

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
CITY OF DE PERE, WISCONSIN – November 8, 2021**

The Board of Health of the City of De Pere, Wisconsin met in regular session on Monday, November 8, 2021 at 5:15 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dennis Hibray at 5:17 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. Approval of September 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Jonathon Hansen made a motion to approve the September 13, 2021 meeting minutes. Dr. Michael McHenry seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Public Comment on Matters not on the agenda

No public comments were made.

5. Presentation on Sober Green Bay Campaign

Kris Kovacic who is a health strategist for Brown County Health and Human Services gave a Sober Green Bay Campaign presentation. Sober Green Bay is a Community Health Improvement plan initiative. It was developed out of the Beyond Health Committee. The goal of Sober Green Bay is to create a sober awareness one encounter at a time. Back in 2021 Brown County formed a task force to address alcohol use and the culture around it. Currently the group is called the Brown County Alcohol and Drug Coalition for Change. Currently, 28% of adults in Brown County are identified as being a binge drinker, compared to 13% nationally. There are 26,000 residents in Brown County who identify as Sober. Green Bay has been in the top 10 binge drinking cities in America since 2010. Currently, Green Bay is number 2 and Appleton is number 1 (2020 stats). Being sober friendly is recognizing and supporting people who choose not to drink. Recently, there has been a sober Packers fans group created with over 1000 members called "Section Yellow" (facebook). There is a Sober Green Bay Facebook page and group to support those leading a sober lifestyle. The Tavern League of Brown County is supportive of this initiative. The Sober Friendly mission is to reduce the stigma of Green Bay being a drunk city and change the narrative to Green Bay being a socially sober community. Businesses supporting sobriety are identified by a yellow balloon window sticker. Community partners are important in this initiative. Sober Green Bay cards will be placed in public places for people to grab. They contain a direct link to resources for recovery (QR Code).

6. Discussion Regarding Mental Health Concerns in our Community

Deborah Armbruster has been a part of the mental health task force for many years. The task force meetings have been put on hold due to Covid. Connections for Mental

Wellness works with many organizations to help meet the needs for mental health, yet it doesn't provide care. The Crisis Center and the Health Systems (through a primary care provider) are the methods to go through to receive care. Teresa Gulyas added that if you are suicidal or homicidal, you can get help very quick. If you just need someone to talk to, you can do this through the suicide hotline. The gap is that if you are not in crisis, you may have to wait 2-3 months for an appointment. In this time frame of waiting, you may go into crisis. Teresa explained that we need to provide greater support, perhaps a crisis line. Debbie added that the health systems will attempt to get their patients an appointment if in need. Debbie explained that the Crisis Center is on the 211 line. This line is sponsored by United Way. If you call 211 and tell them your need, they will have a list of providers/services available for the situation. Deborah Armbruster stated that we can advertise this on our website to make it better known. John Quigley added that we need to address the tier below the crisis line, where you don't need immediate assistance, but need to get into the mental health system. Debbie will look into this further.

7. Communicable Disease Report

Deborah Armbruster asked if anyone had any questions/ comments on the data. No one had any questions.

8. Update on COVID-19 response

Deborah Armbruster reported that the Health Department remains very busy. Dr. Westergaard, the State Medical Advisor, still strongly believes in contact tracing. The Health Department is very busy doing contact tracing and vaccination clinics. Pediatric clinics will start on Wednesday. We have 6 clinics this week. John Quigley had a question on the Janssen vaccine. Debbie explained that Janssen is the name of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine. Dr. Michael McHenry asked if we had concerns over the monitoring of the children at these clinics. Deborah Armbruster explained that we don't anticipate any change in protocol and will have EMS on staff as we always do.

9. Plans to resume health department programming

Deborah Armbruster explained that we had expected to be getting back to our regular programming last summer when Covid cases were down, but then within a month, our programming was shut back down to continue our Covid response. Debbie stated that we did restart our Vaccine for Children program. We are doing 2 clinics a month. We hope to start resuming some of our other programming in January. This includes our Stay at Home Assistance Program, Grapevine Program for Women, Home visitations for lactation consulting, Developmental Assessments, Picnic and Play at the Library, the Car Seat Installation Program, and more involvement with our Preparedness Program. Starting in January, we will have drop down to 2 clinics per week for Vaccinations.

10. Future Agenda Items

Dennis Hibray stated that we will address Mental Health again and requested the meeting dates/times for 2022.

12. Adjournment

Teresa Gulyas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Michael McHenry seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passes. The meeting adjourned at 6:16 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Burke
Health Department Administrative Assistant