



# Minutes for Guthrie County Board of Health

## Guthrie County Health Services

November 6, 2024 Regular Meeting

### Present

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

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

### Board Minutes

- Minutes for October were reviewed.
  - Motion by Snyder second by Mueller to approve minutes for October 2 , 2024 regular meeting. Motion carried.

### Financial Report

- **Environmental Health**
  - Arber reviewed the financial report.
  - Arber explained the increase
- **Public Health**
  - Arber reviewed the financial report.
  - Arber explained the line items of emergency prep and vaccine cost. Arber noted that we will ask for a budget amendment for money in and money out.
  - Jenny Jessen, LISW is now fully credential. Are very close to be able to bill Wellmark and Medicare.

### Department Activity Report

- Activities for Public Health/Environmental Health/Social Worker
  - Monthly reports of services provided were reviewed.
  - Signed the contract with the State of Iowa for the new funding for education and marketing for Dairy Farmers. Can promote with “Im-moo-nization”.
- Epidemiology Report
  - Arber gave an update on communicable disease activities.
  - Biggest concerned is still the Avian Influenza and Lassa Fever

### 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.
  - Heart of Iowa contract has been received and signed.
    - \$160 can be billed for Psychiatric Evaluation and visits for anyone that does not have any insurance.
    - \$120 can be billed for Psychotherapy for anyone that does not have any insurance.
    - Block grant of \$107,000 to cover the remodeling expense for Guthrie’s office, remodeling of an office in Exira and potential office space in Stuart.
2. Update on 1<sup>st</sup> Responder program
  - Arber gave an update on the program. Still looking for one more member to be on the advisory committee. Medical supplies have been purchased and a donation from Dallas County EMS for a monitor.
  - County attorney approved the 28E for the 1<sup>st</sup> responder with the county. State will still need to approve equipment, supplies, and policies before the group can start responding.

- Dr. Strehle has agreed to oversee the 1<sup>st</sup> responder program as the medical director. He is going to start working with the Stuart EMS.
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> responder has a five-person board and they are all paramedics. 24 people have volunteered to take the training.
  - Arber discussed a plan to get AED for the rural areas and will be a five-year plan, work with REC to get electric, and donations to get funding. There might be some grants to help purchase them.
3. End of the year FY annual report
- Arber gave the end of year report for FY24. Will have the board review and will vote for approval in December meeting.

### **New Business**

1. Staff Changes
- Arber noted that Cheryl Jensen, home health aide, is retiring in January. She has been with the agency for close to 35 ½ years.

### **Policy Review**

- County Wide Ordinance for Animal Bites
  - County Attorney did give their approval of the ordinance. It can now be presented to the Board of Supervisors.
- Vaccination Policies
  - Arber noted that the vaccination policy will need to allow paramedics to give vaccinations.

### **Other**

- Employee spotlight – none presented at this meeting
- Board of Health replacement for Bill McDermott – Dr. Joshua Strehle has been contacted but hasn't answered. Jotham suggested Andrew Knorr with Medicap Pharmacy in Panora.
  - Arber was directed to contact Strehle one more time. Invite to the January meeting.
  - Dr. Steven Bascom and Peg Snyder terms are done December, 2024. Both agreed to stay for another term.
- Christy Jenkins gave an update on the Behavioral Health new regional map.

### **Next Schedule meeting dates**

- Wednesday, December 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Bascom will not be able to attend.

Meeting closed at 7:51 p.m.

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Representative of Board of Health

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Board Secretary