



Minutes for Guthrie County Board of Health

Guthrie County Health Services

October 2, 2024 Regular Meeting

Present

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

Call to Order - Chairman Dr. Steven Bascom opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

Board Minutes

- Minutes for September were reviewed.
 - Motion by Mueller second by Snyder to approve minutes for September 4, 2024 regular meeting. Motion carried.

Financial Report

- **Environmental Health**
 - Arber reviewed the financial report.
 - Arber noted that we might need to ask for a budget amendment for environmental health because the Grant to Counties has increased the amount we can bill for.
- **Public Health**
 - Arber reviewed the financial report.
 - Arber noted that we might need to ask for a budget amendment because of the Emergency Preparedness grant expenses and for the Dairy Farmer's Vaccine Grant. This would be money in and money out.

Department Activity Report

- Activities for Public Health/Environmental Health/Social Worker
 - Monthly reports of services provided were reviewed.
 - Public Health has received ten doses of private stock for COVID vaccine.
 - HOPES program did have three families graduate from the program in September.
- Epidemiology Report
 - Arber gave an update on communicable disease activities.
 - Starting a series of meeting with providers regarding the current flu season and what to be prepared for.

Old Business

1. Update on Social Worker/Mental Health Therapist
 - Arber noted that he has submitted a draft job description for a social worker to Guthrie County Hospital and they are okay with the draft.
 - Board members were given a copy of the draft job description. Both the Board of Health and Supervisors will need to approve the job description and hiring the staff.
 - The Heart of Iowa will notify us in October on how much they are able to contribute for the remodeling. Arber did mention that he hopes they might give the agency some financial support for the social worker and another mental health provider.
 - The end goal will be to have two Mental Health Counselor and one Social Worker. Jenny Jessen, LISW is currently one of the two Mental Health Counselor. The goal would be to have the revenue for the two mental health counselors will financially support the Social Worker position. Additional funding will come from the Guthrie County Hospital and Audubon County Public Health.
2. Update on the Vaccine for Adults Program (VFA)
 - Arber reported that our agency has applied for the VFA program and have been accepted by the State of Iowa.

- Arber explained that the program will allow adults that have no insurance or underinsured to get free influenza, COVID vaccines and a few other vaccines.
- 3. Update on 1st Responder program
 - Arber gave an update on the program. Still looking for one more member to be on the advisory committee.
 - The 1st Responders will be a non-profit 501(3)C organization and will be funded by donations. A 28E agreement is being reviewed by the Guthrie County Attorney. If the Board of Supervisors signs the 28 E agreement then the group can be covered by the County Liability Insurance.
 - One of the goals of the group will be set up AED for the rural areas. If the unit gets used a 911 call will go to the sheriff's dispatch. These AED will be purchased by donations from the community.

New Business

1. End of the Year FY24 report for Guthrie County
 - Arber presented a draft copy of the end of the year report for Fiscal FY24.
 - Arber asked the board to review the draft and will ask for final approval at the November meeting so the report can be submitted to the State of Iowa.
2. Seasonal Influenza Supplemental Funding Grant
 - The State of Iowa has a new Supplemental Funding grant to cover influenza and covid shots for any Dairy Farmworkers.
 - The grant will supply vaccine and staff time to provide education and vaccinate Dairy farmworkers. There will be no charge for the vaccine to the farmworkers.
 - Guthrie County could receive \$20,000 for the base rate with an additional \$5,000 because Guthrie County has a Grade A and Grade B Dairy Farms. Public Health has submitted the application and has been approved by the State of Iowa.
 - Audubon County will receive \$20,000 for the same grant.
3. Standing Orders for Vaccinations
 - Standing orders for Influenza and COVID shots were presented for Board of Health to approve. Dr. Steven Bascom signed the orders.
4. Vaccination policies
 - Discussion was held on the type of policy that will need to be approved for a paramedic to give vaccination shots for public health. Arber will be a licensed paramedic after he has passed the board exam. Arber will send out draft copies to the board for review.

Policy Review

- County Wide Ordinance for Animal Bites
 - Arber noted that the County Attorney still needs to give approval for the ordinance. It has been reviewed by staff but needs the final approval from the County Attorney. Arber has noted that he did mention it to the Board of Supervisors.

Other

- Employee spotlight – none presented at this meeting
- Motion by Snyder seconded by Mueller to approve a letter of support for the Community Health Foundation to apply for a grant from Aueron to help fund Guthrie County Imagination Library. Motion carried.
- Christy Jenkins gave an update on the Behavioral Health new regional map.

Next Schedule meeting dates

- Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting closed at 7:51 p.m.

Representative of Board of Health

Board Secretary