

NORTHWEST MICHIGAN COMMUNITY HEALTH AGENCY  
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

Tuesday, May 6, 2008

Lower Level  
Charlevoix County Jail  
Charlevoix, Michigan

MINUTES

PRESENT: David Howelman, Antrim County  
Larry Bargy, Antrim County  
Robert Drebenstedt, Charlevoix County  
Chris Christensen, Charlevoix County  
Jack Jones, Emmet County  
Les Atchison, Emmet County  
Doug Johnson, Otsego County  
Allan Bentz, Otsego County

HEALTH DEPARTMENT MEMBERS PRESENT:  
Gerald Chase, Health Officer  
Linda Yaroach, Deputy Health Officer  
Dr. Josh Meyerson, Medical Director  
Christie Vogelheim, Director of Administrative Services  
Dr. Tom Veryser, MCDC Director  
Scott Kendzierski, Director of Environmental Health Services  
Lynda Bockstahler, Director of Adult Health Services  
Carol Paxton, Director of Emergency Preparedness

Allan Bentz, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion by Jack Jones to approve the March 4, 2008 meeting minutes as submitted; supported by Doug Johnson. Motion carried. All yeas.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

STAFF REPORTS

HEALTH OFFICER

PUBLIC HEALTH CLEAN AIR REGULATION - Gerry reported that the Michigan Attorney General filed a strongly worded Amicus Curiae with the Michigan Supreme

Court relative to the powers of a local health department to adopt health regulations in the same topic area addressed in State Legislation and that there are standards with the Michigan Public Code relative to the delegation of regulatory authority delegated to local public health departments within the Code. The arguments were very much in line with the filings by our Counsel, and the counsels for the Michigan Association of counties, the Michigan Association for Local Public Health, and the Michigan Township Association. We are still waiting for the Supreme Court's response to those filings.

ISSUE REGARDING A BUSINESS OWNER VEHICLE USED BY DIFFERENT PEOPLE BUT NOT AT THE SAME TIME - An employee of US Holland Trucking filed a complaint with this agency that he was compelled to drive a vehicle which on other shifts were used by drivers who smoked. He complained that the smell was disturbing to him and that it possibly caused him an allergic reaction. We responded that the Regulation only applied to vehicles when occupied by more than one employee and that the company was in compliance with the Regulation as it was intended.

PROPOSED STATE OF MICHIGAN LEGISLATION REGARDING CLEAN INDOOR AIR STUDY RELEASED BY PUBLIC SECTOR CONSULTANTS – Gerry discussed the recently released Study of the impact of House Bill 4163 on the Restaurant and Bar Industry. The Study concluded that the prohibited smoking in all places of employment including restaurant and bars would have no net economic impact on the Michigan restaurant and bar industry. The Study also discusses the issues of the public support of such regulations and the question of government regulation in relation to business. It is his understanding that the House has approved the Bill and the Senate leadership has indicated that it may allow the Bill to be brought to the floor where it has a significant possibility of a majority favorable vote. If the Bill does become law it will likely supplant our local regulation because it is more restrictive in that it does not allow separate ventilated smoking rooms as does our local regulations and would extend to bars and restaurants.

EMMET PRIMARY CARE CLINIC FOR MEDICAID, NORTHERN HEALTH PLAN, AND UNINSURED ADULTS – The Alcona Health Centers which operates Federally Qualified Health Centers in the eastern part of northern Michigan has indicated some interest in partnering with the local health entities concerned with access to care for the low income in Emmet County. We are currently working with Northern Michigan Hospital, the Northern Health Plan, and Alcona Health Centers on a startup and operating budget for a potential clinic.

STATE OF MICHIGAN MEDICAID AUDIT ISSUE - As part of a statewide audit of the Michigan Medicaid Program, the local matching process that is allowed under Title V of the Medicaid Act was reviewed. Through this program, the Federal government matches, the cost of local expenditures (less actual Medicaid fees) of eligible Medicaid services provided by local units of government (local health departments). The local health departments participate in a variety of maternal and

child health programs administered by Medicaid including maternal and infant support services, family planning services, immunizations and services related to pre-natal care. This matching process has been a major source of revenue to this Agency. With the inclusion of dental services, the Agency received over \$1.2 million in Medicaid Title V matching support in one of the years covered by the Audit.

The initial audit claims by CMS (the Federal office for Medicare and Medicaid) was for several million dollars on a statewide basis but were fairly minimal to this Agency. The claims centered around policy issues relating to services performed in conjunction with Medicaid Managed Care Providers and methodologies of computing administrative support charges. The State of Michigan challenged the Audit findings and a review process is winding through the bureaucratic jungle. Depending on the settlement between the State and the Federal government, we may have an issue to address in our own appeal.

