

WCDHD Board of Health Agenda

February 2, 2022

7:00 pm

7:00 pm **Open Quarter 3 Meeting – President, Scott Gaites** PHAB: 12.2

A regular meeting of the West Central District Health Department Board of Health was convened in open and public session at 7:00 pm at 1225 S Poplar St Suite 100 North Platte. Gaites called the meeting to order at 7:00pm CT. Gaites stated the open meeting act was available if desired. Roll call was taken. Present: Jones, Bruns, Lucas, Arensdorf, Gaites, Haumann, Crisp. Absences: Woodburn- excused, Watson- excused, Moody- excused, Wilson- excused. Others present: Shannon Vanderheiden, Meghan Trevino and Jill Falcon

Review and approve 11/3/2021 meeting minutes PHAB 12.1

Review and approve 12/17/2021 additional meeting minutes

Gaites stated he would entertain a motion to approve the 11/3/21 and 12/17/21 minutes. Arensdorf made motion to approve. No discussion. Bruns seconded. Roll call vote: Aye- Bruns, Lucas, Arensdorf, Gaites, Haumann. Nay- None. Abstain- Jones, Crisp. Motion approved.

Audit Review 2020-2021 FY – Kerry Gustafsson, Dana Cole & Company, LLP PHAB: 11.1

Gaites introduced Kerry Gustafsson from Dana Cole & Company. Gustafsson stated that there are currently no standard changes required for auditing purposes. She stated that throughout the audit process with WCDHD they received full access and cooperation. Gustafsson shared that the revenues came in \$333,000 under, and the expenses came in \$408,000 under. Gustafsson stated that this finding is very common to most health districts. Lucas asked how the Significant Deficiency for Financial Reporting Processes could be eliminated in future audits, and what steps would need to be made? Gustafsson responded that the district would have to produce their own yearend financial with statements with adherence to accounting standards with proper footnotes vs having the auditors helping with completion of these. Gustafsson said that her office would be happy to assist in providing templates and expertise on how to achieve this. Gustafsson stated it is important to know that most health districts have the same findings. Gaites entertained a motion to approve. Motion to approve by Crisp. No discussion. Second by Arensdorf. Roll call vote: Aye- Jones, Bruns, Lucas, Arensdorf, Gaites, Haumann, Crisp. Nay- None. Abstain-None. Motion approved.

Review and approve Qtr 2 (Oct-Dec 2021) Expenses PHAB: 11.1

Gaites introduced this agenda item after the appointment of Rusti Mironenko (see below agenda item with notes)

Vanderheiden referenced documents is in BOH report in financial section page 16. Falcon stated that Health Services had a journal entry to COVID-19 vaccinations due to qtr 1 payments received for COVID-19 vaccinations being accounted for in Health Services; however, with the COVID-19 vaccination grant WCDHD received, all COVID-19 vaccination income needs to be used for COVID-

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19 vaccination expenses, therefore a journal entry was completed in qtr 2 to make this correction.

Gaites asked if any areas needed to be looked at that were not profitable, or if time was still needed to build back up from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Vanderheiden stated that building back from the pandemic is the reason WCDHD is not where we would expect to be. Vanderheiden said that recently there have been several grants that have been passed up by WCDHD due to lack of staffing to perform the required grant activities. Gaites noted that revenue under MHI was down. Falcon explained that was due to the MHI grant ending and entering a year of restructure. The final payment for the MHI Prevention grant was received during the first quarter, after the grant had ended. Vanderheiden stated that the United Way grant previously sought by WCDHD will not be re-applied for this year due to staffing and significant time spent with relatively small amount received.

Vanderheiden stated moving forward WCDHD has applied for grants through CDC for health equity activities related to COVID-19 vaccine to make up the deficit.

Trevino shared information regarding the current COVID-19 grants to include the COVID-19 testing grant, CDC COVID-19 Health Disparities grant with the purpose of helping serve underserved and minority populations, and the CDC COVID-19 vaccination grant that is funneled through the State VFC program.

