

**BENZIE-LEELANAU DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Wednesday, June 28, 2023 2:00 p.m.
Leelanau County Government Center
6527 E Government Center
Suttons Bay MI 49682**

Chairperson Gary Sauer called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Gary Sauer - Benzie 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
Ty Wessell – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

Members Absent: None

Members Excused: None

Staff Present:

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

Staff Excused: Michelle Klein - Director of Personal Health

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes:

Motion By: Wessell to approve the May 24, 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: Nye
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. Governmental and private grants are used to offset the cost of providing public health programs. BLDHD searches for these to help reduce the amount of local appropriations that are needed to fund all of the services that are provided through the health department. Last year, eleven percent of BLDHD’s budget was local appropriations, the rest of the budget was funded by grants and governmental funds. Typically, when a grant becomes available to apply for, the window of application is around 30 to 60 days from the initial release date. When entities discover the grants the amount of time to apply is reduced due to the fact the application

process has already begun. It was asked if BLDHD has a target of how many grants/grant dollars to apply for each year. BLDHD does not have a set goal to reach each year. Various grants become available at different times of the year and new ones that were not planned can become available. Before BLDHD applies for a grant the Administrative Team will review to see if the purpose of the grant fits the mission of the Department and if it is feasible for BLDHD to provide the services that the grant is for. If and how much of local appropriations that may be needed to be contributed to operate the grant, is also factored into the decision process for if a grant should be applied for or not. If a grant may provide controversial services, it would be brought to the BOH before being applied for. Many BOH members would like to know which grants are being applied for and how do the grants financially affect BLDHD. It was agreed that a monthly list of grants that are being applied for/had been applied for and awarded will be provided to the BOH. This report would include if and how much of any local appropriation funding would be needed to administer the grant.

It was asked if the State was looking at demographics as they are planning budgets for various programs. The population is aging, and fewer babies are being born. The State and local health departments should begin to investigate providing services for aging groups on how to deal with chronic illness.

There was a press release sent out earlier in the day about the poor air quality due to the smoke from the Canadian wildfires.

Accounts Payable

Motion By: Nye to approve accounts payable and pay the bills in the amount of \$144,883.71.

Seconded By: Wessell

Roll Call Vote: Sauer- yea, Conley- yea, Kuiper – yea, Allgaier -yea, Nye – yea, Wessell - yea
6 yeas 0 nay 0 excused **Motion carried**

May 2023 Financial Statements

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

Seconded By: Allgaier

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

Staff Reports:

Medical Director – Dr. Joshua Meyerson

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. Rabies usually effects bats, skunks, racoons, foxes and domestic pets. Heavily populated areas generally will show more signs of positive rabies cases due to the fact there is more human contact with possibly infected mammals. If a dog or a cat is suspected of rabies the best way to determine is to quarantine the animal for ten days. If they are rabid, they would naturally pass away within that time frame. If they do not die, they then do not have rabies. If a mammal is going to bite to transmit the disease, they are towards the end stages of the disease, which they will die within ten days.

Environmental Health – Eric Johnston

A report was distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Please refer to it for details. It was asked why do wells fail. The top two reasons are: the well was placed too close to the septic system, or it was damaged during some construction process or hit by a snow plow during the winter. If the well head or casing is damaged and cannot be repaired, the well fails. If an old well does not meet today's code but it does not pose any health risks, it will be grandfathered in. Once there is an issue with the well, it will need to be replaced. Occasionally, a well will have issues with E Coli or nitrates and then the well will need to be replaced.

Johnston spoke at a phone conference with a local realtors' group to answer questions that they had with the new septic ordinance that went into effect in January. The statewide sanitary code is still at the Committee level. The bill sponsors slowed down the passing of the bills as they received feedback from local health departments and others with interest of what infrastructure will need to be put into place to make the bill successfully work. The bill is in the process of having sections of it reworded.

Administrative – Dodie Putney

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. MALPH has been awarding local health departments a \$4,000 grant for employee wellness. The grant this year will be used for an employee picnic. This will be held on August 16, 2023 at the Almira Township park after hours. It was discussed how many funding sources do not allow for any promotional items to be given out. A few will allow for educational items to be distributed to the public. It was discussed if some local appropriations could be used to purchase tick removers, magnets that have safe internal meat temperatures with BLDHD's logo printed on them to be given out at outreach events. An RFP for the annual audit is going out and is due on July 31, 2023. The Leelanau County Administrator notified BLDHD that there are a few more contractors now interested in bidding on the remodel project at the Leelanau County Government Building to create space for the Environmental Health Department.

Public Comment – None.

Board Comments – None

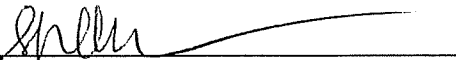
Adjourn:

Motion By: Sauer to adjourn the BOH meeting at 3:18 p.m.

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



Gary Sauer, Chair



Shelley Jablon, Recording Secretary