



# Minutes for Guthrie County Board of Health

## Guthrie County Health Services

March 6, 2024 Regular Meeting

### Present

- A. Board Members: Jan Mueller, Peg Snyder, Bill McDermott, Mike Dickson, Dr. Steven Bascom
- B. Director: Jotham Arber
- C. Staff member: Jo Rasmussen
- D. Guest: None

**Call to Order** - Dr. Steven Bascom opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

### Board Minutes

- January 24, 2024 minutes were reviewed.
  - Motion by McDermott second Mueller to approve minutes. Motion carried.

### Financial Report

- **Environmental Health**
  - Arber reviewed the financial report.
    - Discussion was held on Environmental Health's health insurance line item. Rasmussen will contact the county auditor to address the issues.
- **Public Health**
  - Arber reviewed the financial report.
    - Rasmussen noted that the expenses were higher than normal due to the spending of the IT, Equity and Response grants.
    - Arber reported that the agency is getting \$118.00 per session for Mental Health from Medicaid.

### Department Activity Report

- Activities for Public Health/Environmental Health/Social Worker
  - Monthly reports of services provided were reviewed.
  - The HOPES program is growing with more clients. Currently there is one full time and one part time employee. Jenny Jessen is still overseeing the program providing supervision only.
  - Arber explained an issue in the rural area with dog bites. A family that lives in the country has had three incidents with dog bites. The family has confirmed the dogs are vaccinated. Arber feels we need to push hard for a County wide ordinance.
  - Arber was directed to present something at the April meeting.
- Epidemiology Report
  - Arber gave an update on communicable disease activities.
  - The CDC is recommending another COVID booster to anyone over the age of 65 or if health conditions exist.
  - The CDC guidelines have change for staying at home with COVID. Now it is 24 hours fever free before returning to work and school.

### Old Business

1. EMS Update
  - Arber reported that the EMS Advisory Council presented their recommendation of an RFP to the Board of Supervisors on February 27<sup>th</sup>.
  - Arber noted that we filed for our agency to be a first responder entity.
2. Update on Budget for FY25 for Environmental Health
  - The FY25 budget was presented to the Board of Supervisors. The supervisors did not request the Environmental Health Budget be changed.
3. Update on Budget for FY25 for Public Health

- Arber reported that the Board of Supervisor did request for the Public Health budget be reviewed again. Arber and Rasmussen met with supervisors on March 5.
  - The revenue line for mental health was increased from \$40,000 to \$60,000.
  - Operational expenses were decreased by \$6,000. The Board of Supervisor did remove from all departments the cost of property insurance moving it into Risk Management. This resulted in \$3,900 being moved out of our budget.
  - Motion to approve the changes by Dickson seconded by Snyder. Motion carried.
4. Update on payments for Mental Health Services
- Arber report that we are getting paid \$118 per session from Medicaid. Billing for the sessions is getting done weekly.

### **New Business**

1. Mental Health services Strategic Plan
  - Arber discussed how it would look to hire another mental health provider and a social worker. Arber would also like to look at having a satellite office in the Stuart area.
2. Budget Amendment for FY24
  - Rasmussen has sent a request for a \$65,000 budget amendment to cover the cost of items purchased by the IT, Equity and Response grants.
3. Heart of Iowa Funding
  - Arber noted that Heart of Iowa is willing to provide funds to do remodeling at Guthrie Public Health Office to accommodate our mental health therapy.
  - There is a push to get more mental health services.
  - Arber is going to see if the Region will assist in giving us startup funding. This could be used to proceed with hiring another therapist and social worker.
  - Discussion was held on office hours for therapy.
  - Arber is exploring with Jessen on what services would look like if therapists went into the school for sessions.

### **Policy Review**

- Vaccinator policy – Arber will be a licensed paramedic that can give shots as of July 2024. Our policy will need to be changed to approve paramedics giving immunization shots for Public Health.

### **Other**

- Employee spotlight – none presented at this meeting

### **Next Schedule meeting dates**

- Wednesday, April 3, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.
- There will be a Community Foundation Board meeting prior to this meeting.

Meeting closed at 8:00 p.m.

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Representative of Board of Health

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Board Secretary