Gaites asked if the current revenue was covering the expenses, and Trevino stated they are currently. Gaites stated he would entertain the motion to accept the qtr 2 expenditure report for \$665,060.04. Jones made a motion to approve. Haumann seconded. Roll call vote: Aye- Jones, Bruns, Lucas, Arensdorf, Gaites, Haumann, Crisp, Mironenko Nay- None. Abstain- None. Motion approved.

Review Lincoln Co ACA funding expenditures

Vanderheiden stated lengthy discussion is not needed for this, just an update.

Gaites asked Vanderheiden to review for those who were not present at the 12/17/21 meeting. Vanderheiden stated each vendor was listed with the total paid to those individuals and paid by 12/31/21. Falcon showed the amount that was initially requested, and then the amount that was actually paid with funds received. Vanderheiden stated that not everything that was requested was able to be paid fully with ACA funds due to receiving a smaller amount than requested. Vanderheiden shared that one of the funds that was not accounted for was originally was the retirement portion of the retention incentive payment.

Vanderheiden stated that the total had to be increased to cover that amount.

Falcon stated that a journal entry was originally intended to be made for administrative salaries paid prior to the funding approval; however, that amount had to be decreased due to the total amount of funds awarded to WCDHD. Gaites asked if a thank you should be sent to the county. Falcon asked Bruns if there is anything that needs to be sent in. Bruns suggested that Falcon should coordinate with Becky Rossell, with Lincoln County on what is needed to finalize any requirements. Gaites stated that he feels a thank you would be in order since the commissioners worked hard on awarding the funds rather than sending the funds back.

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Approve any newly appointed county board members (if any)

PHAB: 12.1

Gaites moved to this agenda item after the audit review. Gaites introduced Rusti Mironenko, from Arthur County as the newly elected spirited person from Arthur County. Mironenko introduced herself and said she and her family ranch in Arthur County. She stated, she had visited with Wilson who asked her to represent the county at the board level. Gaites stated there has not been a spirited person for Arthur County in years, and he is looking forward to having her on the board. Gaites stated will need a motion to appoint Mironenko as the Arthur County Spirited Person. Motion by Arensdorf and seconded by Lucas. Roll call vote: Aye- Jones, Bruns, Lucas, Arensdorf, Gaites, Haumann, Crisp. Nay- None. Abstain- None. Motion approved.

Election of officer's 2022 FY

PHAB: 12.1

Gaites opened nominations for president. Crisp asked if all individuals currently in office would be okay staying in. Falcon stated that conversation with Watson and Woodburn they both stated if appointed in their absence they would serve. Crisp made a motion to leave all officers the same. Lucas seconded. No further discussion. Roll call vote: Aye-Jones, Bruns, Lucas, Arensdorf, Gaites, Haumann, Crisp, Mironenko. Nay-None. Abstain-None. Motion approved.

Directors Report, Shannon Vanderheiden

PHAB: 12.2

Gaites opened for Vanderheiden Director's Report.

