



Story County Board of Health

MINUTES

DATE: June 2, 2009
CALL TO ORDER: 4:30 p.m.
LOCATION: Administration Building
900 Sixth Street, Nevada

Jane Halliburton, Chair	2010
John Kluge	2011
John Paschen, V. Chair	2011
Mark Speck	2009
Dorathy Twedt	2009

ADJOURNMENT: 5:38 p.m. *Absent

OTHER PEOPLE PRESENT: Don Nolting, Director; Cathy Bazylinski, Environmental Specialist; Margaret Cemashko Jaynes, Environmental Specialist; Angie Huisman, Recording Secretary; Denise Denton; Terri Olinger; Eileen Mullan

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA Speck / Kluge (MCU)

1. Approval of March 3, 2009 Minutes
 2. Approval of Agenda
 3. Affirm the action of the chair signing the FY09 Local Public Health Services Contract #5889CO85 2nd amendment on March 13, 2009.
 4. Affirm the action of the chair signing the FY09 Local Public Health Services Contract #5889CO85 3rd amendment on March 31, 2009.
 5. Affirm signature of Chair for the Healthy Communities Initiative Grant Program FY10 on April 22, 2009
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PUBLIC FORUM: Opened: 4:31 p.m. – Closed: 4:31 p.m.
None.

ADDITIONAL ITEMS:

1. H1N1 Virus Update – Eileen Mullan

Ms. Eileen Mullan, Director of Homeward, thanked the Board and staff for their involvement.

Ms. Mullan summarized the timeline of events in which action took place regarding the H1N1 virus.

Ms. Mullan described the involvement with the Iowa State University (ISU) Pandemic Committee regarding a probable case involving a student.

Ms. Mullan described the initial meeting of the Story County Pandemic Committee, as well as the meeting that occurred after the case of H1N1 was confirmed by ISU, noting that at each meeting of the Committee a Board of Health member was present.

Ms. Mullan added that regular news releases and emails were sent out to keep people informed.

Ms. Mullan explained the amount of antivirals distributed to the County, as well as the distribution, tracking and storage of them.

Ms. Mullan described the type and distribution of the PPE supplies received.

Ms. Mullan expressed her overall satisfaction with the pandemic plan and its implementation.

Ms. Mullan added that the use of the plan will negate the need for an exercise of the plan this summer.

Dr. John Paschen asked for the total amount of doses of antiviral received. Ms. Terri Olinger replied that 2,150 doses were received. Further discussion about the amount of each type of antiviral and total cases thereof was discussed.

Ms. Halliburton asked if there were any issues with storing the antivirals. Ms. Mullan replied that they did not have any issues and that they used the planned secure area. Ms. Olinger commented on the surprising volume of antiviral received on a pallet and how fast the planned area filled up. Ms. Mullan added that consideration will be given to the potential need for storing many pallets.

Dr. Paschen commented that he was impressed with the meeting he attended and congratulated Homeward on their success.

Ms. Halliburton commented on the practice received during the Norovirus outbreak in 2006 during the Special Olympics, adding that the coordination and understanding attained were very helpful. Ms. Mullan agreed, adding that she felt that coordination was improved this time. Further discussion regarding the storage of many pallets of medical supplies continued.

Dr. Paschen asked what measures other counties were taking. Ms. Mullan was unsure how other counties handled the H1N1 virus, noting that others have not had the great communication that Story County did.

Ms. Olinger and Dr. Pachen compared the H1N1 virus to the Norovirus.

Ms. Olinger described the high volume of cases identified in Marshall County and the stress on their resources. Further discussion regarding Marshall County and comparisons to Story County occurred.

Ms. Mullan added that multiple emails were received from other counties comparing preparation methods. Ms. Halliburton commented on the close communication with Marshall County and the steps taken to set up alternate site clinics and prevent a major outbreak.

Mr. Mark Speck asked if additional cases of the flu are being identified. Ms. Olinger replied that two additional cases were reported at McFarland Clinic and that the direction of the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) was that no further follow-up investigations were required.

Mr. Speck and Dr. Paschen asked if the antiviral was given as treatment. Ms. Olinger did not know the particulars of those cases. Dr. Paschen added that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) has recommended holding off on treatment unless the patient is at risk of complications or is hospitalized.

Dr. Paschen also added that a limitation is that only one laboratory, the University of Iowa, is performing the tests, therefore restrictions have been implemented to whom will be tested.

Mr. Speck asked if a faster test is available on site. Dr. Paschen explained that a rapid test is not available yet and the existing test is not completely accurate.

2. FY10 Local Public Health Services Contract – Eileen Mullan

Ms. Mullan explained that the contract is not in place yet and that an email was received from the state informing them that they are very close to distributing the FY10 funds and that the delay was due to additional money becoming available through the stimulus plan.

