

**BENZIE-LEELANAU DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Wednesday, August 28, 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 2:05 pm.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent: None

Members Excused:

Dr. Mark Kuiper – Benzie County Member at Large

Staff Present:

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

Staff Excused: None

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of July 30, 2024 Personnel and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes:

Motion By: Conley to approve the July 30, 2024 Personnel and Finance Committee meeting minutes.

Seconded By: Wessell

Voice Vote: 5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried

Approval of July 30, 2024 Regular Board of Health Meeting Minutes:

Motion By: Jeannot to approve the July 30, 2024 BOH meeting minutes.

Seconded By: Wessell

Voice Vote: 5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion By: Wessell to approve the agenda as presented.

Seconded By: Jeannot

Voice Vote: 5 yeas 0 nay 1 excused Motion carried

Public Comment

Diane Tracey gave a brief presentation on the mission and future project that the Benzie Wellness and Aquatic Center is working on. The organization is in the planning phase of potentially opening a community recreation center at the old Crystal Lake Elementary School. They are in the process of going through the steps of due diligence to see if the building site is suitable for the project. The

project will have two pools, a walking track, an exercise/fitness space, basketball and pickleball courts, locker rooms and function space with a space for drop-in child watch for adults using the facility. It will be modeled after the YMCA in Traverse City.

Health Officer Update – Dan Thorell

A presentation was given on how the finances for local health departments is structured. The presentation went into detail on how BLDHD’s revenues were obtained. 59% of the revenue recognized was from Federal and State grants. County appropriations were 9% of the 2023 fiscal year budget, fees collected were 28% and other sources of income compiled 4% of the budget. Approximately \$14.57 of local taxes created \$153.90 in revenue for BLDHD to use for various services. It was asked if a press release could be created from this presentation and given to the local newspapers to share how tax money is being spent.

Statewide Septic Code Resolution

Motion By: Allgaier to approve the Resolution Supporting a Statewide Onsite Wastewater Treatment Code as amended.

Seconded By: Jeannot

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

Discussion: An amended draft was shared with the BOH, there was discussion on changing a few words within the document.

Accounts Payable

Motion By: Conley to approve accounts payable and pay the bills in the amount of \$248,320.28.

Seconded By: Allgaier

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

July 2024 Financial Statements

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

Seconded By: Conley

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

Hiring Health Officer

Motion By: Conley for the BLDHD BOH to offer the position of Health Officer to Dan Thorell, negotiations to be conducted by Sauer.

Seconded By: Allgaier

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

Staff Reports:

Medical Director – Dr. Joshua Meyerson

Tick bites tend to cause more acute illnesses than long-term illness. It is not the bite itself that causes the illnesses but the bacteria that the ticks carry that cause the illnesses. Currently, the official Covid case count is through lab reports, not from individuals contacting the local health departments to report the results of their home tests. The labs would receive the Covid tests from doctors’ offices, hospitals and other health care facilities that send their test kits to a lab for results. Starting on September 25, 2025, BLDHD will be hosting respiratory clinics. These will offer vaccinations for Covid, flu, RSV and pneumonia.

Personal Health – Michelle Klein

A report was distributed prior to the meeting. Please refer to it for details. The School Wellness sites are required to see 250 children per year. Our smaller school districts were given a reprieve on this requirement for a couple of years, as the programs began as the school year began last year. Children from school districts that do not have a school wellness program, and home-schooled children can receive services at the site of a school wellness program. These children count towards the number of patients that need to be seen in a year. The first State site visit for this program will be in November at the Benzie Central School site.

The millage for the Leelanau Early Childhood program passed on the August ballot. It is approved for another five years. MDHHS completed the HIV/STI Site Visit, and everything passed. It was asked if HIV is as much of a concern as it used to be. There are better medications to treat the disease and more awareness about it. Individuals can be tested for free at the health department. BLDHD is working with Harm Reduction to spread the awareness of the free testing to their clients.

Environmental Health – Eric Johnston

A presentation was given on how septic systems work. It was asked what constitutes a temporary campground. It is five or more camp sites (campers or tents) that will be on a property, a license for a temporary campground can be given for up to two weeks.

Administrative – Dodie Putney

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

Public Comment – None

Board Comments – Next month the Personnel and Finance Committee needs to start reviewing through the Medical Director contract.

Adjourn:

Motion By: Sauer to adjourn the BOH meeting at 3:40 p.m.

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



Gary Sauer, Chair



Shelley Jablon, Recording Secretary