

## **BOARD OF HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MARCH 17, 2014**

### **PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES CENTER**

The Board of Health Committee meeting was held at the Public Health & Human Services Center on Monday, March 17 at 12:00 P.M. Members present included; Chairperson Kaye Shillin, Gordon Reckelberg, Ron Heuer, Kathy Janosky, Dr. Tom Zenner, Audrey Krautkramer and Mary Halada, R.N., Director. Committee members Shirley Kirchman, Donald Delebrea and LeVerle Koenig had excused absence.

Other board members and citizens in attendance were; Bob Weidner, Bruce Heidmann, Charles Hutter, Sue Weisser, Lynda Cochart, Jodi Parins, Corry Cochart, Lee Luft, J.T. Pelt, Lori Hucek, John T. Pagel and Sandy Winnemueller. The County Administrator, Mr. Dorner and the Corporate Counsel Mr. Wisnicky were in attendance.

Chairperson, Kaye Shillin called the meeting to order followed by a motion by Audrey Krautkramer to approve the agenda. That motion was seconded by Kathy Janosky. The motion carried.

A motion was made by Gordy Reckelberg and seconded by Audrey Krautkramer to approve the February minutes. Following friendly amendments to the minutes, the motion carried.

Director, Mary Halada distributed the February 2014 Public Health Department Monthly Report and reviewed the reports with the committee. Our WIC contracted case load is pegged at 313 and for the month of February we served 261. Our running 12 month average is tracking to 275. The 2013 funding level is pegged at 275 and we have not yet received the 2014 contracted caseload funding confirmation, but we are trending behind the 2013 levels which will likely result in a reduction in funding.

A motion to approve the Director's February monthly report was made by Audrey Krautkramer and Kathy Janosky provided a second. The motion passed.

A discussion concerning the groundwater was on the agenda and Director Halada provided an overview of the Kewaunee Co. Health Department's mission and responsibilities. The goal of the Kewaunee County Health Department is to prevent disease and promote good health for the residents of the county and they partner with the State Health Department, nursing homes, assisted living locations, doctors, schools and other entities in the county to meet those goals. Director Halada pointed out that Kewaunee County is a Level II health department and as such strives to adhere to the goals of Healthiest Wisconsin 2020. A Level II health department does not have an environmental services department.

In order for the Health Department to respond to a health issue, there has to be a reported incident. For example, in the fall of 2013 there was a cluster of four cases of salmonella reported in the county and after an investigation, it was determined it was a foodborne incident.

Ms. Halada went on to explain that part of the department's responsibilities included tracking communicable diseases and she went on to describe the steps involved in the process to include;

- 1) Sick individual reports to physician's office
- 2) Physician orders lab test(s) to collect specimens
- 3) A Lab analyzes the specimens
- 4) If the specimens tests positive for a reportable disease, electronic notification will be sent to the health department
- 5) The health department will follow-up with the patient and report findings back to DHS
- 6) DHS staff will review report and look for regional/statewide clusters
- 7) If cluster is identified, DHS request further lab testing to ID source of illness
- 8) More health department follow-up may be requested
- 9) Investigation is finalized

In the event of an outbreak of a communicable disease, the process is handled differently. For example, if there is an outbreak in a school, it is up to the Health Department to immediately notify the State, collect samples and ensure those samples are sent to the State.

Andy Wallander of the Kewaunee Land and Water Department addressed the committee and those assembled on the overall issue of contaminated groundwater in our county and reported on the well testing program in Kewaunee County. As a result of a grant, the Land and Water Department is spearheading further testing of 150 wells in the county. This testing will be completed on April 28<sup>th</sup> and the first 75 tests will be done at a cost of \$29 per well. The balance of the 150 to be tested will be done at \$49 per well. The "Homeowners Testing Package" includes testing for coliform bacteria, nitrates, chloride, pH, alkalinity, hardness, corrosivity index and conductivity. At this time they already have over 100 citizens who have signed up for the program.

Mr. Wallander went on to explain the bulk of the problem here in Kewaunee County can be attributed to the amount of liquid manure that is applied on land with limited soil depth. He also strongly suggested this problem could very well be solved if all parties were to communicate openly with each other to arrive at workable solutions. Kewaunee Land and Water Dept. had begun the well testing and monitoring program in 2004. He suggested the problem of well contamination did not happen overnight. Mr. Wallander explained the DNR approaches all counties the same way and that all counties are not the same. Therefore,

perhaps more local regulations need to be instituted and we must push our legislators to focus on our issue.

Ms. Halada indicated both the Health Department and the Zoning Office provided well test kits at a cost of \$27 for bacteria testing and an additional \$27 for nitrates testing.

Following Mr. Wallanders report, committee member Mr. Heuer, with the permission of the chairman, distributed a draft resolution pertaining to groundwater. This draft resolution was distributed to the committee in order for them to study and edit prior to the next Health Committee Meeting.

Several Citizens proffered comments to the committee concerning the groundwater situation in the county to include Linda Cochart, Jodi Parins, Corry Cochart, Lee Luft and John Pagel. Mr. Luft provided the committee with a copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Health, Kitty Rhoades, which is attached to these minutes. This letter was in response to a letter he had directed to that department.

No travel requests were submitted.

There was no overtime reported for the period.

A motion was made by Ron Heuer and seconded by Audrey Krautkramer to approve the monthly bills. The motion carried.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 7 at 12:00 P.M. at the Public Health and Human Services Center.

A motion to adjourn at 1:25P.M. was made by Kathy Janosky with a second by Audrey Krautkramer. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Heuer, Secretary