Ms. Mullan described the re-appropriation and reductions in funding.

3. Status of Board of Health Requests

Ms. Halliburton explained her phone communication with Dr. Hill of ISU and that no special meeting has been set up yet.

Ms. Halliburton distributed a document from the ISU website regarding their health insurance program and suggested the Board review the information to help frame their questions.

Dr. Paschen commented on the lack of information regarding insurance requirements for families. Ms. Halliburton acknowledged the concern.

QUARTERLY REPORTS & DISCUSSIONS:

1. Story County Health Department Regular Report – Don Nolting

Mr. Don Nolting distributed the report reflecting information since January.

Mr. Nolting described the report, attributing the recent influx of time of transfer inspections to the upcoming state regulation changes.

Mr. Nolting discussed the increased amount of abandoned, deteriorated, and contaminated wells, noting that the new funding has not yet been received and therefore many people are waiting until July to perform the work so that they may apply for reimbursement for some of the expenses through grant funds.

Mr. Nolting described the training activities completed with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) including testing and certification, adding that Ms. Margaret Jaynes missed the second part of the training.

Mr. Nolting expressed concerns with the differences between the current County ordinance and the new State regulations, noting the amount of time likely to be spent explaining and clarifying the time of transfer requirements to property owners. Mr. Nolting added that effort needs to be made to help the public understand as well as attorneys and realtors.

Mr. Nolting described the cell phone policy recently adopted by the Board of Supervisors and its taxable fringe benefit implications to the employees.

Mr. Nolting added that the employees do not want the tax issues for the optional cell phone and that they intend to discontinue their use.

Mr. Nolting explained the benefits of the use of the cell phones, adding that the work load will be directed back to the office instead.

Mr. Nolting further described the options available to employees through the policy and explaining his concerns with each.

Mr. Speck expressed concern as to how the Department will be able to function properly without the use of cell phones. Mr. Nolting reiterated his explanation of the adopted policy, adding that the County opted not to give the option to have County owned cell phones that are accounted for and business only use enforced.

Mr. Speck asked who supplied the phones initially. Mr. Nolting explained the history of the Health Department's cell phone use, including the initial purchase of phones at a discount approximately fifteen (15) years ago. Mr. Speck and Mr. Nolting continued to discuss the cell phone policy and the available options for the Department.

Mr. Speck asked if the Board of Supervisors is able to look at the policy again. Ms. Halliburton explained that the Board of Supervisors adopted the policy that applies to all County departments after holding multiple meetings. Ms. Halliburton also explained the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulation that the County is required to comply with.

Ms. Halliburton offered to distribute the adopted policy to the Board of Health, adding that it was approved by legal counsel and that the Board of Supervisors was required to adopt a policy.

Mr. Nolting explained the differences in County departments and that the Health Department did not have a contract with Verizon and that the process in which payment is sent for multiple accounts has caused issues in the past.

Mr. Nolting expressed concern with the volume of time spent on job sites, the need for good communication, the potential liability of not having a communication method on a remote job site.

Mr. Nolting added that he has his own personal cell phone, but that not all employees do.

Mr. Speck asked if other counties could be consulted. Ms. Halliburton explained that several policies were reviewed and that the adopted policy is not unique, reiterating her offer to provide the policy to the Board of Health.

Ms. Halliburton reiterated that many opportunities were provided to County employees to discuss concerns with the policy prior to its adoption, adding that a policy had to be adopted that was best for the entire county.

Mr. Speck asked if the adoption of the policy was related to budget cuts. Ms. Halliburton replied that it was not and that it was to be compliant with IRS regulations per the recommendation by the State Auditors.

Ms. Dorothy Twedt asked about a complaint in the McCallsburg area listed in his report. Mr. Nolting explained that he had not yet responded to the complaint yet and that when he contacted the Mayor about the two complaints one had already been resolved. Mr. Nolting added that the complaints were regarding junk yard issues and that he anticipates having time to check into it further next month when they are caught up on inspections. Mr. Nolting and Ms. Twedt further discussed the complaint and the fact that the property is owned by the same person as other complaints on file for similar reasons.

Ms. Halliburton corrected the statement on the report regarding travel expenditures being suspended, noting that they have not been suspended and that the Board of Supervisors has asked that employees monitor carefully where travel is required. Ms. Halliburton clarified that travel required for certification and training requirements is still authorized and not suspended.

2. Homeward Regular Report – Eileen Mullan and Terri Olinger

Ms. Mullan distributed the report.

Ms. Mullan discussed the Iowa Healthy Communities Grant, adding that Gregg Wilk with ISU has been subcontracted to handle the details.

Ms. Mullan described the progress on the development of a website for communities to modify and use in which activities can be given and parents may access the site using a password. Ms. Mullan described an example of the Walk to School program in which the parents may log on to the website to check the route the child should be walking and make modifications if the route is not working well. Ms. Mullan continued to describe the programs and available start up kits for communities.

