

**BENZIE-LEELANAU DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Wednesday, March 24, 2021 2:00 p.m.
Via Microsoft Teams**

Chairperson Dr. Barbara Conley called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.

Members Present:

Gary Sauer - Benzie County Board of Commissioners
Rhonda Nye – Benzie County Board of Commissioners
Dr. Mark Kuiper – Benzie County Member at Large
William Bunek – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Patricia Soutas-Little – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Dr. Barbara Conley – Leelanau County Member at Large

Members Absent: None

Members Excused: None

Staff Present:

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

Guests Present: Ken Talsma, Anderson, Tackman & Company, PLC

Pledge of Allegiance: It was agreed to dispense with the pledge of alliance today due to the meeting being held via video conference.

Approval of Minutes:

Motion By: Bunek to approve the Regular Board of Health Meeting of January 27, 2021.

Seconded By: Nye

Roll Call Vote: Sauer-Yea, Kuiper-Yea, Nye-Yea, Conley-Yea, Bunek- Yea, Soutas-Little- Yea
6 yeas 0 nay 0 excused Motion carried

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion By: Bunek to approve agenda as presented.

Seconded By: Sauer

Roll Call Vote: Sauer-Yea, Kuiper-Yea, Nye-Yea, Conley-Yea, Bunek- Yea, Soutas-Little- Yea
6 yeas 0 nay 0 excused Motion carried

Audit Report: Ken Talsma from Anderson Tackman reviewed the audit report for fiscal year 2019/2020. The audit has been given an unmodified opinion which means that financial statements have been presented, in all material respects, in accordance with the financial reporting framework.

Motion By: Sauer to accept the Fiscal Year 2019/2020 audit report as presented.

Seconded By: Soutas-Little

Roll Call Vote: Sauer-Yea, Kuiper-Yea, Nye-Yea, Conley-Yea, Bunek- Yea, Soutas-Little- Yea
6 yeas 0 nay 0 excused Motion carried

Public Comment – None

Health Officer Update – Lisa Peacock

Written Public Health Statement was distributed for review prior to the meeting. Current COVID update given, with details on pandemic risk indicators and information regarding updates on vaccinations for the community.

Accounts Payable

Motion By: Sauer to approve accounts payable and pay the bills.

Seconded By: Soutas-Little

Roll Call Vote: Sauer-Yea, Kuiper-Yea, Nye-Yea, Conley-Yea, Bunek- Yea, Soutas-Little- Yea
6 yeas 0 nay 0 excused **Motion carried**

February 2021 Financial Statements

Motion By: Soutas-Little to accept the financial statements as presented.

Seconded By: Nye

Roll Call Vote: Sauer-Yea, Kuiper-Yea, Nye-Yea, Conley-Yea, Bunek- Yea, Soutas-Little- Yea
6 yeas 0 nay 0 excused **Motion carried**

Discussion on future Board of Health Meetings

After discussion it has been decided that the next Board of Health meeting in May will take place at the Leelanau County Governmental Center, for in person meeting.

Staff Reports:

Medical Director – Dr. Joshua Meyerson

Dr. Meyerson spoke about the variant of the B117 strain. He stated that we are beginning to see more and more cases of the of the variant strain which will continue to become more predominant. The difference of this strain is that we are seeing more positive cases of the new strain, than previously with the first COVID strain.

Meyerson recommends continuing to use the safety precautions that we have put in place in the last year. Meyerson said that how far we have come in just 3 months of vaccinating, it is exciting to see the progress we have made already. Meyerson encourages getting the vaccine, as it is no cost to the public for the vaccination, as it is funded by our Federal Government.

Personal Health – Michelle Klein

Written report distributed prior to the meeting for review. Klein started with acknowledgment to all staff and volunteers who have stepped up to keep vaccination clinics running.

Update on the health department's immunization program provided. Klein said that all recommended vaccines are available for children and most for adults, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay.

Discussion about mental health resources in the community and efforts that are underway to improve access. Two grants are in being written to support a full time, school based mental health provider in Leelanau and Benzie county. A mental health sub-committee has been formed through Parenting Communities of Leelanau County to address needs for pregnant women and families with children under age 6.

Environmental Health – Eric Johnston

Johnston briefed on the changing of service areas for the Sanitarian's, being adjusted to effectively distribute workload, for all Sanitarians.

Other topics of discussion included the Little Traverse Lake Waterfront Properties Pilot Mapping Project, COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic assistance from the Environmental Health division, Benzie Long Term Care Facility update on Legionella Remediation, Environmental Health program efficiency updates, as well as License and Inspection Fees for Facilities who paid permit fees in 2020 but did not operate for business in 2020.

Administrative – Dodie Putney

Written report distributed prior to meeting for review. Putney's report briefed on the audit with Anderson Tackman, finances, human resources, technology, building management, purchasing, and billing.

Public Comment – None

Board Comments – None

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 3:32 pm

Barbara Conley M.D.

Dr. Barbara Conley, Chair

Renee Youker

Renee Youker, Recording Secretary