

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

**Waukesha County
Public Health Advisory Committee
Thursday, November 11, 2021
Health and Human Services Building, Room 271**

- Present Committee Members:** Andrew Dresang (Chair), Jessica Kadow (Vice Chair), Betty Koepsel, Steven Andrews, Caroline Gomez-Tom, Luann Ladwig
- Absent Committee Members:** Mary Reich, Sarah Butz
- HHS Board Liaisons:** Mary Baer
- Present HHS Staff Liaisons:** Bridget Gnad, Sarah Ward
- Absent HHS Staff Liaisons:** Mary Smith, Theresa Imp, Mary Jo Hamman, Elizabeth Laatsch
- Guests:** Tristin Bruno, Emily Kenney, Lisa Bittman, Ben Jones, Deidre Harvey

1. **Call to Order**
Chair Dresang called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.
2. **Review and Approval of Minutes**
MOTION: Andrews moved, second by Kadow, to approve the Public Health Advisory Committee minutes from October 14, 2021. Motion passed without negative vote.
3. **Committee Business**
There was no committee business.
4. **IMPACT Connect Virtual Presentation – Emily Kenney, Director of Systems Change**
A PowerPoint presentation titled “Welcome to IMPACT Connect” was shared.

Ladwig arrived at 8:08 am

IMPACT wants organizations to join, and they want to make as easy as possible to become a member. IMPACT Connect is a community information exchange which appears to address the long-needed cross-agency communication platform organizations have been looking for. IMPACT Connect also monitors health system capacity to avoid overwhelming agencies with referrals.

5. ADRC Presentation on Dementia and Alzheimer's – Lisa Bittman, ADRC Coordinator

A PowerPoint presentation titled "Dementia Challenging Behavior Initiative" was shared.

This is a community-based initiative for which the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) is helping to promote. Through a State of Wisconsin dementia planning grant, it was found that Waukesha County residents face two major issues when it comes to dementia: crisis response and access to caregiver resources.

Sharing data between hospital systems, organizations, etc. has been one of the biggest challenges in serving caregivers. Consistency is difficult to maintain across 26 different municipalities. A brochure has been developed to give basic direction to caregivers so they know what they might expect when reaching out different resources. The brochure, newsletter sign-up, access to the program referral form, and other tools, is available on ADRC website: <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/dcbi>

6. Committee and Organizational Updates

A. Health and Human Services Board

Baer started by mentioning that there is a significant shortage in mental health professionals, just like in other healthcare services. Gomez-Tom shared that Sixteenth Street currently has capacity for behavioral healthcare available to the community. There are currently 14 behavioral healthcare providers in their Waukesha County location, many of which are bilingual. Ladwig added that the shortage is primarily in prescribers. Gnadl added that there has been a shortage in this capacity for many years, even before COVID-19. Mental healthcare provider shortage is even worse for youth.

Following a presentation regarding Veteran Services to the HHS Board, Baer encouragement PHAC attendees to meet Dan Driscoll, a new Veterans Services Officer. Baer also encourages anyone who may qualify for veterans services resources to reach out to the division.

The Health and Human Services (HHS) Board passed the bylaw revision that allows open meetings to be conducted via web conference platforms (such as Microsoft Teams); however, the board has encountered many technological challenges during its pilot program. Some of the hurdles are due to enhanced security issues. Charles Brimmer with Waukesha County HHS Business Administrative Services (BAS) continues to assist the HHS Board in working through the technological challenges.

Dresang mentioned that the Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) members should begin thinking about the community unmet needs as the presentation to the HHS Board will be due in April 2022. Discussion of unmet needs will begin at the January PHAC meeting.

B. Environmental Health Division

Ward shared that Environmental Health (EH) is now past their busy season and beginning to review other projects, as well as employee performance evaluations.

EH is currently working with Public Health to address the County's response for the Childhood Lead Program including how best to address response to lower lead levels. The divisions are also reviewing changes made to the lead notification system at the state-level.

A 2021 strategic objective for EH was to develop a webpage for human health hazards. No County ordinances currently exist for this type of complaint as they are typically handled at the local level but EH receives many phone calls regarding human health hazards such as nuisance complaints, housing authorities, etc. The new EH website will help consumers navigate their specific options based on their municipality's ordinances through an FAQ at this time.

C. Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)

Baer shared that the 3-Year Aging Plan was approved and passed in the last week.

7. Public Health Division Reports

A. Preparedness Coordinator

Gnadt shared that changes are coming to COVID-19 testing capacity. Testing in demand increased drastically to approximately 25,000 tests across Waukesha County in September 2021. There was a decrease of approximately 20% in October, but November is trending upward again. With holidays, flu season, and changing weather, Emergency Preparedness is anticipating and preparing for a significant increase in testing demand.

