

OPEN MEETING MINUTES
Waukesha County
Public Health Advisory Committee
Thursday, June 9, 2022
Health and Human Services Building, Room 271

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

Absent Committee Members: Aurora Medical Center, ProHealth Care (Sarah Butz)

HHS Board Liaisons: Mary Baer

Present HHS Staff Liaisons: Ben Jones, Bridget Gnad, Elizabeth Laatsch, Mary Jo Hamman, Sarah Ward, Theresa Imp

Absent HHS Staff Liaisons: Mary Smith

Guests: Frances Thomas, Jessica Trout, Kelsey Hill, Michelle Mader, Tristin Bruno

1. **Call to Order**
Chair Dresang called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.
2. **Review and Approval of Minutes**
MOTION: Reich moved, second by Koepsel to approve the Public Health Advisory Committee minutes from May 12, 2022. Motion passed without negative vote.
3. **Committee Business**
The Public Health Advisory Committee will recess for the month of July.
4. **The NISSI Project Presentation – Kelsey Hill, Beyond Beauty**
Citizen Hill shared a PowerPoint Presentation Titled “The NISSI Project”. The NISSI Project supports a community response to human trafficking and provides education and resources for survivors and community partners.
5. **Committee and Organizational Updates**
 - A. **Preparedness**
Gnad is looking forward to being able to provide more preparedness education for staff through online means. Additionally, the Preparedness team recently met with the City of Waukesha to do an after-action review of the Waukesha Christmas Parade Tragedy.

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

Dresang reported that the CHIPP Steering Committee is approximately six months into planning the next five-year cycle of the Community Health Improvement Plan and Process. At this time, the committee is conducting the Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the components of this assessment.

The CHIPP Steering Committee is about halfway through the initial process in identifying needs for future action teams. Once the data collection is complete and the report finalized, a small presentation will be given to the Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC). There have been 898 responses to the Quality-of-Life Survey with 30% of respondents being from the retired community. This is representative of the aging population of Waukesha County.

Jones added that CHIPP is getting close to prioritization and will have more information to share at the August PHAC meeting.

7. **Committee and Organizational Updates (continued)**

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

Baer shared that the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) presented information for disabled minors who are nearing the age of 18 and will be transitioning into independence. There is a robust program, *Welcome to Transition*, with many resources available to parents and their soon-to-be adult children through the ADRC.

Waukesha County Health and Human Services (HHS) compiled and provided the County Executive with a detailed summary of cross-divisional budgetary needs. For the 2023 budget, the divisions made no specific asks from the County budget. Instead, they have all requested the use of ARPA funds and other funding opportunities, such as Opioid Settlement Funds and the expansion of the state allocation of the Older Americans Act, in order to support the Social Determinants of Health and Health Equity. The total budget increase for HHS using traditional funding sources, such as tax levies, will be \$100,000 in 2023.

B. **Environmental Health Division**

Ward reported that the significant increase in mobile food truck licensing has been a new experience. Waukesha County Environmental Health has been working with neighboring counties to learn how to better regulate and monitor mobile food truck activities.

Well and septic inspections have also increased due to the time of year.

C. **Aging and Disability Resource Center**

Baer shared that there will be a senior wellness fair at the Sussex Civic Center from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on June 15. The fair will be an opportunity to provide access to resources and will include a lunch and ice cream social. There is a focus on elder abuse prevention.

8. **Public Health Division Reports**

• **Staffing**

Laatsch stated that there have been several Public Health Nurse resignations and Public Health (PH) is actively recruiting for those vacancies. The Public

Health Supervisor position requirements were expanded which allowed for a large pool of potential candidates.

Jones shared that, given the challenges in staffing largely attributed to COVID, PH is transitioning two of the Public Health Nurse positions into Disease Investigation Specialists (DIS). For these positions, the job requirements do not require nursing credentials. This allows PH to refine duties assigned to nurses while allowing candidates with different credentials to manage non-nursing duties. Additionally, the Epidemiologist position will be posted within the next week.

Laatsch added that the COVID Response Team will be reduced to a total of 10 people but opening the DIS positions now will provide the opportunity for the members of the COVID Response Team who are being let go to apply.

- **COVID-19 Updates**

Jones shared that Waukesha County is still red on the CDC Community Levels. The reported number of approximately 140 cases per day is far lower than numbers at the peak of infection but must reduce to less than 115 cases per day (with no more than 10 hospitalizations per day) to drop down the scale. Numbers continue to reduce, so it does seem that the County will work its way back to green soon, but the virus does keep mutating.

Vaccine manufacturers are working on developing multi-strain vaccinations, similar to flu vaccines. Additionally, a vaccine will soon be available to children under five years of age. Eventually, the world will need to live with COVID, but until it stops mutating drastically, no one can settle on what defines the "new normal".

Ladwig added that the more traditional vaccines will probably be better received, and oral treatments are working very well. More providers are prescribing treatment now that the efficacy has been legitimized.

There are still a few COVID testing sites available around the County, but most people are using home tests. The accuracy of home test kits depends on testing method and ability to properly test as well as how the tests were stored, if they were exposed to major temperature fluctuations, and other variables.

9. Agency Reports

There were no agency reports.

10. Agency Announcements and Updates

There were no agency announcements or updates.

11. Discuss Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Annual Membership, Chair, Vice Chair Votes

12. Public Comment

Citizens Mader and Trout shared public comments.

13. Adjournment

MOTION: Reich moved, second by Koepsel to adjourn at 9:17 a.m. Motion passed without negative vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tristin Bruno.

Minutes Were Approved:



Date:

8/11/22