

**BENZIE-LEELANAU DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING  
Wednesday, October 23, 2024 2:00 p.m.  
Benzie Resource Center – Ingemar Johansson Conference Room  
6051 Frankfort Hwy.  
Benzonia, MI 49616**

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

**Members Present:**

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

**Members Absent:** None

**Members Excused:**

Art Jeannot – Benzie County Board of Commissioners

**Staff Present:**

Dodie Putney – Director of Administrative Services  
Eric Johnston – Director of Environmental Health  
Dan Thorell – Health Officer  
Michelle Klein - Director of Personal Health

**Staff Excused:**

Dr. Joshua Meyerson – Medical Director

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of September 25, 2024 Regular Board of Health Meeting Minutes:**

**Motion By:** Conley to approve the September 25, 2024 BOH meeting minutes.

**Seconded By:** Wessell

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

**Approval of October 9, 2024 Special Board of Health Meeting Minutes:**

**Motion By:** Conley to approve the October 9, 2024 Special BOH meeting minutes.

**Seconded By:** Wessell

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

**Approval of the Agenda:**

**Motion By:** Conley to approve the agenda with the addition of G. Medical Director Contract under Personnel and Finance Committee.

**Seconded By:** Wessell

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

**Public Comment**

Sanna Johnson was introduced as the new Accountant I and will be taking over the Recording Secretary duties for the BOH in November.

**Health Officer Update – Dan Thorell**

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. BLDHD finished the accreditation cycle and passed. There were some recommendations to improve a few areas of service, and it was asked if some of BLDHD’s practices could be shared because the policies and procedures were outstanding. BLDHD and Health Department District #10 applied and received the SCOOP grant. The two agencies will be co-sharing the grant to pilot this the new program. This grant is to assist senior citizens with chronic pain and loneliness. The University of Michigan is spearheading this project.

Thorell is going to Lansing to discuss draft number nine of the Statewide Septic Code on October 24, 2024.

**Accounts Payable**

**Motion By:** Conley to approve accounts payable and pay the bills in the amount of \$359,376.96.

**Seconded By:** Allgaier

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

**5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried**

**New Environmental Health Software**

**Motion By:** Sauer to approve the purchase and installation of the new Environmental Health software, Fetch.

**Seconded By:** Wessell

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

**5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried**

**Office Closure on December 6, 2024 for All Staff Meeting**

**Motion By:** Sauer to close the BLDHD offices on December 6, 2024 for the open enrollment/staff meeting.

**Seconded By:** Wessell

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

**5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried**

**Contract for Medical Director**

**Motion By:** Wessell to approve the amended Medical Director contract with the revisions that were discussed in the Personnel and Finance Committee meeting with Exhibits one, two and three to be updated and included.

**Seconded By:** Allgaier

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

**5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried**

**Discussion:** The exhibits that were discussed in the meeting need be created and added to the contract. The part that was stressed as needing to be added to the contract was that BLDHD shall immediately communicate any unsatisfactory performance by the Medical Director to HDNWM and HDNWM shall immediately communicate any unsatisfactory performance or intent to terminate the Medical Director to BLDHD’s BOH.

**Staff Reports:**

**Medical Director – Dr. Joshua Meyerson**

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. The Government considers a person to be fully vaccinated if all recommended vaccinations have been given to an individual. If a person declines one of the recommended vaccinations, that person is not considered to be fully vaccinated. With this standard, the rate of vaccination may appear lower than what really is. Senate Bill 875, will require more vaccinations for children entering school.

**Personal Health** – Michelle Klein

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. Medicaid increased the amount that they will reimburse for administering vaccines. The fee schedule has been adjusted to accommodate this. Pneumonia/pertussis is on the rise with school age children. The vaccine for this is given in the DTap vaccine, which also contains the vaccine for tetanus and diphtheria. BLDHD will be participating in a state opportunity to offer over the counter oral contraceptives. Our Family Planning program was discontinued in 2023, but we still offer free STI testing and treatment and pregnancy testing.

**Environmental Health** – Eric Johnston

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. The number of permits and applications that were processed rose 3.7% in 2024 from 2023.

**Administrative** – Dodie Putney

The fiscal year 2024 is in the process of being closed out. The fiscal year 2024 financial audit is scheduled for January 6, 2025.

**Public Comment** – None

**Board Comments** – It was discussed that once Thorell officially becomes the full-time Health Officer that a public announcement should be placed in the local newspapers describing BLDHD's services.

**Adjourn:**

**Motion By:** Sauer to adjourn the BOH meeting at 3:35 p.m.

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



Gary Sauer, Chair



Shelley Jablon, Recording Secretary