

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
CITY OF DE PERE, WISCONSIN – February 14, 2022**

The Board of Health of the City of De Pere, Wisconsin met in regular session on Monday, February 14, 2022 at 5:15 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dennis Hibray at 5:15 pm.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken, and the following members were present: Jonathon Hansen, John Quigley, Dennis Hibray, Teresa Gulyas, Dr. Steve Stroman, and Dr. Michael McHenry. Also present were Deborah Armbruster and Kelly Burke. No citizen attendees were present.

3. Public Comment on Matters not on the agenda

No public comments were made.

4. Approval of November 8, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Jonathon Hansen made a motion to approve the November 8, 2021, meeting minutes. Teresa Gulyas seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

5. Election of Vice-President of Board of Health

Deborah Armbruster explained that the City Assistant Attorney recommended that the Board of Health have a President and Vice President. Dr. Michael McHenry suggested that the Vice President be someone who would be on the Board longer term and asked what the turnover was for Alderman. Jonathon Hansen explained that every year the Alderman are assigned to committees, and some may move from one committee to a new committee. Others will stay with the same committee. Dr. McHenry suggested that the citizen members may be more consistent for the position. Teresa Gulyas volunteered for the position. Dr. Michael McHenry made a motion that Teresa Gulyas become Vice President of the Board of Health for the city of De Pere. Dr. Stroman seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

6. Summary of De Pere Health Department Grants as of 1/1/2022

Deborah Armbruster stated that the grant dollar amounts are listed in the meeting packet. In the packet, she indicated the change in grant allocations and wrote a brief summary of what the COVID-19 grants may be used for. Dr. McHenry questioned the COVID-19 grant periods and asked if the grant amounts were appropriate. Deborah responded that the department staff reviews the grants monthly, and we determine the monthly amount which can be applied to the grant based on the remaining time frame of the grant. Deborah added that if an expense may apply to more than one grant, it is applied to the grant that expires the soonest. Some of the Health Department Covid grants go until 2024 and they are exceptionally large amounts. Much of the grant money is spent on staffing of Limited Term Employees. Deborah Armbruster reported that the Health Department has saved the City of De Pere over \$290,000 in tax levy by applying full time staff salaries to the new COVID grants. In 2021, the Health Department was reimbursed \$320,000 from Covid

grants for all COVID expenses including supplies, LTE salaries, and regular staff salaries. John Quigley asked if the Health Department ARPA grant could be used for the community to get better access to mental health services. Deborah Armbruster responded that the Health Department ARPA funds are currently not intended for this purpose. The Board decided to discuss this in an upcoming agenda item later in the meeting.

7. Covid-19 Updates

Deborah Armbruster reported that in 2021, the Health Department held one hundred Covid vaccination clinics. The Health Department gave out almost five thousand Covid vaccines. Deborah Armbruster reported that Pfizer (12 and up) and Moderna have FDA approval. The CDC is recommending the MRNA vaccines over Johnson & Johnson, but the De Pere Health Department still gives Johnson & Johnson to those who want it. Deborah informed the Board that people may mix and match vaccines now. The booster may be a different brand than the original series. Pfizer was submitting data for approval for 6 months to 4-year-olds but retracted the submission to research if a third dose is necessary. Deborah Armbruster reported that the CDC is classifying people as being up to date when they have had a booster. There is talk about combining Covid and flu in an annual vaccine. Deborah stated that immunity wanes 4 months after the vaccine, so we do not know how many boosters will be needed in the future. The DPHD plan is continue clinics 2-3 times per week. Deborah referred to the packet which shows the rise in Covid cases when Omicron initially hit. Currently, there is a sharp decrease in the cases. This may be due to home testing, which is not reported. Wastewater reports are a better indicator in this instance and, currently, wastewater reports show the virus is waning. Dennis Hibray inquired on how the mask distribution went. Deborah Armbruster responded that the cars were already lined up when she arrived at the event at 3:35 pm and the masks (1760 of them) were gone in less than an hour. Deborah ordered an additional 2500 masks from the state. The Health Department will distribute these at St. Anne's church on February 24th.

8. Update on Resuming De Pere Health Department Public Health Services

Deborah Armbruster reported that Wisconsin Department of Health (DHS) Services recommends not diving into old programming right away. Public Health 3.0 is focused on doing more population-based services rather than individual services. This is what DHS is promoting going forward. Deborah Armbruster stated that the Health Department will be resuming falls prevention, Grapevine, and car seat installations. Deborah Armbruster is going to take direction from DHS on how to proceed in the future.

9. Discussion and Action on DPHD Hosting XRF Device for Lead-Safe Homes Program (Lead testing)

Deborah Armbruster reported that Trista Groth was asked by Jeff from the State to house the XRF machine at the De Pere Health Department for use in NE Wisconsin. Deborah Armbruster stated that if we agreed, we would house the device and Trista would be certified for it. We would then lend it to other departments as needed. After further discussion with the state, this process is more involved than originally anticipated, so Deborah Armbruster stated that we will probably no longer pursue this. The current Memorandum of Understanding would require up to 20 hours per week of Trista's time,

which is not feasible. Jonathon Hansen made a motion to table this item until the next meeting. Dr. McHenry seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed.

10. 2021 Communicable Disease report

Deborah Armbruster stated that the disease report was included in the packet. There were no questions on the number of cases.

11. Discussion Regarding Mental Health Concerns Within our Community (Continued from 11/08/2021 meeting)

Deborah Armbruster reported that she investigated area mental health services. Bellin Health has staff at their clinics to address mental health needs. Prevea has practitioners that will take patients. The health systems are trying to hire more staff to help people to get non-critical care faster. The Office of Children's Mental Health is focusing on child well-being and the schools are also working hard to address mental health issues.

Teresa Gulyas reported that she had reached out to the Mental Health Taskforce to offer to assist however needed. Teresa was informed that the Mental Health Taskforce is currently transitioning to Connections for Mental Wellness. Teresa is already on two of the Connections taskforces. Teresa reported that she will follow up again in a week or so.

Teresa Gulyas expressed a concern she witnessed at a local psychiatric hospital in which a man was concerned about his son who had mental health issues. The man was asking for help and was told by the receptionist that he needed to call for an appointment. Teresa was concerned that the receptionist could not assist in the triaging the man. Teresa will follow up on this concern also.

Deborah Armbruster reported that the NEW Community Clinic does have psych residents who come there to assist the NEWCC patients. Jonathon Hansen asked if the health department ARPA grant covered working on mental health resources. Deborah replied that she did not believe so but would look into it. John Quigley would like to use part of the city ARPA funds to assist in getting mental health resources into the community and making them available to people before they reach a critical status.

12. Future Agenda Items

Deborah Armbruster will present the 2021 annual report at the next meeting. The Health Department will have updated policies and procedures for the next meeting. Deborah Armbruster will talk about the status of the health department strategic plan at the next meeting so we can assess if we want to keep our current trajectory or alter the strategic plan. Debbie explained that a focus of our strategic plan was to advertise to the community the services of the health department, and Covid did increase the Health Department visibility in the community.

Dennis Hibray added that the Board will also address the XRF status at the next meeting. John Quigley commented that the state would have less workload if someone in NE Wisconsin houses the XRF. Therefore, the funding for housing it (up to 20 hours a week) may possibly be part of the memorandum of understanding. Debbie agrees and will look into it. Deborah Armbruster reported that Trista Groth will be getting certified to use the XRF whether De Pere houses the unit or not.

13. Adjournment

Jonathon Hansen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. John Quigley seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passes. The meeting adjourned at 6:17 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Burke

Health Department Administrative Assistant