PHAB: 12.3

- Vanderheiden directed all to page 3 of director's report. BinaxNOW onboarding has been taking place throughout the community. This is to allow those who want/need free testing an opportunity to be tested. Jones requested additional BinaxNOW tests. Trevino stated she will send more with Jones at the conclusion of the meeting. Gaites asked Vanderheiden the accuracy of the BinaxNOW rapid antigen test. Vanderheiden advised that they are accurate when used correctly. Vanderheiden shared that BinaxNOW rapid antigen tests are most effective in individuals who have had symptom onset within the last seven days, and less effective in individuals who show no symptoms.
 - Vanderheiden stated WCDHD has a contract with NPHL for PCR testing. Vanderheiden said this provides "gold standard testing" with no need for symptoms, and that these tests can be sequenced. These are collected at the POD located across from Region II by WCDHD staff and sent to NPHL.
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- Vanderheiden stated that very soon WCDHD will have free at home testing available. The contract is not yet finalized at the state level but will be soon. Vanderheiden stated state is working with LHDs to identify different locations to place these for community members to pick up. McPherson County courthouse and WCDHD are the only places currently slated to be points of distribution. These tests can be proctored if the person would like their test to "count". After proctoring, the result goes into the state system and counts towards the positivity rate and can be looked up for documentation purposes. Vanderheiden shared that if a test is positive, but the person didn't proctor, it is not recorded in the state disease system, and they are asked to isolate accordingly. If there is no epi link for the un-proctored positive, no investigation occurs, and there would be no documentation. This plan is being modeled after what Ohio is doing in their libraries with eMed. Many of the Ohio libraries have drive throughs. Like Ohio, Nebraska will have a map at the state level that shows people where they can get home test kits. Vanderheiden shared the hope is that when distributing the test kits people would not come in if they are experiencing symptoms. Vanderheiden stated it is a concern across the state that symptomatic individuals will go to locations and possibly expose others. Vanderheiden stated she is hoping to get a distribution location in all counties. (See SALBOH for additional conversation on at-home test kits)
 - ICATT- Vanderheiden stated that this is a CDC program that works directly with pharmacies to get free tests out to patients. Vanderheiden stated she had conversation with them regarding 5 of WCDHD's counties not having a pharmacy. Vanderheiden is continuing to work with them to see if they will be able to work with WCDHD on an alternative option.
 - POD was put in place in September first testing day was not until December 7, 2021 due to multiple obstacles with power. Vanderheiden said that to date, 2 generators used, but that the City of North Platte is working on getting power directly to the POD.
 - Page 4- COVID vaccines. Vanderheiden shared that vaccines have been given at businesses, schools, power plants, homes, and anywhere asked. Vanderheiden shared that recently WCDHD received a call from a parent to a severely immune compromised individual in an outlying county who had missed several days of school for medical reasons. Arrangements were made to vaccinate the individual in the school setting, and while there, others chose to receive their vaccines.
 - November 4, 2021 was when 5-11y Pfizer received EUA approval. Vanderheiden said that WCDHD is significantly lower in vaccination rates than most areas. Overall rate is 41%. Vanderheiden showed graphs of vaccination rates per age group.
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- Page 5- Vanderheiden stated that the PPE distribution through the state ended 12/31/21; however, state opened the PPE ordering back up through the end of January 2022 due to a significant need with the surge of cases. Vanderheiden stated this order was so large that the state is struggling to find ways to distribute it all. Vanderheiden stated that the majority of PPE has been dispensed to WCDHD's local hospital.
 - Local Data- Vanderheiden stated that on her weekly CDC and UNMC call of 300+ people (Friday LHD reports) 1,984 people were tested, 518 Positive, positivity rate is 26.10%. Cases per 100,000 per week was 1363. 2 deaths during that reporting period. Every week for multiple week. 39.94% vaccination rate at the time of this weekly report.
 - Vanderheiden went over the hospital numbers for 2/2/2022 (22 hospitalized, 4 intubated, 5 ICU status, 1 death 2/1/22). Vanderheiden stated that we currently have more people getting COVID, being hospitalized, and dying than the previous peak. WCDHD has a death rate of 1.6, double the state number.
 - Vanderheiden shared that sequencing is showing 99% of all positives sequenced are Omicron variant. Vanderheiden stated 2 Denmark Omicron variant cases have been seen in the state but are not taking off. Vanderheiden said that NPHL is only sequencing 1-2% due to high numbers. Highest number was 30% sequenced when testing numbers were lowest. Goal of 5% sequencing.
 - Page 7- Hospital decompression, Vanderheiden stated that due to overwhelming numbers of COVID-19 hospitalizations in the state, state has stood up decompression hospitals. 16-36 beds will be available in Lincoln. People will use this as a transition between hospital discharge and returning to LTC. Omaha will have around 32 beds, and Grand Island 30 beds.
 - Antivirals- Vanderheiden stated originally, they were not being used; however, they have increased in demand. Vanderheiden stated that WCDHD had 60 doses of the original two shipments dispersed, and USave received another order yesterday (2/1/22). As of the morning of 2/2/22, 41 courses were available. Vanderheiden stated that she has talked with Dr. Donahue about possible mutations from antiviral use (due to questions received from healthcare providers related to mutation), but no information has been found. Vanderheiden asked Jones to please share any information she may have related to that claim.
 - 2,737 doses of vaccine given. Overall vaccines for the quarter: 1728 COVID, 359 routine, 650 flu.
 - MHI Health Needs Assessment- Vanderheiden said 478 people completed the survey that is tied CDC Health Disparity and MHI grants. Vanderheiden shared the plaque that has been received for Maria Lein, Community Health Worker, and highlighted the work that Maria does for
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the community, and that Maria was only one of three people in the state to receive the Community Health Worker Making A Difference Award. Vanderheiden stated that Ashley Escobar has been hired as bilingual public health receptionist to assist Maria with serving the minority population.

