanitarian is working with the owners of these businesses to explore ways to contain the odor from the products that they use.

Audrey asked for an update on the citation that Allen Canning was contesting at trial. John said that he checked with the circuit court and found that the case was "dismissed on defendant's motion..." Judy said that she wonders if they were able to demonstrate that they have changed their practices and have reduced the odor that they are producing. Joe agreed that this is probably the case.

Dr. Tibbetts asked how many citations have been issued in relation to the complaints regarding Smithfield this year. John said that the requirements of the ordinance (verified complaints from 3 different addresses within 8 hours) were only met once. That one citation was issued in June and has been paid.

John said that staff responded to a complaint last spring regarding noise / vibration at a house on the east side. John and the sanitarian (Rob Gollman) tested the noise level at St. Bernard's church and found that all noise was at an acceptable level. Supervisor Andy Nichol森 made a request that noise levels at Schreiber as well as from the roof of the church be measured. Judy, John and Corporation Counsel decided that the code does not allow this type of inspection.

5. BUDGET 2009

Judy said that the County Executive's budget proposal came out last Friday. The proposal is similar to the one submitted by the department with some minor changes to Information Services chargebacks and fringe benefits.

Joe asked if there were any changes from the information given to the board at the last meeting. Judy said that there were not.

Audrey asked if Judy had heard anything back from Facilities Management regarding the large increase in that chargeback for 2009. Judy said that Bill Dowell did get back to her and said that it had something to do with charges that were mistakenly omitted from the chargebacks to the health department the previous year – this increase made up for that error. The mistake was made by the company that assesses what portion of Facilities' budget should be charged to each department.

The Human Services Committee will have their budget hearing in October; the County Board budget meeting will be on the second Monday in November.

6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Judy reported that UW Health is using the RV parked outside of the Health Department building to complete health surveys of people in our community. This is being repeated in a number of areas around the state and they will be returning later in the year to survey additional subjects. The survey includes an interview, physical measurements and an environmental assessment. Judy said that the surveyors like to locate their RV near a health department to lend credibility to the study.

Judy presented the communicable disease report from Chua Xiong. There have been no major outbreaks since the last meeting. There have been a few reports of Lyme disease; a couple cases of E. Coli (possibly associated with people not washing their hands after touching animals); one case of bacterial meningitis with E. Coli being the bacteria, possibly acquired prenatally.

There is still a shortage of rabies vaccine. This is the result of remodeling of a manufacturing facility at Sanofi-Pasteur. Since the rabies season is almost over, demand for this vaccine should be reduced until next summer. Judy feels that people who are truly at risk are receiving the vaccine they need. Hospitals have been trading vaccine back and forth as needed. Where there is the ability to test the animal that has bitten

someone, the person will be required to wait until test results come back before starting the vaccine series. Judy stated that the department has sent 22 specimens to the State Lab of Hygiene for testing – some of which could not be tested – with only one bat testing positive. Judy said that, with the shortage, the state is not allowing people in high-risk occupations (such as animal handlers) to get pre-exposure vaccines.

The state statutes require that public health agencies periodically assess the health status of their community and establish priorities for responding to community needs. The state has interpreted “periodically” to be every 4-6 years. The last assessment done by Brown County was in 1996 with the 3 priorities being adolescent pregnancy, cardiovascular health and tobacco control. In 2002, an update on this assessment was accepted by the state. It is now time to do a new assessment. Judy has talked to other health departments throughout the state who had contracted with St. Norbert Survey Center to use parts of the survey done at the state and federal level to do local assessments. In this way, results can be compared against the rest of the state and the nation. A steering committee of partners would determine which topics to survey and interpret the results. United Way has agreed to work with our department as well as the De Pere and Oneida health departments in addition to medical partners in the community. Funding for the project will be shared among all of the participants. Judy felt that Public Health Preparedness funds would be appropriate to use for our portion of this project.

Judy asked whether one of the board members would be interested in participating on the steering committee for this assessment. She also asked Dr. Tibbetts if he would be willing to participate as our medical advisor. Dr. Tibbetts said that he would be willing.

Judy reported for Ricki Krautkramer that immunizations for school children have increased greatly this year due to new vaccine requirements. In August, 2007, 439 clients were given 1,000 doses of vaccine – in contrast, in August, 2008, 756 clients have been given 1,639 doses of vaccine. Dr. Tibbetts wondered what percentage of families take a waiver for religious or personal conviction reasons. Audrey said that she had read an article about how these children who are not vaccinated may expose other children to vaccine-preventable diseases. Judy stated that the schools keep track of the children who are not vaccinated for these reasons and excludes those children from school in the event of an outbreak. She will ask Ricki to report on the number of children who are not vaccinated due to these waivers.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS AUTHORIZED BY LAW

None.

8. ADJOURNMENT / NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 17th at 5:30 PM in the Nursing Division area of the Health Department office.

MOTION: To Adjourn at 6:45 PM. VanDeurzen / Pfothenauer

MOTION CARRIED