

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**  
**Waukesha County**  
**Public Health Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, October 13, 2022**  
**Health and Human Services Building, Room 271**

**Present Committee Members:** Froedtert Health (Andrew Dresang, Chair), ProHealth Care Hispanic Health Resource Center (Jessica Kadow), Lake Area Free Clinic (Mary Reich), Luann Ladwig, Sixteenth Street Community Health Center (Liz Kirsch), ProHealth Care (Sarah Butz)

**Absent Committee Members:** Aurora Medical Center

**HHS Board Liaisons:** Mary Baer

**Present HHS Staff Liaisons:** Ben Jones, Bridget Gnad, Gabrielle Manders, Elizabeth Laatsch, Frances Thomas, Theresa Imp

**Absent HHS Staff Liaisons:** Betty Koepsel

**Guests:** Lisa Kwiat, Mary Smith, Mary Jo Hamman, Sarah Ward, Spencer Dyck, Tristin Bruno

**1. Call to Order**

Co-Chair Kadow called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

**2. Review and Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: Ladwig moved, second by Reich to approve the Public Health Advisory Committee minutes from September 8, 2022. Motion passed without negative vote.

**3. Committee Business**

There was no committee business.

**4. Community Health Improvement Plan and Process (CHIPP)**

Jones shared that the CHIPP Steering Committee is finalizing the priority community issues that will be the focus of this CHIPP cycle. Issues include root causes such as transportation, housing, and other factors that lead to upstream health problems. Committee members will be sending a survey to their networks to validate the current selections. Once finalized, action teams will be formed to enact initiatives to address the identified issues.

**5. Committee and Organizational Updates**

**A. Health and Human Services Board – HHS Board Liaison**

Bear discussed the recent HHS Board meeting in which unfunded mandates were addressed. The Board discussed the clinical privileging process and reviewed the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) 3-year plan.

**B. Environmental Health Division**

There was no Environmental Health Division update.

**C. Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)**  
There was no Aging and Disability Resource Center update.

**D. Preparedness**  
Grant shared that September is Preparedness Month and several preparedness activities were held at the Health and Human Services building and within the community.

The Family and Community Health Fair was held last week. Approximately 51 adults and 20 children attended and were well-served. This event was an excellent opportunity to re-establish partnerships and meet new people in the community.

Preparedness Plan reviews are nearly complete. The review of the Public Health Emergency Response Plan will begin next. This plan ensures that, if Waukesha County must request mutual aid from another jurisdiction, everyone understands the process required.

COVID testing capacity has been increased in preparation for a potential seasonal surge. A new partnership has been created which will allow testing at the Waukesha Free Clinic site. There should be no out of pocket cost to anyone receiving testing at this location. They will be open on Mondays and Fridays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and appointments will be required. The State has decided to increase reimbursement for antigen testing due to the increase in reporting work required for the sampling agencies.

**6. Public Health Division Reports**

- **COVID-19 Updates**

Jones shared that Waukesha County has been in the CDC's Community Level Green for the past two weeks. Community transmission has dropped from high to substantial which requires transmission rates to be under 100 during the reporting period. Hospitalizations have been stable within the County and active school cases are extremely low.

The flu and COVID season is expected to be challenging based on the flu and COVID season for the Southern Hemisphere.

The COVID team is still in place for disease management and outbreaks; this team is expected to remain through June 2023. COVID is still classified as a Category 1 disease which requires immediate outreach; it is unknown when the classification will be changed.

- **Budget**

Jones continued that the last budget presentation will be given next week which should lead to the finalized budget for 2023.

- **Staffing**

Jones shared that two Disease Intervention Specialists (DIS) and one Public Health Nurse (PHN) have been hired and they are doing well. Recruiting continues and there will soon be offers for additional PHNs that have interviewed.

- **Overdose Fatality Review (OFR)**

Jones discussed the re-established Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) and goal of getting a reviewer embedded with the Medical Examiner's office. Public Health would like to get a complete profile of every single overdose death that occurs within the county and to map any trends linked to these deaths. Additionally, Public Health would like to implement kin interviews 9 months after an overdose death to collect more information and obtain releases of information, if possible.

In order to establish a robust OFR procedure, Public Health is looking to get permanent funding in place in order to plan for the future needs of this program.

The County Executive's declaration of the Fentanyl Crisis has directed Health and Human Services (HHS) to create a response plan to address Fentanyl in the community and to increase the general awareness and knowledge level of the public on Fentanyl.

- **Chapter 140 Review**

Jones added that Waukesha County will be undergoing the State's Chapter 140 Review in 2023 and Public Health will be moving from a Level 2 to a Level 3 Health Department. Public Health's current efforts are focused on internal education regarding what a Level 3 Health Department looks like.

**7. Agency Reports**

There were no agency reports.

**8. Agency Announcements and Updates**

Kadow shared that ProHealth Care provided 37 flu vaccines during the Health Fair. Many attendees expressed gratefulness that in-person events are becoming available again.

**9. Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

- Mary Smith's ADRC Presentation
- Update from new Director at the Housing Action Coalition

**10. Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**11. Adjournment**

MOTION: Butz moved, second by Kadow to adjourn at 8:56 a.m. Motion passed without negative vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tristin Bruno.

Minutes Were Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 12-8-22