

**OPEN MEETING MINUTES**  
**Waukesha County**  
**Public Health Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, February 10, 2022**  
**Health and Human Services Building, Room 271**

**Present Committee Members:** Froedtert Health (Andrew Dresang, Chair), ProHealth Care Hispanic Health Resource Center (Jessica Kadow, Vice-Chair), Betty Koepsel, Luann Ladwig, Lake Area Free Clinic (Mary Reich), ProHealth Care (Sarah Butz)

**Absent Committee Members:** Aurora Medical Center, Sixteenth Street Community Health Center

**HHS Board Liaisons:** Mary Baer

**Present HHS Staff Liaisons:** Ben Jones, Bridget Gnadl, Mary Smith, Sarah Ward

**Absent HHS Staff Liaisons:** Elizabeth Laatsch, Mary Jo Hamman, Theresa Imp

**Guests:** Heather Heard, Tristin Bruno

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: Koepsel moved, second by Kadow to approve the Public Health Advisory Committee minutes from December 9, 2021. Motion passed without negative vote.
3. **Committee Business**
  - A. Dresang shared that Dr. Steven Andrews has resigned his seat with the Public Health Advisory Committee. The Public Health Advisory Committee recognized and thanked Dr. Andrews for his years of service on this committee and with the community. Dresang will work directly with Advocate Aurora to designate another representative for Aurora Medical Center.
  - B. **Consideration of Public Health Advisory Bylaws Revision**
    - i. **Adopt Public Health Advisory Bylaws Revision**  
The Public Health Advisory Committee Bylaws will be revised to include a provision for members to appear by remote means in accordance with the Public Health Advisory Remote Meeting Guidelines.  
  
MOTION: Kadow moved, second by Ladwig, to approve the revision of the Public Health Advisory Committee bylaws. Motion passed without negative vote.

**C. Consideration of Public Health Advisory Remote Meeting Guidelines**

**i. Adopt Public Health Advisory Remote Appearance Guidelines**

MOTION: Reich moved, second by Koepsel, to approve the adoption of Remote Meeting Guidelines to the Public Health Advisory Committee's bylaws. Motion passed without negative vote.

Membership and the public are encouraged to provide feedback throughout the pilot process to help determine what does or does not work in this format.

**4. Public Health 3.0 Vision Discussion – Ben Jones, Health Officer/Public Health Manager**

Jones presented the concept of Public Health 3.0 whereby the Public Health Department serves as Chief Health Strategist for the community at large. The duty of the Chief Health Strategist is to bring health partners together to share data and better serve the community's health needs as well as focus on Social Determinants of Health – including employment, insurance, transportation, and food insecurity. The goal is to determine if there is a better or more efficient way for the system to function. Where Public Health (PH) has been focused on the health needs of their own clients, Public Health 3.0 is a shift to focusing on the health needs of the population.

The infusion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding allowed Waukesha County Public Health to start the process of hiring a Health Strategist, an Epidemiologist, and a Communications Expert specifically to begin developing Public Health 3.0 policies and procedures. To meet both statutory service requirements and serve as the Chief Health Strategist, PH must build greater capacity through improved infrastructure and long-term financial investments to fund Public Health 3.0 initiatives beyond the 2024 ARPA expiration.

**5. Community Needs Discussion**

Dresang reviewed the purpose of the Community Needs Presentation that will be held at the Health and Human Services (HHS) Board meeting on April 28.

This year's Community Needs Presentation coincides with the start of a new 5-year Community Health Improvement Plan and Process (CHIPP) cycle. The work of the Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC), the CHIPP group, and the vision for PH moving forward will focus on Public Health 3.0 and how to position the Health Department to be the Chief Health Strategist.