## BUILDING PROJECT STATUS

Charlevoix Remodeling – The remodeling of the main level of the building to improve the Clinic area and to provide appropriate space for the Michigan Community Dental Clinic is complete. The clinic waiting and reception area, are significantly larger and much more efficient. The dental administration and other staff have been relocated into much improved facilities.

The lower level completion has been delayed somewhat by issues relating to the elevator. It has been determined that the existing elevator must be updated to meet more current standards for barrier free operation. Permits are now in place and the work is proceeding. Depending on the completion of the elevator updating, it is likely the space will be in use by the end of May.

Gerry also shared with the Board the issue of the underground sewer flow channel that services the Charlevoix County Jail and our building. The channel has again failed, resulting in the back flow of sewage repeatedly into the lower level and in one instance into the break room sink in the dental offices. He has been in contact with the City and the Sheriff concerning this issue, more to come.

Otsego Branch Office Addition and Remodeling – The financial closing should take place sometime the week of May 4<sup>th</sup>. The northern Michigan Substance Abuse Coordinating Agency has decided not to be part of the addition so the original approved plan and financing will be put in place. Construction will likely begin by about the end of May with completion likely by the end of the year.

OVERALL BUDGET STATUS – For the first quarter of 2008, the overall expenditures and revenues are closely in line with the budget. Environmental Health revenues have begun to show decline from the projected numbers. It is too early in the season to make a strong prediction of the actual annual numbers. We had already

budget some reductions in our EH staffing and since the first of the year we have taken action to reduce travel and cost for other expenditures. Another significant issue is the fact that the expenditures from the Dental Assistance Fund have been much higher than anticipated and in fact have been double the amount expected over the first three months. In this area, we are reviewing processes to restrain expenditures by reducing the number of new patients and adjusting the services and amount of discounts based on income.

**EIGHT-HOUR WORK DAY** – In light of the decline in demand for Environmental Health Services, the administrative staff is reluctant to go ahead with the eight hour day. We would like to avoid laying off staff, but if we put into the effect the 8 hour day with the already tight budget, out of necessity we would have to reduce the number of our staff. From previous experience with layoffs, we have found that the long- term costs are generally higher than the short-term savings for continuing operations like environmental health. It is our recommendation that we put off the eight-hour day implementation until the financial situation is more stable. There was discussion. Jack Jones is opposed, he expressed his concerns and would like the 8 hour work day implemented. Robert Drebenstedt agrees that the eight-hour day was approved two months ago. Chris Christensen posed the question as to what is the timeframe that this would go into effect? It was indicated that a budgetary neutral plan would be available in the near future.

Gerry excused himself he had to leave for a meeting that was scheduled in Lansing in the afternoon with the chairperson of the House Appropriations Sub committee for Community Health to discuss funding issues for low income access to health care.

#### DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER

**2008 PRIORITY WORK PLAN** – The 2008 Priority Work Plan was distributed and discussed at the March meeting. A motion by Doug Johnson to approve the 2008 Priority Work Plan as submitted; supported by Jack Jones. All yeas. Motion carried.

**ACCREDITATION** – The Accreditation process including corrective action plan reviews has been completed. The next step is the review by the Accreditation Commission in June. We expect to receive notice of continued accreditation by July.

**NORTHERN HEALTH PLAN: NEW INITIATIVES** - The Northern Health Plan prescription program was launched with a press conference held with Rep. Gary McDowell on March 26<sup>th</sup> in Petoskey. As of April there were 267 enrollees in the District. The maximum caseload is 967.

The Northern Health Plan Board is considering offering a health plan to small business employers who have employees who ear less than \$14.50 per hour. The health plan would be an insurance product and the monthly cost is expected to be approximately \$145/month. The employer and employee would share in the cost. The Northern

Health Plan may provide a small, time limited subsidy to help support adoption by employers and employees. This plan may be available by January, 2009.

The Northern Health Plan continues to be in high demand with over 500 people on the waiting list. Waiting list clients are offered Northern Health Plan Prescription Plan, Plan First enrollment, Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Services, and Northern Dental Plan.

WORKSITE WELLNESS AS A BUSINESS STRATEGY - Linda Yaroch invited the Board to attend the Worksite Wellness as a Business Strategy Forum for Business Professionals to be held Friday, May 16, 2008 at 1:00pm – 3:30 P.m. at The Inn at Bay Harbor.

### MEDICAL DIRECTOR

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE - Dr. Meyerson reported that the March and April Communicable Disease Report is in your packet along with the Physician's Update for Spring. A case of Pertussis-whooping cough in an infant in Charlevoix County was recently reported. Whooping cough is a highly infectious bacterial infection of the respiratory system that causes severe fits of coughing. This reminds us of the need not only to immunize our infants and children but also adolescents and adults against whooping cough

MEASLES - There has been recent outbreaks of Measles in San Diego, Arizona, and just recently there were two confirmed cases of Measles in unvaccinated children from the Cadillac area. So even in northern Michigan we are not immune to the global spread of communicable diseases. A statewide review of immunization records indicates that 11-13 year olds are behind on their immunizations, we will be sending postcards to remind parents to review their child's immunization record and make sure their immunizations are up-to-date. There was discussion.