- Vanderheiden stated there is an upcoming SHRM conference in New Orleans in June. Leadership and professional growth and HR resources will be highlighted. Vanderheiden said some administrative staff will be attending.
- Page 12- Vanderheiden directed members to the top left graph that shows vaccination numbers but does not include COVID numbers. She stated the HPV vaccination numbers are also highlighted separately due to an HPV cancer grant WCDHD has. Vanderheiden shared that comparing last year to this year, we have seen an increase however it is not yet where it should be.
- Page 19- Vanderheiden highlighted that most payments seen are from Medicare and BCBS as the main payers. Vanderheiden stated that self-pay shows \$10k; however, \$6k is owed by NPF (still within 30 days of invoice, so in good standing) and payment is expected soon. Vanderheiden said that if a patient does not give an insurance card or provides an incorrect insurance card, WCDHD must write off. The \$12k is from having to write off charges that were not paid by insurance. Vanderheiden stated the bottom section shows the number of visits that occurred during that quarter. She stated that having a payor mix makes a large difference in the amount of funds coming into the health department. Vanderheiden stated that WCDHD must have a payor mix that supports the organization
- Gaites stated he was not asked about his insurance information when he came in for his vaccine. Bruns stated the same. Trevino said that if a patient has been seen at WCDHD before, the insurance would have been on file and checked prior to the patient coming in. Trevino also shared that the check in form has been updated to make the insurance portion stand out more.

Standing Agenda Items

Program/Services Review

See above

Legislature

Vanderheiden stated that LB1138 has been introduced by Sen. Vargas. This bill is regarding ARPA funding for \$16 million to be distributed to local health departments. The first \$10 million will be distributed equally among the health departments, and \$6 million will be distributed based off the size of the department. Vanderheiden stated she has a sample letter of support for the

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funding and asked that the board consider voting to allow Gaites approval to sign once completed. Vanderheiden stated that the bill will go before legislature on March 1, 2022. Gaites asked if it would be helpful to have someone from the board go to the state capital that day to represent the health department and show support. Vanderheiden stated she would be very happy with that. Vanderheiden stated that the letter of support is a draft and would need to be tailored to WCDHD. Vanderheiden asked again that it be considered that Gaites get approval to sign off on the letter.

Bruns asked if Vanderheiden knows how many employees there are across the state that the funds would be distributed between. Vanderheiden stated she does not have that answer but will ask. Vanderheiden stated this is separate ARPA than what cities, etc received. Gaites asked how many LHDs there are in Nebraska. Vanderheiden stated 18.

Gaites asked if there would be anyone wanting to make a motion granting approval to Gaites to sign the letter of support once drafted. Motion by Arensdorf. No discussion. Second by Jones. Roll call vote: Aye-Jones, Bruns, Lucas, Arensdorf, Gaites, Haumann, Crisp, Mironenko, Nay- None. Abstain-None. Motion approved. Motion passed.

Bruns stated that he was surprised by the small amount that is up for distribution in relation to the full amount available.

