

**Western U.P. Board of Health
Health Department Office
303 Baraga Avenue L'Anse, MI 49946
Monday, April 22, 2024**

Minutes

Opening

Chair Byrns opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. (EST). Present were G. Anderson, J. Byrns, J. Cane, B. Dakota, G. Eilola, J. Keranen, R. Nousiainen, and D. Rajala. Absent was R. Britz, R. DeMarois, and D Siirila. Also, in attendance were Kate Beer, Health Officer/Administrator; Dr Robert Van Howe, Medical Director; Pete Baril, Deputy Health Officer & Director of Community Planning; Sara Heathman, Environmental Health Director; and Julie Heikkinen, Administrative/HR Assistant. There was 1 person present virtually in attendance as audience.

Chair Byrns requested action on the agenda. This action followed:

Motion: Rajala/second Eilola to approve the agenda with the removal of item 9d. Financial Audit – Year Ending 9/30/2023. Motion carried on voice vote, all ayes.

Chair Byrns asked for public comment, no one spoke.

Minutes of the January 29, 2024 meeting were reviewed. This action followed:

Motion: Rajala/second Dakota to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2024 Board of Health meeting. Motion carried on voice vote, all ayes.

The board reviewed expenditures for the period: 01/19/2024 to 04/11/2024, leading to this action:

Motion: Keranen/second Anderson to approve the general expenditures for the period 01/19/2024 to 04/11/2024, voucher # 09, voucher #10, voucher # 11, voucher # 12, voucher # 13 and voucher # 14 in the amount of \$510,651.90. Carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

Minutes of the April 4, 2024 Executive Committee meeting were reviewed. This action followed:

Motion: Cane/second Rajala to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2024 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried on voice vote, all ayes.

Reports

Kate Beer, Health Officer:

Beer provided additional information regarding the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment program.

Beer recommended adding water testing to our current lab utilizing additional grant funding from the state. She discussed the steps that need to be taken to proceed.

Motion: Anderson/second Rajala to approve moving forward with preparation to add water testing to the current lab as recommended by Beer. Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

Dr Robert Van Howe, Medical Director:

There have been a number of measles outbreaks recently in the United States. Houghton County has a measles vaccination rate that is well below what can provide herd immunity. In discussing this issue someone asked, if an outbreak occurs, how much does it cost. Well, it depends on which perspective is taken.

For the patient, the costs are the doctor's visit, tests, medications, and possible hospitalization and this averages out to about \$1500 per case of measles.

The cost to the family is time lost from work to care for sick person, and also about \$1500 per case.

The costs to society are where costs quickly accumulate. In a recent outbreak in Clark County Washington State, to help contain the outbreak, there were almost 60 people that needed to be contacted for each case of measles. This included multiple phone calls per contact and testing for illness. This work was done by the local health department and the state health department. The contact tracing and testing cost is about \$2,500 per case.

The next big cost was associated with quarantining potential cases. If someone is not immune and has been exposed, there is a 90% chance they will get measles. Given the incubation period of measles, those who are susceptible need to quarantine for 21 days from the time of expose. The cost of missing work associated with being quarantined can be substantial.

When all of these factors are added together the total cost per case of measles is between \$20,000 and \$50,000.

It seems that avian flu is never out of the news with the biggest fear that it will make the leap from birds to humans giving us a novel virus to contend with. The latest version of influenza making headlines is H5N1 (HPAI). Influenza infects migratory birds such as ducks and geese, who spread the virus to other birds during their travels. Once a flock of domesticated birds are infected, the flock is sacrificed. The virus can also spread to cows. Michigan now has three separate commercial dairy herds with HPAI (H5N1) in the Lower Peninsula. While a human case has been reported elsewhere, there is no human illness at this time in Michigan. We would like it to stay that way. Data are showing that in cow's milk has the highest concentration of the virus. Cats who drink the milk can get sick showing primarily neurologic symptoms. While the dairies deny dispensing or selling any impacted milk, it is believed the virus is killed with Pasteurization. Avoiding raw milk would be advised. Those working with an infected herd should take precautions to avoid infection. Infected cattle will be monitored rather than sacrificed.

As the birds migrate north, we need to be on the lookout for H5H1 coming with them. It is likely that chickens ' be at primary risk, but virus can also impact other animals.

Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

New Business

The board discussed the FY2024 Budget Amendment # 1 – Draft/Update. A proposal was discussed to give regular employees a bonus and make a conditional extra contribution to the MERS DB fund.

Motion: Anderson/second Cane to approve a discretionary Workforce Development/Hazard Pay bonus of no more than \$1,850.00 to regular employees and to make an additional discretionary contribution to the MERS DB fund up to \$150,000.00 as discussed. Carried on roll call vote, all voting yes.

The board discussed the Health Officer Proposal, leading to this action:

Motion: Rajala/second Anderson to table the Health Officer proposal. Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

The board reviewed the Proposed Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) Fee increases, leading to this action:

Motion: Cane/second Eilola to approve the Maternal Infant Health Program (MIHP) Fees as presented. Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

The board reviewed the Accident/Incident Summary Report for the 1st Quarter 2024, leading to this action:

Motion: Rajala/second Cane to approve the Accident/Incident Reports as presented. Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

The board reviewed the U.P. Environmental Health Code – Technical Manual Updates, leading to this action:

Motion: Rajala/second Keranen to approve the U.P. Environmental Health Code – Technical Manual Updates as presented. Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

The board reviewed the Local Health Department – Plan of Organization, leading to this action:

Motion: Anderson/second Eilola to approve the Local Health Department – Plan of Organization as presented. Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

Other

With no other business, Chair Byrns set the next meeting for 6:00 pm (EST), May 20, 2024, in person at the health department office in Ontonagon and also available via Google Meet.

Chair Byrns then asked for public comment and heard from one person.

Karen Timonen, Chassell, commented on the destruction of vaccine records, removal of Covid injections, fact sheets pertaining to PCR testing, and abuse in nursing homes.

Chair Byrns called for additional comments and heard none.

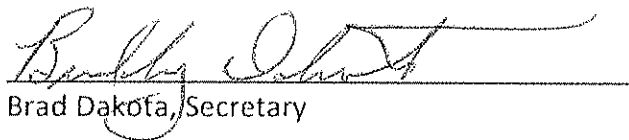
Adjourn

The final motion occurred at 7:21 p.m.

Motion: Keranen/second Anderson to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. Carried on voice vote, all ayes.

Respectfully submitted,


James Byrns, Chair


Brad Dakofa, Secretary

Prepared by Kate Beer
KB/jh