Beginning on Monday, Accelerated Clinical Labs will be opening a temporary testing site will be reopened at the Expo Dairy Barn. This site will be operating on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and will be able to serve up to 300 tests per day. This site is mainly intended to address the anticipated surge in demand around the holidays. It is likely that this site will only be available until January 2022, but demand will be evaluated as needed. Accelerated Clinical Labs will also provide a heated trailer.

Additional partners, including RX Rapid Testing and Bridge Diagnostics, are opening additional sites to help long-term capacity. Summit is also opening an additional site which will be in Germantown but will also be able to serve the Waukesha County population closer to that area.

Updates for testing information is available on the Waukesha County website: <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/COVID19>

B. Public Health Coordinator

a. COVID-19 Updates

Jones shared that through the second half of October, Waukesha County was averaging about 130 COVID-19 cases per day; however, in the last two weeks there has been a significant increase and the County is still on an upward trajectory averaging about 170 cases per day. Most cases are in children, specifically in the under 10 age group. Approximately 38% of current cases are under 20-years-old.

With many schools not having many mitigation efforts in place, the expectation was to see a larger increase in cases earlier in the school year. It is unknown why cases are increasing now, but with recent approval of vaccines for children 5-11 years, there is hope vaccines will begin to help turn these numbers around.

Weekly data from hospitals is showing that, while they are very busy, capacity is still alright. There is no major increase in hospitalization or death rates due to COVID-19, even with the Delta variant's higher infectious rate. Though cases are expected to increase as the holidays approach, the County is far under case count in November 2020. Last year, there were 13,000 cases in the County; whereas right now, the County is on pace for approximately 4,500 cases this month. The difference is that 40% of current cases are in children. Public Health will continue to monitor the situation.

Kadow asked about the discussion around masking in schools as it relates to increasing numbers of infection in children. Jones stated that it is difficult to confirm where cases begin, it is understandable that spread does occur in schools. In 2020 when school mitigation efforts were at their highest, less than 1% of close contacts in schools converted to a case (that Public Health is aware of). Infection is spreading at a much higher rate in schools compared to 2020; however, it cannot be definitively said that schools are the source of infection as many variables have changed this year.

Distancing and masking in schools are the best mitigation efforts against spread and schools are trying to navigate the current situation.

Masking is mandated in school buses because they are run through a Federal grant but there are challenges when it comes to refusing to pick-up unmasked students. The range of potential outcomes is difficult to determine.

b. **Public Health 3.0**

Jones also confirmed that Public Health is moving forward with hiring for new positions in 2022, including a Public Health Strategist, an Epidemiologist, an additional Health Educator, and a Communications Specialist. This should position Public Health well while the division moves toward Public Health 3.0. Additionally, a recent staff retreat allowed Public Health to plan for the division's future state, culture, and the direction in which the division will go. Staff were encouraged to participate in making decisions on programs and policies.

The last five-year Community Health Improvement Plan and Process (CHIPP) was finalized last week and preparations to launch the new five-year CHIPP in 2022 are underway. A comprehensive Community Health Assessment will be completed to identify the leading health issues facing Waukesha County. Once these issues are identified, teams will be formed around each leading issue, action plans will be developed, and these

plans will start being implemented through a multi-year process. This is a good time to go through the Community Health Assessment process as COVID has brought forth or exacerbated many underlying issues that can now be better understood and addressed.

A full 140 Review process is planned for 2022 which will recertify Waukesha County Public Health as a Health Department. An abbreviated review was completed in 2020 with the understanding that the full review would be planned once there was a better understanding of how processes would be completed through the pandemic. This timing appears to be ideal as the recent CHIPP was finalized and efforts are being made to move the division toward Public Health 3.0 at the same time.

8. Agency Reports

This discussion has been tabled until the December meeting.

9. Agency Announcements and Updates

There were no Agency Announcements and Updates.

10. Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- a. Froedtert Agency Report
- b. Bethany Recovery Center – Deb Adamus, Director
- c. Randy Setzer for HHS Administrative Services presentation – check availability for Jan or Feb

11. Public Comment

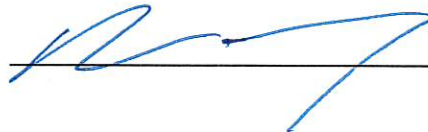
There was no public comment.

12. Adjournment

MOTION: Andrews moved, second by Koepsel, to adjourn at 9:33 a.m. Motion passed without negative vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tristin Bruno.

Minutes Were Approved: _____



Date: _____

12/9/21