Ms. Mullan discussed the need for a community assessment plan to be completed by 2010, noting that the state has extended the deadline to 2011 and that they have not yet provided details for what the assessment should focus on.

Ms. Mullan summarized the financial report in which they will have utilized all funding available and that the alternate plan is being utilized.

Dr. John Kluge asked if the schools in Story County require lead screening in addition to immunizations prior to enrollment. Ms. Mullan replied they do not. Ms. Margaret Jaynes commented that they do. Dr. Paschen clarified that the requirement is for a lead test prior to admittance to kindergarten or within one year of entering the school system.

Ms. Olinger distributed the report and offered to answer any questions.

Ms. Olinger also clarified the Iowa law for lead testing does not prohibit attendance, but does raise lead poisoning awareness even though some kids in other counties do get overlooked. Ms. Twedt commented on a situation in which the family housing program required screening. Ms. Olinger acknowledged that similar situations exist, clarifying that the children can attend school.

Ms. Olinger affirmed that the H1N1 activities recently will be used as an exercise for CDC funds and that she is in the process of writing the action report.

Ms. Olinger added that she will soon begin planning vaccination clinics.

Ms. Olinger noted that she received an electronic copy of the bioemergency plan and that it is ready to be signed.

Ms. Olinger summarized the updates of the bioemergency plan such as, contact information, isolation and quarantine, and other formatting changes.

Ms. Olinger added that despite her skepticism when writing the plan, it has been used frequently and successfully.

Ms. Olinger described the carry-over funding and how it will be distributed to buy supplies at three of the mass clinic sites, and that they hope additional money will be available at years end to help increase supplies at other sites as well.

Dr. Paschen asked if a vaccination for Hepatitis A will be required for school admittance. Ms. Olinger affirmed that it will be required in approximately one to two years.

3. Youth and Shelter Services Regular Report – Denise Denton

Ms. Denise Denton reported on the very successful combined effort for the drug drop off event recently. Ms. Denton noted that the site was open for four (4) hours and that over twenty-one (21) pounds of pills and over forty (40) liquids were received. Ms. Denton clarified that the drugs were dispensed with the help of the police, National Guard, DEA, pharmacies, and others and were incinerated.

Ms. Denton discussed the recent action of the Prevention Policy Board on the improvement of the paraphernalia law in the City of Ames. Ms. Denton reported that the current regulation is inadequate and outdated, according to the Attorney of the City of Ames. Ms. Denton directed the Board of Health to the article recently published in the Ames Tribune regarding the ease of acquiring paraphernalia. Ms. Denton added that the policy is receiving a final review and that a similar regulation will be recommended to the Board of Supervisors as well. Ms. Denton also noted that both civil and criminal penalties are being looked at as well as the differences between juvenile and adult law.

Ms. Denton summarized the results of the most recent survey as distributed.

Ms. Denton commented on an article published by the University of Georgia regarding drug and alcohol abuse and the recent initiative to lower the drinking age back to eighteen (18). Ms. Denton noted that most of the outcomes such as the increase in unplanned and low birth-weight pregnancies seemed obvious. Dr. Paschen commented on his agreement.

Ms. Halliburton asked Ms. Denton to comment on how accurate the survey results are thought to be. Ms. Denton explained that the reports are anonymous online surveys of approximately ninety-nine thousand youth in Iowa. Ms. Denton also explained the measures taken to assure the accuracy and that the trends and statistics over the thirty (30) years in which the survey has been performed have been consistent.

Dr. Kluge asked if an ongoing depository for prescription medicines has been considered. Ms. Denton explained the complications and requirements of the DEA, concluding that it is not likely. Ms. Denton added that they will continue to work with pharmacies and hold similar disposal programs to help the prescription medicines get disposed of properly.

STAFF COMMENTS:

Ms. Jaynes asked for clarification to whether an individual is needed for the Health Needs Assessment previously described from the environmental health division. Ms. Mullan explained that the details have not yet been determined, but that anyone would be welcome to be involved. Ms. Mullan added that an extensive assessment was performed approximately five (5) years ago and that the same depth would not be required nor would surveys be repeated. Ms. Mullan offered to collect resources and provide the data, and that ISU will be providing assistance as well.

Ms. Halliburton commented on the increased attention and significance on environmental issues since the previous assessment.

Ms. Jaynes asked if the Board has received any legal advice to whether or not the Department should continue to offer the lead inspections for homes free of charge. Ms. Halliburton offered to check on the status of that issue and that it should be placed on the agenda of the next scheduled meeting.

Ms. Jaynes commented that she intends to complete the class for her certification that Mr. Nolting discussed during his presentation.

BOARD COMMENTS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT: 5:38 p.m.

Approval of minutes

Title and date