



Minutes for Guthrie County Board of Health

Guthrie County Health Services

August 2, 2023 Regular Meeting

Present

- A. Board Members: Jan Mueller, Peg Snyder, Mike Dickson
- B. Director: Jotham Arber
- C. Staff member: Jo Rasmussen
- D. Guest: Christy Jenkins

Call to Order - Jan Mueller, Vice-Chairman, opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Board minutes

- July 5, 2023 minutes were reviewed.
 - Motion by Dickson second by Snyder to approve minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Report

- **Environmental Health**
 - Arber reviewed the financial report.
 - Arber noted the budget is only showing 50% of the total approved budget per the Board of Supervisors.
- **Public Health**
 - Arber reviewed the financial report.
 - Arber noted that the Board of Supervisor only allocated 50% of the approved budget.

Department Activity Report

- Activities for Public Health and Environmental Health
 - Monthly reports of services provided were reviewed.
 - Arber noted that he is going to meet the new CEO of the Guthrie County Hospital in regards to the contract with its therapy department.
 - The HOPES program had a survey with Cindy Duhrkopf for FY22. The program received a good review. Duhrkopf would like to see more visits and clients before the end of the year.
 - Letters have been sent for the on-site waste water management annual payment for septic inspections. There has been a great response.
- Activities for Social Worker
 - Monthly reports of services provided were reviewed.
 - We should be able to start billing in August.
- Epidemiology Report
 - Arber gave an update on communicable disease activities for the last month.
 - Arber reminded board members that Iowa now allows raw milk to be sold.
 - Arber noted that the State of Iowa has stopped offering free COVID vaccine to Public Health. Vaccine in September can be purchase from Moderna or Pfizer. The State should be rolling out a program for residents who are underinsured or have no insurance.

Old Business

1. Update on Regionalization
 - Arber noted that he and Kent Irwin attended a meeting on July 12, 2023.
 - Arber and Irwin also attend a virtual meeting in July for invited departments only.
 - Rasmussen will be attending one of the virtual meetings on August 3rd.
 - Arber noted that he has submitted a presentation to Dawn Mouw for review for a plan for State Regionalization.
 - The State did hire a consulting firm from Chicago to meet with the public to get feedback. Its goal is to have something to give to the State by September.
 - The State will have to change the Code of Iowa that governs public health and entities.

2. Update on the Fall Health Fair
 - All the Health Services departments will be participating in the Fall Health Fair on September 14th.
 - Arber is working with Brad Halterman, Conservation Director. Halterman has offered to host the event at the Historical Village in Panora Iowa.
 - We have reached out to all healthcare providers to join us for the health fair.
3. Grants are carried over until December 31, 2023
 - Rasmussen gave an update on grants from the State of Iowa that must be used by December 31, 2023
 - IT Grant in the amount of \$15,366.52
 - Response Grant in the amount of \$8,548.76
 - Equity Grant in the amount of \$44,887.06

New Business

1. Advertising for part time employees for Home Health and HOPES
 - Arber noted that we want to advertise for two part time employees. One is for a HOPES worker, a grant will cover the cost. This person is needed since Jenny Jessen is doing more mental health sessions.
 - Motion by Snyder seconded by Dickson to allow an additional part time person for HOPES. Motion carried.
 - The other position is a part-time/fill in position for the Home Health department.

Policy Review

- None at this meeting

Other

- Christy Jenkins gave an update on New Opportunity activities.
- Arber noted that we should be due for another Medicare survey since they come every three years. He is going to work with Human Resources on policies that will coordinate with the employee handbook.
- Snyder asked about the issues with Environmental Health.
 - The City didn't want to run a line under the road. The owner did a soil test and it was fine so it is okay to build his shop on the new area.
 - The house in Casey –a new septic system was installed instead of knocking down the buildings.

Next Schedule meeting dates

- Next meeting will be September 6, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting closed at 8:15 p.m.

Representative of Board of Health

Board Secretary