### FAMILY & COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR

Pat Fralick is absent her written report on the Teen Parenting Program funded through the 0-3 Secondary Prevention Grant is in your packet.

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DIRECTOR

EXERCISES - Carol Paxton reported on the Distribution Node exercise that is scheduled for Monday, June 2, 2008. The partners in this exercise are the Emergency Operations Centers for all four counties, The Little Traverse Bands of Odawa Indians, the Emmet County Sheriff Department and the facility. Health Department staff will participate in the Emmet county EOC tabletop exercise on May 16, 2008. Health Department staff will participate in the Regional exercise with Otsego EOC on June 16, 2008.

PLANS – Every year the Public Health Preparedness Plans are revised, updated and reviewed by the Office of Public Health Preparedness. The Office of Public Health Preparedness “grades” the plans and make recommendations for improvement, This year, the All Hazards Plan and the Crisis and Emergency Risk Communication plan were scored at 100%. The Pandemic Influenza Plan was scored at 90% with positive recommendations. The scoring of the Strategic National Stockpile Plan has not yet been received.

### MCDC DIRECTOR

DENTAL CLINICS UPDATE – Dr. Tom Veryser gave an overview of the operations of MCDC. He is pleased to announce that the Dean of School of Dentistry at the University of Michigan will be joining the MCDC Board. This will be a very exciting time for students in the dental school, we can train and they can do their internship in our clinics. There was discussion.

Our dental clinics continue to be very busy. We are operating an existing clinic in Marquette, that clinic is going very well with two full-time dentists. We are in the process of taking over the Three Rivers clinic on the border of Michigan. In June we will be opening a Port Huron clinic, early July in Big Rapids and in August in Stanton, an existing dental clinic we will be operating. We are in the final stages of construction for the Manistee Dental Clinic and looking forward to the construction/remodeling of the Gaylord Clinic expansion.

We have had discussions with other Health Departments for other potential clinics. This level of expansion is consistent with the plan to create an ongoing self-supporting statewide system of dental care.

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES DIRECTOR

ACCREDITATION STATUS – Scott reported that we have filled our requirements with the accreditation process. The on-site and the food program changes have been implemented.

PUBLIC BEACH MONITORING PROGRAM - We were awarded \$7,000 from the Department of Environmental Quality to monitor seventeen Inland Beaches in our four counties. We have fifty beaches in our district that we sample. Last year we took approximately 1,600 samples. District Health Department No.2 and District Health Department No. 4 will be using our Regional Lab for their beach monitoring samples.

RADON - Scott distributed maps that were created with our geographic information system program of the four counties depicting Radon Zones. Homes with elevated levels of radon have been found, this is good information that is available.

WASTE WATER ESCROW ACCOUNT - Scott reported that our legal counsel has completed the review of the escrow account procedures for addressing long-term

maintenance agreements for Advanced Treatment Systems. This has also been approved by Title Agencies in each County.

BAY HARBOR - Scott reported that Bay Harbor has an extensive media campaign going on with articles being published in area newspapers. He cautioned that some of the comments are not true "they are stating that the water is safe to swim in." There are public health issues and there is access restrictions. There was discussion concerning the Alba well.

### HOME HEALTH & AGING SERVICES DIRECTOR

2007 ANNUAL REPORT – Lynda Bockstahler highlighted the Home Health 2007 Annual Report. Eighty-nine percent of services were provided to patients 65 and over which is a nine percent increase since 2005. An estimated July 2006 census data reveals that the population 65 and over in our service area continues to grow. This continued growth of the aging population and the trend of transitioning individuals out of nursing homes into the community will continue to increase the demand for home care services. Lynda reviewed the number of referrals per county with home care and hospice.

Lynda reported that we have an aggressive QI plan for 2008 which includes improvements in all twelve patient outcome indicators being monitored and publicly reported by CMS. Some of the challenges include automating documentation (improved efficiencies and reduction in clinical practice variation). Exploring care models that address adult and elderly chronic care populations.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE – Jack Jones reported that the committee met on March 12th and approved the March bills in the amount of \$479,919.37 and the employees expenses of \$14,035.73. The committee met on April 11<sup>th</sup> and approved payment of the April bills in the amount of \$1,218,272.37 and the employees expenses of \$14,035.73, the large amount is due to the Emmet County ambulance match program and the dental/administration offices construction. Supported by Les Atchinson to approve the account payables as submitted. All yeas. Motion passed.

### OLD BUSINESS

No old business to come before the Board.

### OTHER BUSINESS

No other business to come before the Board.

The chairperson adjourned the meeting at 11:45 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gerald M. Chase, Health Officer

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Allan Bentz, Chairperson