Jones asked committee members to think of ideas that will help PH accomplish this shift in focus to population health. While PH must still provide statutory services such as case management on high lead and monitoring communicable diseases, attendees were asked to consider what collective plan PH and its health partners can create as a routine to approach healthcare for the community, including:

**1. Collaboration**

- a. Powerful for emerging issues
- b. Waukesha County health systems speak with one voice
- c. PH is an unbiased entity
- d. Convening, sharing data, and improving care coordination for the community

- e. Reduce duplication of efforts
- 2. Social Determinants of Health
  - a. Employment
  - b. Insurance
  - c. Transportation
  - d. Food insecurity
- 3. Infrastructure improvements
  - a. Hiring new positions to develop Public Health 3.0
  - b. Flexible and sustainable funding
  - c. Expand capacity to provide statutory services and act as the community's Chief Health Strategist

**6. Committee and Organizational Updates**

**A. Health and Human Services Board**

Baer shared that at every HHS Board meeting, one of the HHS divisions gives a presentation, with the Clinical Services Division at the most recent meeting. The HHS Board has enjoyed learning more about what each division offers.

Baer added that the HHS Board has received good feedback from staff and the community regarding the therapist who has been embedded with the Sheriff's Department. Jones confirmed that a desire to expand the program to other law enforcement agencies has been expressed as well. Baer noted that the funding for this pilot will conclude in June 2022; there is hope that there will be a Community Needs Presentation seeking permanent funding.

Baer mentioned that this program was made possible because Clinical Services was able to hire an Advanced Practice Nurse Practitioner (APNP) to staff the embedded therapist position and they would be able to prescribe medication under physician supervision. Statutorily in Waukesha County, APNPs are not able to directly prescribe medication to patients. This statute may complicate expansion of the program to other law enforcement agencies. Koepsel mentioned that the State is in the process of reviewing laws at the state-level to further support these embedded mental health professional programs.

**7. Community Needs Discussion, continued**

A video was shared titled "Beyond the Data – Public Health Law: Social Determinants of Health and Public Health 3.0". This video is available on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hYeTOMS8k4c>

Dresang recognized that Waukesha County Public Health essentially applied the Public Health 3.0 model throughout the COVID-19 pandemic response. The rounding with Waukesha County health systems provided a coordinated message that school districts and residents could rely on for guidance, policies, and procedures. Moving forward, it is important to establish how the work and partnerships created during this time translate from COVID-19 response to the everyday health challenges that the community faces.

Jones stated that the biggest challenge to move to Public Health 3.0 is the capacity to act as Chief Health Strategist for the community and continue providing statutory services. The new positions of Health Strategist and Epidemiologist will help focus the efforts and extrapolate the data required to be effective. This may also include

employing new software, such as Clear Impact, which helps measure performance and create information dashboards.

Leveraging technology will help inform which elements need the most attention but the budget will also need to account for the time and the talent to bring people together to work toward a common goal.

Ladwig departed at 8:58 a.m.

The attendees decided that the focus of the 2022 Community Needs Presentation should be to educate the HHS Board on the significance of the Public Health 3.0 infrastructure: creating interconnectivity to prevention, well-being, and appropriate resources. Dresang invited members of the PHAC to join him, Jones, and Baer in assisting with preparation for the Community Needs Presentation. A draft of the presentation will be presented for the PHAC to review at the March 10 meeting.

## **8. Public Health Division Reports**

- **COVID-19 Updates**

Jones shared that COVID-19 continues to be a health risk to the community, but the trajectory of the pandemic seems good. Waukesha County is now averaging about 200 cases per day. This is down from 1500 cases per day in January 2022. This reduction should move the County from “critically high” to “very high” level of infection. If this trend continues, the County should be able to reach “high” level by March, meaning that there are no more than 100 cases per day. While promising, health officials still recommend being cautious.

For context, the Delta variant hospitalized approximately four per 100 cases. Omicron tends to cause more mild infections, hospitalizing approximately one or two per 100 cases. However, Omicron is more infectious which had been keeping the volume of hospitalizations high. Now, through vaccinations as well as some forced immunity through previous infection, there are fewer new cases and there have been decreasing hospitalizations. Capacity throughout the hospital system is back within manageable thresholds.

