

Grundy County Board of Health

Monday, September 14th, 2020

Called to Order: 6:59am

The Grundy County Board of Health (LBOH) met on Monday, September 14th, 2020, at 7:00am in the Conference Room at the Grundy County Annex Building in Grundy Center, IA; Conference Call-In was available for those who wish not to attend in person. Appointed board members present were: Beverly Meester, Chair; Dr. Charles LaTendresse, MD, *Vice Chair*; Dave Stefl; Helene Wertz (via phone). Also present: Barbara Smith, Grundy County Board of Supervisors (BOS); Katie Thornton-Lang, Grundy County Public Health (GCPH) Program Coordinator.

Regular meeting of the LBOH was called to order by Meester. The minutes from July 13th, 2020 were reviewed. Motion to approve the July, 2020, minutes by LaTendresse; seconded by Stefl, carried; the minutes were approved as written. Minutes were signed by Chair, Meester, and submitted to IowaGrants.gov.

New Member Discussion: Beverly Meester and Helene Wertz's terms are up at the end of December, and they have wished not to stay on as board members. Discussion was held on possible new members: Crystal Petersen & Lexie Hach have expressed interest. Crystal lives in Gladbrook, but is employed throughout Grundy County at Grundy County Memorial Hospital (GCMH); GCPH inquired to Heather about possibility and it would be fine from state end. Thornton-Lang will reach out to individuals to inquire about continued interest and report back in November. Dr. LaTendresse has expressed that he will not return following his tenure, and has approached new physician at Grundy Family Clinic-UnityPoint, Dr. Bissen, regarding interest and report back with information, as needed. Dr. Bissen can take over as board Medical Director, if approved to join.

Sanitarian Position for Future Reference: Barb Smith, Grundy County Board of Supervisor (BOS), participated in Iowa Department of Public Health's (IDPH) Leadership Academy workshops this past year. She brought to attention the fact that "In the future, the Director of Environmental Health needs to be appointed by the Local Board of Health." It is recognized that Grundy County's environmental health position also currently is in two other departments: Zoning and Department of Transportation. This is just an informational piece for board members to be aware of in the future. Discussion regarding this position being much like LBOH members: discussions and recommendations come from LBOH to BOS for approval and appointment. Motion to create a letter of support for documentation purposes, which Thornton-Lang will draft on behalf of board, for Carie Steinbron by Stefl; seconded by LaTendresse; support letter approved.

Lawsuit Updates: Barb Smith states that the court has ruled that Melcher's have to pay \$100,000 of Cooley's legal fees; the county attorney feels it will be appealed to county. Smith's understanding is it will be same judge for county/LBOH portion of lawsuit.

Operations Policy: GCPH personnel discussion of a policy for working on-call/remotely, as needed, for public health emergencies, such as the current pandemic and other disease outbreak investigations that require immediate attention. Along with policy, discussion on office closure/weekly hours worked to meet the needs of the community. Board supports Thornton-Lang creating a written policy to reflect thoughts on working on-call, flexing time as needed, and working remotely, as needed.

COVID-19 Updates: The pandemic continues to be the main focus during reporting period. GCPH continues to participate in weekly phone conferences, webinars, and zoom meetings as pandemic continues; these meetings include information shared with and available from local, state, and national partners. Working with individual inquiries that have come up daily via email, phone calls, and Facebook messenger are a high priority. GCPH works daily with local schools with their reopening of schools and sports teams' inquiries, as well as with long-term care facilities on guidance and updates. Smith states she continues to receive inquiries on why positive case/death information cannot be released to the public. Recommendation for Thornton-Lang to put on social media HIPAA post.

Public Health Report for July/August, 2020:

Local Public Health Services (LPHS) Grant

Collaborative Relations: GCPH continues to participate, as available, in all community meetings/discussions.

Community Assessment: The CHNA&HIP deadline for submitting to IDPH has been moved to February 2022 for CHNA, and June 2022 for HIP.

Disease Outbreak & Investigation: On August 25th, 2020, investigation began on Botulism isolated case. Case is currently not closed, per IDPH request, due to further follow-up from lab results that will be inquired regarding. On August 28th, 2020, investigation began on Crypto isolated case. Case closed on September 2nd, 2020.

Injury Prevention: The yearly jail inspection was completed on July 21st, 2020, with no issues to report on.

Immunization (I4) Grant: A latent TB (LTBI) patient is being treated within Grundy County. GCPH representatives dispensed medications and offered education two times during reporting period to patient. The Annual Flu campaign was discussed with local pharmacies and will be kicking off in September. The CARES Act was distributed to IDPH, which was funneled into this grant for an additional \$5000+ of funding.

Substance Abuse Prevention (SAP) Grant: Program Coordinator, Thornton-Lang, has reached out to all schools regarding teaching of LifeSkills this year. As of this report, only 1 school confirmed dates. One school is unsure of implementation this year, due to being new to position/district and working around COVID restrictions, and another school has not returned communications regarding programming. Thornton-Lang has met with a Coach through IDPH and has ideas going forward in lieu of programming directly in the schools, including video sharing and monthly newsletter re: LifeSkills lessons as topics to share with all students/families.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Grant: PHEP initial meetings for new FY/grant holder information have taken place.

Medical Reserve Corps. (MRC): The Grundy County Medical Reserve Corps. (GC-MRC) continues to help at various community events. There are 27 active volunteers.

Unit Activity Summary Report for reporting period July/August, 2020:

- 6 total number of activities
- 9 total number of MRC participants
- 41 total number of hours contributed
- \$1471.14 economic value of contribution

Grundy County Safety Seat Program (GCCPSP): Due to the pandemic, all in-person inspections/installations/ educational inquiries were recommended to cease during reporting period. There were 3 educational inquiries addressed to community members via phone call and Facebook Messenger, along with an attempted virtual fitting that education was delivered through. In-person inspections/installations/educational inquiries are allowed to be conducted, as of this report, with mitigation measures in place.

Healthy Habits All-Stars (HHAS): 4 schools were interested in hand hygiene program early on in school year, due to pandemic. 3 of them are scheduled, with 1 also participating in the vaccination program. The 4th school teacher was interested, but the principal preferred no visitors in building. Thornton-Lang delivered hand hygiene program to BCLUW kindergarten classrooms at the end of August, reaching 30 students.

Due to the pandemic, no additional grant searching is in plans to take place for the FY21 year.

Social Media Stats: Reached 78,753 individuals for reporting period July/August, 2020. GCPH is active on the following social media sites: Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, and Instagram. We also promote our county website on all social media platforms.

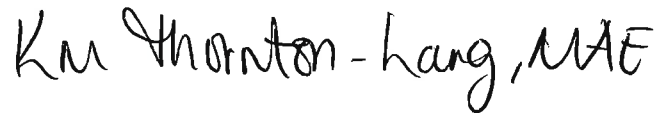
Motion adjourned at 7:46am; motioned by LaTendresse; seconded by Stefl; carried.

Next Scheduled Meeting Date: Monday, November 11th, 2020, 7:00am, Grundy County Annex Building Conference Room/Zoom/Phone Conference

Scheduled Meeting Topics:

UnityPoint Health/Allen Women's Health Update from Janelle Ballhagen
Policy Updates (as needed)

Respectfully submitted,



Katie Thornton-Lang, MAE
Grundy County Public Health Program Coordinator



Beverly Meester
Chairperson