

**BENZIE-LEELANAU DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Wednesday, May 22, 2024 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
Ty Wessell – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners
Dr. Mark Kuiper – Benzie County Member at Large – arrived at 2:14 p.m.
Gwenne Allgaier – Leelanau County Board of Commissioners

Members Excused:

Art Jeannot – Benzie 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
Dan Thorell – Health Officer

Staff Excused: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes:

Motion By: Wessell to approve the April 24, 2024, BOH meeting minutes.

Seconded By: Conley

Voice Vote: 4 yeas 0 nay 1 excused **Motion carried**

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion By: Conley to approve the agenda with Item 2. C. Health Officer Resolution Discussion becoming an action item.

Seconded By: Wessell

Voice Vote: 4 yeas 0 nay 1 excused **Motion carried**

Public Comment

Richard Lewis, the Interim Leelanau County Administrator introduced himself to the BOH. Dr. David Quimby introduced himself and expressed interest in joining the BOH.

Health Officer Update- Dan Thorell

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. BLDHD is scheduled to complete their Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation. It generally is done every three years but had been postponed due to Covid. The last accreditation cycle that had been completed was in 2019. The accreditation process began in the late 1990s. This is the eighth cycle of this process. The essential services (Food Service, Wastewater, Communicable Disease Control, Immunizations, HIV/STD, Hearing/Vision, and Children’s Special Health Care Services) are the programs that are audited during the

general accreditation process, this is to ensure that there are no deficiencies in the services being provided. The additional services that are provided are audited through different accreditation processes; these are generally completed in a one-to-three-year review cycle. The Public Health Accreditation is scheduled to begin in late September this year. For the review, the Plan of Organization needs to be approved by the BOH at least 60 days prior to the site visit. This document will be brought to the BOH in the July meeting for approval. Local health departments are not charged to have a Michigan Local Public Health Accreditation audit performed. If a local health department decided to be nationally accredited, there would be a fee associated with that audit.

A presentation on the Community Connections programs was planned to be given at the Northern Caucus Dinner that was scheduled for May 8, 2024. There was a slight change of plans, and a brief presentation was given at the “White House” to several Representatives and Senators. The program was well received, and it was suggested that additional meetings be scheduled to discuss budget needs. Also, a quarterly newsletter is being discussed to send to legislators, so they are aware of what the Community Connection programs are accomplishing and what they need to stay successful.

Accounts Payable

Motion By: Conley to approve accounts payable and pay the bills in the amount of \$309,063.73.

Seconded By: Wessell

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

April Financial Statements

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

Seconded By: Allgaier

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

Health Officer Resolution

Motion By: Conley to approve the Resolution Authorizing Benzie-Leelanau District Health Department’s Board of Health to Hire a Full-Time Health Officer.

Seconded By: Allgaier

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

Discussion: A letter will need to be written to the HDNW BOH to terminate the contract for the Health Officer position. The letter will be reviewed by the attorney and sent by registered mail. The BOH Chair will call the HDNW BOH Chair to notify him of the letter that was sent and clarify that this is just for the Health Officer position, BLDHD would like to retain the Medical Director position contract with HDNW. A job description will be drafted and posted. Once a candidate is selected this person will need to be approved by MDHHS.

Succession Planning

Putney announced that she will be retiring on March 1, 2025. It is planned to have the Director of Administrative Services position posted in July, interviews in August and have the new hire start in October. Workforce Development funding will be used to fund this position through the transition period. The Personal Health Director position is the next position that will be reviewed in depth for a succession plan for when Klein retires.

County Appropriations

BLDHD will not be requesting an increase in the County Appropriations for the 2025 fiscal year. The fund balance is at a healthy level and currently there is a decent revenue flow coming in from billing for services and State reimbursements.

Staff Reports:

Medical Director – Dr. Joshua Meyerson

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. The Avian Flu currently has not been detected in humans in Michigan yet. There has only been one person identified with it so far, and the person was located in Texas. The Health Department does have kits to test for the Avian Flu, they are to be used for anyone who has been exposed to the virus. The samples from this kit must be sent to the State of Michigan laboratory for testing.

Personal Health – Michelle Klein

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. Deb Aldridge was asked to speak at the MALPH conference in Saginaw in June about the Community Connections program. BLDHD received the Michigan Health Endowment Grant, it is a two-year grant that totals \$150,000. This will help fund the CHIR programs. Medicaid and Medicare will now allow billing for CHIR services.

The State of Michigan completed their review of the School Wellness Programs that BLDHD is managing. The programs received high ratings. The Benzie County Substance Prevention Groups have partnered with BLDHD for the Secure Your Stash campaign. Free lock boxes and bags will be distributed through out the area for individuals to lock up their marijuana products and other prescription drugs.

Environmental Health – Eric Johnston

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. Beach monitoring will begin on June 12, 2024 and it will run through September 4, 2024. Additional funding was granted this year, and an additional beach was added, Van's Beach. The grant that has been providing the monitoring is only for Lake Michigan beaches. The Village of Beulah elected to pay to have Beulah Beach monitored. It was asked who decides what beaches get monitored along the Lake Michigan coastline and it is the Watershed Center Grand Traverse Bay.

The number of food licenses that were issued this year went down. The main reason why was some restaurants decided not to open this year due to the lack of employees. Alex Lance, one of BLDHD's Sanitarians, attended the vector-borne disease training hosted by MDHHS. This fall it will be researched to see if it is feasible for the BLDHD to perform tick drags, to get a better understanding of the number of the pests that are truly out there. To help reduce the chances of being bitten by a tick, clothing can be pretreated with permethrin. This product can be purchased over the counter and people can treat their clothing at home to help repel ticks from their bodies. Thorell will be on the news show, The Four, discussing Lyme's disease.

Administrative – Dodie Putney

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. A short presentation was given on the type of training that Wyant Technologies provides to all staff members of BLDHD. The training pertains to cyber security. Cyber threats are serious, BLDHD's deductible for any cyber issues is \$25,000, so it is not taken lightly. The liability insurance also requires that there is a cyber security plan in place.

Public Comment – None

Board Comments - None


Adjourn

Motion By: Sauer to adjourn the BOH meeting at 4:01 p.m.

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



Gary Sauer, Chair



Shelley Jablon, Recording Secretary