



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Lee County Board of Health Report September 12, 2023

The Lee County Board of Health met at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at the Lee County Health Department.

Board members present were Katie White, Dr. William Long, Janice McCoy, Emily Rose, Sue Shippert, & Dr. Shailee Patel. Board members absent were Courtney Kennedy & Dr. Saad Blaney. Also present at the meeting were health department employees Cathy Ferguson-Allen, Lisa Wiggins & Angel Lillpop.

Guests Present: None

President Dr. Long was on call and awaiting a text, so Cathy Ferguson-Allen called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

The minutes for the July 11, 2023 meeting were approved.

Public/Visitor Comments:

None

Monthly Financial Reports:

The July & August Financial Reports and August & September Claims Registers were reviewed and approved.

Administrator's Report:

Cathy informed the board that things have been hectic across the board at the department, but as usual staff have stepped up to meet all the challenges.

She has not yet received LCHDs FY24 levy amount from the county board, so she is holding off on the budget until the November meeting.

She shared two stories-one, a success story with a client who is a very young mother and another regarding a resident who walked in at 4 p.m. the Friday before Labor Day who we were able to assist. One of the things she loves about public health is serving as a community safety net.

We recently had state WIC & Family Case Management (FCM) reviews. No report yet on WIC; FCM had no findings. Congrats to the MCH staff on that. We also had our IDPH Fiscal & Administrative Review and are awaiting that report, but all went well. Thanks to Lisa and Angel for all their prep work for those reviews.

Division Reports

Fiscal & Front Office Services:

Angel provided the board an update on the recent IDHS Fiscal & Administrative review as well as grants being submitted and executed agreements coming in.

Environmental Health:

Cathy provided updates on the EH division. Ashley Poore resigned; Sam Bay is moving into that EH Specialist position. We've hired a new health inspector Amanda Zook; we were fortunate to find someone with food inspection experience. Jen Kolb is heading to Whiteside County Health Department. Cathy is looking for someone who is a licensed environmental health practitioner to fill Jen's position. Of the 7 applicants thus far, none have an LEHP. She may have to hire someone with a bachelor's degree who is willing to pursue an LEHP. In the meantime, she was fortunate to be able to contract for LEHP services through a local retired public health worker.

Community & Personal Health:

Cathy reported for Jenny that Infectious Disease has been extra busy the last several weeks.

Bat cases have increased. We interview residents as needed and determine exposure/refer for post-exposure prophylaxis if exposure can't be ruled out. One of the bats submitted tested positive for rabies. We also had a resident with a confirmed bat bite.

We've been working on a COVID and Shigella outbreak in congregate settings. IDPH is working closely with the facility on the Shigella outbreak. LCHD will begin attending daily meetings with IDPH and the facility's administration.

We provided school and sports physicals at the Tools for School event. We conducted a drive for hygiene products and distributed items to local schools. We've attended City Market to promote our services.

We've added a new exam room for Family Planning patients and physicals. We've moved to a new TB room.

Our family planning standing orders have all had their annual review and been updated as needed.

Flu clinics this year: 3 onsite at LCHD; 2 at Amboy Fire Department; one at the Ashton Petrie Building; one at Paw Paw Community Center and the Biometrics events for Lee County employees.

We are awaiting the new monovalent COVID vaccine which will now be commercial as the government is no longer providing it.

Maternal & Child Health:

Lisa shared that we have resumed periodic blood pressure screenings in the community, working with both the Dixon YMCA and the Lee County Council on Aging.

Once we use up our current pneumococcal vaccine, we will begin ordering Pneumococcal 20 which is now available.

We will soon be offering the new RSV vaccine for children. Unfortunately, we may only be able to offer to ages 60-65 for the adult population, as we are currently unable to bill Medicare for this.

New Business:

None

Old Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Health is November 14, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Ferguson-Allen, M.P.H.
Administrator