

**BENZIE-LEELANAU DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING  
Wednesday, September 22, 2022 2:00 p.m.  
Leelanau County Government Center  
6527 E Government Center  
Suttons Bay MI 49682**

Chairperson Dr. Barbara Conley called the meeting to order at 2:02 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

**Members Absent:** None

**Members Excused:** Patricia Soutas-Little – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

**Staff Present:**

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

**Staff Excused:** None

**Guests Present:** None

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Motion By:** Wessell to approve the August 24, 2022, BOH meeting minutes.

**Seconded By:** Sauer

**Voice Vote:** 5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused **Motion carried**

**Approval of the Agenda:**

**Motion By:** Sauer to approve the agenda with removing Item 2 until a later date.

**Seconded By:** Nye

**Voice Vote:** 5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused **Motion carried**

**Public Comment –** None

**Health Officer Update –** Dan Thorell

A written report was distributed prior to the meeting for review. Please refer to it for details. Thorell discussed the reinstatement of the public health accreditation program after a pause because of the COVID response. Benzie-Leelanau DHD accreditation will be held in September of 2024.

Thorell gave an update on the health officer search. The Health Department of Northwest Michigan's Board of Health has agreed to evaluate the existing interim health officer for the permanent health officer position. The selection would be contingent on the evaluation and background check.

Thorell gave a brief update on the environmental health sanitary code. It is a code that was adopted in 1972 and there are several things that need to be updated. Agency attorney, Jim Young, is also looking at the legality of the code. Discussion focused on the timeline of review, public hearings, and adoption of the updated code. Johnston also gave an update on the status of the sanitary code.

The Health Department's 2021 Annual Report was distributed. Thorell and Klein will be attending County Commissioners' meetings to present the Annual Report.

#### **Accounts Payable**

**Motion By:** Sauer to approve accounts payable and pay the bills in the amount of \$187,624.50

**Seconded By:** Kuiper

**Roll Call Vote:** Sauer- yea, Nye- yea, Conley- yea, Wessell- yea, Kuiper - yea  
**5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried**

#### **August 2022 Financial Statements**

**Motion By:** Sauer to accept the financial statements as presented.

**Seconded By:** Wessell

**Roll Call Vote:** Sauer- yea, Nye- yea, Conley- yea, Wessell- yea, Kuiper - yea  
**5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried**

#### **Office Closure for Annual Staff Meeting on December 2, 2022**

**Motion By:** Connelly to close the BLDHD offices on December 2, 2022 for an all-day staff meeting.

**Seconded By:** Sauer

**Voice Vote:** 5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused **Motion carried**

#### **Amended FY 2022 Budget**

**Motion By:** Sauer to approve the budget amendment for FY 2022 with the addition of revised category line items and eliminating the Other Expenses line item.

**Second By:** Wessell

**Roll Call Vote:** Sauer- yea, Nye- yea, Conley- yea, Wessell- yea, Kuiper - yea  
**5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried**

**Discussion:** Focused on what expenses comprise in the Other line item of the budget. This line item is a large portion of the budget to not have it detailed on what expenses make up the total. Putney agreed to separate out the Other line item expenses into two or three specifically named line items.

#### **Proposed FY2023 Budget**

**Motion By:** Sauer to approve the FY 23 budget with the addition of revised category line items and eliminating the Other Expenses line item.

**Second By:** Wessell

**Roll Call Vote:** Sauer- yea, Nye- yea, Conley- yea, Wessell- yea, Kuiper - yea  
**5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried**

**Discussion:** Focused on revenues and expenses between FY 22 final budget amendment and FY 23 proposed budget. Putney explained that COVID funding and activity is unknown at this time. Environmental health permit revenue may also be lower based on what the economy does. The budget is presented as to what is/was known at the end of August. Changes to the budget will come in the form of amendments.

**Staff Reports:**

**Medical Director** – Dr. Joshua Meyerson

Dr. Meyerson gave a verbal update highlighting flu season and flu vaccinations. The CDC has recommended those 65 years and older should get the higher dose flu vaccine to have better protection. Bivalent COVID 19 booster dose is available. This is the first booster vaccine that is comprised of ½ of the original strain and the other ½ containing the current B4 and B5 strains.

**Personal Health** – Michelle Klein

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. Klein highlighted that a social worker has been hired for the Benzie School Wellness Program and starts next week. The Health Department will be posting for a mental health provider for the Leelanau Early Childhood program. Klein mentioned that Harm Reduction has a box outside the Benzie office building where people can pick up Narcan for those who need it. Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is releasing funding opportunities for school wellness programs in November and January. The Health Department is looking to partner with other agencies to provide a couple different means of services for the smaller schools within our district. It was mentioned that immunization rates have increased from July to August.

**Environmental Health** – Eric Johnston

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. Johnston reported that the Beach Monitoring program is now complete. Johnston highlighted the Non Community Water Supply Program Group report that shows the program is significantly underfunded and understaffed. This report was sent to the Chief Deputy Director of EGLE on September 12, 2022. The goal of this report is to generate increased funding in future budget years.

**Administrative** – Dodie Putney

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details.

**Public Comment** – None.

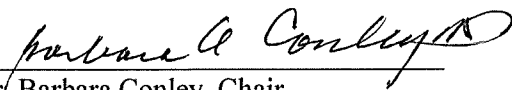
**Board Comments** – Sauer reported that Centra Wellness Network will be paying for two part-time social workers to work with the Benzie County Sheriff's Department to help train deputies on how to deal with escalating situations. It is hoped this will result in getting people the help they need rather than going right to jail.

**Adjourn:**

**Motion By:** Sauer to adjourn the BOH meeting at 4:19 p.m.

**Second By:** Kuiper

**Voice Vote:** 5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused **Motion carried**

  
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Dr. Barbara Conley, Chair

  
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Dodie Putney, Recording Secretary