Strategic Planning

Vanderheiden stated that although she has mentioned it in the past, strategic planning needs to be a priority. Vanderheiden said she will have Colleen Svoboda come out to do strategic planning with the board. Vanderheiden stated this should be done every 5 years and needs to tie in with CHA and CHIP. Vanderheiden stated that all accreditation measures are included in the BOH report. Vanderheiden stated that she is hopeful that Svoboda will assist. Vanderheiden shared that Svoboda is involved in accreditation audits and has a significant background in strategic planning. Vanderheiden stated it will be at least 4-hour session to complete. Vanderheiden asked what the board members would like to have regarding planning. Haumann requested one day rather than two. Jones agreed and said she would like to have it done as efficiently as possible. Lucas stated that his employer has space available at no charge that could be used for the meeting so business would not be disrupted at WCDHD. Vanderheiden stated she will get some dates from Svoboda and let everyone know her availability.

SALBOH

- Vanderheiden stated that for many years SALBOH did not get off the ground but is looking to be grown in the future. She shared that Dr. Brandon Grim, Sarpy Cass Health Department and the College of Public Health is coordinating.

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- For free COVID-19 test kits, Vanderheiden asked where the best places would be to distribute. Gaites said the best place would be courthouses. Crisp stated he was fearful sick people would go into the courthouse. Haumann suggested running ads in the local newspapers and say to call ahead. Vanderheiden stated that one of the concerns with the at home tests is that antigen tests will be used for asymptomatic individuals that have a lower sensitivity. Vanderheiden and Jones stated that they are routinely seeing individuals who are not testing positive until around day 7 after symptom onset. Jones stated they are testing at a much lower rate for flu and COVID this week; however, the last two weeks were skyrocketed. Lucas asked if there would be a concern with people obtaining the test kits at too quickly of a rate. Vanderheiden stated that WCDHD will get around 4,100, and Major Angie Ling will immediately order additional. Jones asked if there would be a limit of tests per person. Vanderheiden said WCDHD will play it by ear and see how the free at home test kits will go over, but priority will be made to those who need the test kits. Gaites said that in his area he foresees people not wanting to pick up the tests because people won't want to be seen getting one. Gaites said that in his area people don't want anyone else to know that they are testing for COVID-19.

(need BOH input to guide, advocate for and engage with the health department on above)

Review and approve policy updates

PHAB: 11.1

Vanderheiden provided a copy of the procurement policy that is currently being revised. She stated the previous procurement policy was last updated in May 2018. Vanderheiden said that in June 2018 CFR changed, so a revised procurement policy is needed to align with current CFR guidelines. Vanderheiden stated this has been a concern for her and Falcon regarding wanting to get this policy updated. Vanderheiden stated that Becky Rayman is assisting WCDHD in updating this policy. Vanderheiden stated that there is a clarifying question that is waiting to be answered regarding the \$10k limit rather than \$50k limit. Vanderheiden stated she would like to have a committee that would assist with the policy before bringing it back to the board. Vanderheiden shared this would be similar structure to how operations were prior to COVID. Vanderheiden stated she will need solid feedback related to procurement policy to make sure it is best fitted for the health department. Vanderheiden asked that all BOH members review and bring forward any questions or suggestions. Falcon said she will be visiting with Becky Rayman on 2/3/22 and asked that if anyone has questions to

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please let her know so she can take that info to the meeting. Gaites stated he will be in town 2/3/22 and will stop in to the health department with any questions.

Possible Executive Session - to protect and assure confidentiality about sensitive matters. Gaites asked if there would be a need for an Executive Session. Vanderheiden said she would request one. Gaites stated he would entertain a motion to begin an Executive Session. Motion by Jones, Second Bruns. Roll call vote: Aye- Jones, Bruns, Lucas, Arensdorf, Gaites, Haumann, Crisp, Mironenko. Nay- None. Abstain- None. Motion approved. Executive Session entered at 8:26pm CT.

PHAB: 11.2

Executive Session ended at 8:48pm CT.

Executive Director Annual Evaluation (?)

Crisp stated the need for getting this completed. Gaites stated that he will have Jones work on evaluation process. Jones asked Falcon if she would assist with contacting individuals. Falcon stated she would.

PHAB: 12.1

Meeting Adjourn

Gaites adjourned the meeting at 8:51pm CT.

Next meeting – May 4, 2022



Lana Watson, BOH Secretary

5-4-2022