With the change in infection rates, a significant shift was made in contact tracing, effective January 31. The State, as well as most of the national agencies that PH follows for policy advising, including the Council on State and Territorial Epidemiologists, the National Association of County and City Health Officials, and the Association of State Health Officers collectively agreed that universal contact tracing is no longer effective due to the number of infections caused by Omicron.

With symptoms being much milder and with more people either completing at-home tests or not testing at all, contact tracers are not reaching a significant number of cases in a time to make an impact – if they reach cases at all. At this point, most people already know what to do if they are infected or suspect they have been exposed. The focus is now education, promoting vaccination, outbreak management, and contacting

only the most vulnerable populations. These changes appear to be timely and have been well-received by staff and the community.

Baer agreed that the new guidance considers that, with Omicron, individuals tend to be contagious one to two days prior to developing symptoms so it is already too late to perform meaningful contact tracing at symptom onset. With this variant presenting more mildly, following mask policies, hand-washing, and other recommended mitigation efforts appear to be working well.

- **Community Projects**

The kick-off for the next CHIPP cycle began yesterday.

Heroin Task Force 3.0 launched in late 2021 and is building initiatives to move forward.

- **Preparedness**

Gnadt shared that testing capacity is increasing while testing demand is decreasing. The Waukesha County Preparedness' website has information on testing sites. Testing coordination responsibilities are being given to an experienced Disease Investigator so that Preparedness can return to regular operations.

A new effort to update business continuity plans began yesterday. Previous plans had been completed within months of the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is now time to review the plans as nearly all the emergency response plans were implemented over the past two years. Now is the time to review the lessons learned during those implementations and to strengthen the plans.

## 9. **Committee and Organizational Updates, continued**

### A. **Environmental Health Division**

Ward shared that January is Radon Awareness Month. Environmental Health (EH) ran a successful short ad at Marcus Theaters which lead to an increase in requests for radon test kits. There has been a decrease in well-water sampling for private homes. EH will run a targeted promotion toward private homeowners for well-water sampling in summer 2022.

One sanitarian departed in January 2022, but recruitment just completed. Interviews for a new sanitarian will begin next week. While the market for experienced sanitarians is currently competitive, EH is in a good position to bring on and train new talent that may not be as experienced as past hires.

Health Space, the EH licensing and inspection database, is expected to complete the transition to the Cloud August 2022.

### B. **Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)**

Smith shared that the ADRC is at a critical point for services for people in the Waukesha County community. There is a lack of providers and caregivers which is impacting the ADRC's ability to provide services to clients, as well as impacting the ADRC's ability to provide resources and availability for facilities.

Many care facilities are not taking in new clients due to short staffing from COVID protocols which delays transfer of individuals from hospitals for an extended period.

Adult Protective Services (APS) is unable to find placement for difficult or challenging cases. APS has an individual for whom they have worked on over 750 placement options state-wide, without success.

The ADRC reached out to the State for assistance in addressing the system of care. Committees and workgroups are being formed at the state-level to look at Adult Protective Services, placement, and Managed Care Options to find a solution to these issues.

The ADRC is now part of a regional consortium with the United Community Center to do additional outreach, marketing, and promotion with the Hispanic population for dementia care. This will allow the ADRC to perform regional and virtual dementia assessments.

The transportation consultant is beginning stakeholder interviews and will be auditing use of state funds on specialized transportation to understand how the money is being spent. The consultant plans to complete the transportation program review by April 2022 and should have good recommendations for moving forward.

**10. Agency Reports**

There were no agency reports.

**11. Agency Announcements and Updates**

There were no agency announcements and updates.

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

- Randy Setzer for HHS Administrative Services presentation
- April 28<sup>th</sup> Community Needs preparations – review of service gaps; what should be communicated to the HHS Board?
- Reach out to Sixteenth Street for new representative
- Reach out to Advocate Aurora for new representative

**13. Public Comment**


There was no public comment.

**14. Adjournment**

MOTION: Kadow moved, second by Butz to adjourn at 9:30 a.m. Motion passed without negative vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tristin Bruno.

Minutes Were Approved:



Date:

4-14-22