

**BENZIE-LEELANAU DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Wednesday, July 26, 2023 2:00 p.m.
Benzie Resource Center – Ingemar Johansson Conference Room
6051 Frankfort Hwy. Ste. 101
Benzonia, MI 49616**

Chairperson Sauer called the meeting to order at 2:00 pm.

Members Present:

Gary Sauer - Benzie County Board of Commissioners
Ty Wessell – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Dr. Barbara Conley – Leelanau County Member at Large
Rhonda Nye – Benzie County Board of Commissioners
Dr. Mark Kuiper – Benzie County Member at Large
Gwenne Allgaier – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

Members Absent: None

Members Excused: None

Staff Present:

Dodie Putney – Director of Administrative Services
Eric Johnston – Director of Environmental Health
Michelle Klein - Director of Personal Health
Dan Thorell – Health Officer
Dr. Joshua Meyerson – Medical Director

Staff Excused: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes:

Motion By: Wessell to approve the June 28, 2023 BOH meeting minutes.

Seconded By: Allgaier

Voice Vote: 6 yeas 0 nay 0 excused **Motion carried**

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion By: Conley to approve the agenda as presented.

Seconded By: Wessell

Voice Vote: 6 yeas 0 nay 0 excused **Motion carried**

Public Comment – None

Health Officer Update – Dan Thorell

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. The State of Michigan increased the amount of funding that will be distributed to local health departments. This increase will bring the amount of funding to approximately 50% of the funding needed to administer the mandated public health services. This is the first time that this has happened in years. The State is also releasing \$80 million for infrastructure needs for local health departments. The ratio of how the money is to be divided among the health departments is being worked on now. There is a bill at the House Committee to make oral assessments a mandatory pre-kindergarten assessment.

Currently it is voluntary. In the past year approximately 40% of the incoming kindergarteners for Benzie and Leelanau Counties had an oral assessment performed.

It was brought up that a revision for the contract between HDNW and BLDHD should begin. Thorell had shared with the Personnel and Finance Committee what the cost of funding a Health Officer and Medical Director would be if the BLDHD decided not to contract with HDNW. It was also mentioned that there should be some succession planning as various employees get closer to retirement age. There is a workshop that is being offered for entities to use for succession planning. Workforce Development money could be used for this service.

Accounts Payable

Motion By: Conley to approve accounts payable and pay the bills in the amount of \$139,331.89.

Seconded By: Wessell

Roll Call Vote: Sauer- yea, Nye- yea, Conley- yea, Wessell- yea, Kuiper – yea, Allgaier- yea

6 yeas 0 nay 0 excused Motion carried

June 2023 Financial Statements

Motion By: Conley to accept the financial statements as presented.

Seconded By: Nye

Roll Call Vote: Sauer-yea, Conley- yea, Wessell- yea, Kuiper – yea, Allgaier – yea, Nye - yea

6 yeas 0 nay 0 excused Motion carried

Discussion: It was asked why the electric bill for the Leelanau office was so expensive. It was explained that it was for the second quarter of 2023, which means it covered three months. For that time period BLDHD was obligated to pay 50% of the utilities for the Leelanau Montessori building. With the new lease that began on July 1, 2023, BLDHD will be responsible for 40% of the utilities. The purchase of the sensory light wall was questioned, it was explained that BLDHD had been awarded some grant money to refresh the clinic rooms. The board is to be used to help distract children as they receive their services.

Staff Reports:

Medical Director – Dr. Joshua Meyerson

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. Air quality issues are something new for our area. It was noticed that ER visits for respiratory issues were higher on days that the air quality were low due to smoke from the Canadian wildfires. A new vaccine for adults sixty-five years or older for RSV was approved by the FDA. BLDHD generally stocks most vaccines that the ACIP recommends.

Personal Health – Michelle Klein

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. A Permah Wellbeing Survey had been given to staff members. The results showed that overall BLDHD staff are generally happy. The Leelanau Early Childhood program hosted their July Street Fair. It was a success with approximately 276 people attending it. Starting on August 9, 2023, WIC appointments must be in person. Telehealth visits are no longer allowable, unless there is a big barrier preventing a family from coming into the office.

Environmental Health – Eric Johnston

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. The number of Land Use Program permits and evaluations performed is up 4% for the area. PFA testing is not the norm for a water sample due to the cost of the test. The test generally costs \$500. All public wells are tested for PFAs, it is part of the Type II program. If PFAs are found the well will be tested quarterly to ensure that the levels are within a safe range.

The bids for the remodel of the Leelanau County Government building were reopened with the

redesign of the area. The bids close on July 31, 2023. The State of Michigan granted Michigan Saves the contract to work with EGLE on administering and funding the failing septic loan project. The second draft of the statewide sanitary code was reintroduced to the House Committee. The items that changed with the revision are more definitions were added to what constitutes a failed septic and clarified what the penalties would be if the rules were not followed. The language of having every septic inspected every five years was still in the document.

Administrative – Dodie Putney

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. The RFP for the annual audit was sent out. The responses are due on July 31, 2023. The State of Michigan updated their safety codes for elevators. The Benzie Resource Center will need to upgrade the elevator. This upgrade could cost up to \$20,000. An Employee Picnic will be held after business hours on August 16, 2023 at the Almira Township park.

Public Comment – None

Board Comments – None

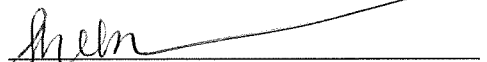
Adjourn:

Motion By: Sauer to adjourn the BOH meeting at 3:34 p.m.

Voice Vote: 6 yeas 0 nay 0 excused **Motion carried**



Gary Sauer, Chair



Shelley Jablon, Recording Secretary