

## **HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES**

COMMITTEE: HEALTH COMMITTEE  
DATE: AUGUST 4, 2021  
TIME: 4:30 P.M.  
PLACE: FOREST COUNTY BOARD ROOM

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Black called the meeting to order at 4:30pm and read the agenda.

### **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Tina Anderson, Larry Berg, Candy Dailey, Lynn Black, Dr. Rebecca Perry

Others present: Holli Denton, Barbara Voight-community member

### **APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Anderson to approve agenda, second by Berg. All present voting (AYE).

Motion carried.

### **APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE JULY 7, 2021 MEETING**

Motion by Berg to approve minutes from July 7th meeting, second by Anderson.

All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION- COVID UPDATES**

Denton gave the current case counts of 7 active, 0 hospitalized, 27 confirmed deaths in Forest County and reviewed the Vaccine rates with board members. Currently the vaccine request have stalled. In Forest County there are 42.9% of residents that have at least one dose, 41% have completed the series, 52.1 % of adults 18 and over have had at least one dose, and 49.9% have completed the series. She advised that the vaccination rates in Forest County are very similar to our neighboring counties of Florence, Langlade and Marinette Counties. She informed the Board that the health department is currently encouraging all residents to be vaccinated and wear a mask if they are not vaccinated and if in crowded places, or in places where they are not able to properly physically distance due to rising cases of the Delta variant in Wisconsin. She informed the board that there are currently 0 Delta variant cases in Forest County, but that neighboring counties have seen cases and that it is a very virulent and fast spreading variant of the disease. She discussed the CDC recommendations that will be shared with the Schools in a zoom call on August 18, and gave the board members the document that was shared with the 3 school districts for back to school guidance and informed them that the CDC is requiring all students to wear masks when riding the school buses, as this is a federal requirement that people wear face coverings on all public transportation in the United States. She told the board that the health department is continuing to share press releases and social media posts that are encouraging the residents of Forest County to get vaccinated as the best possible way to stop the spread of Covid-19, and to wear masks and practice healthy safe hygienic practices to avoid spreading disease. She explained the current hospital bed occupancy status numbers and explained that 13% of the hospitals statewide are

experiencing critical staffing shortages within the next week. She explained the case burden as high and the trajectory is growing for all 7 HERC regions. She further explained that while capacity is not expected to be exceeded in the next two weeks, we are continuing to move in a concerning direction.

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION- UPDATE ON CURRENT HUMAN HEALTH HAZARDS

Denton gave the report of one open Human Health Hazard, and said they had been in contact with corporate counsel about it, and asked that a citation would be issued due to the property owner's repeated noncompliance with the requests to properly dispose of the garbage on his property. Anderson made a motion for a ticket to be issued, Berg 2nd the motion, all present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION-UPDATE ON WIC PROGRAM/MERGER-

Denton shared that she had been in contact with GLITC and that they are open to a merger. Berg made a motion to continue talks with GLITC to seek a merger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anderson. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION –LIFELINE CHANGES IN SERVICE PROVIDER/LOSS OF PROGRAM

Denton shared that the health department was notified that the coordinator for the Lifeline program from Aspirus is retiring and that Phillips lifeline was taking over servicing the clients, and the administration of the billing to the clients. The health department will no longer be able to bill for the service, or receive payment from Aspirus for the administration of the program, Philips will take it over. The health department will refer clients to the phone number provided by Philips for any service problems or requests for new lifelines.

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION-ONE PAGER FOR NEW BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

Denton shared an informational one page document that explained the responsibilities of the Board of Health Members. Berg made a motion to approve the document, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Anderson, all present voting (AYE). Motion carried

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION-SCHOOL NURSING SERVICES AGREEMENTS

Denton presented the School Nursing Services agreements for Laona and Wabeno schools for the Board of Health chair to sign, Lynn Black signed the document and it will be forwarded to the schools.

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: STARTING WALK WITH EASE CLASSES

Denton talked about the health department wanting to get the Walk with Ease classes started up again, and have two staff trained to do so. This was a program that was in place already in the past, it had been stalled because of Covid-19. Denton was just informing the Board of the wish to get the classes going again and the plans.

#### DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING THAT IS COMING

Denton shared that there is a possibility of a 2 year supplemental funding coming from the Department of Health services to support Workforce Development in Public Health. She shared her ideas of what the funding could be used for and what she would write into a plan to send on to the state for approval, once the amount of funds is determined. The plan is to institute a “strike force team” in the courthouse to assist in times of pandemic, or other natural disasters or emergencies, so that we will be prepared to assist our communities. Courthouse employees that wanted to be on the team could be trained in ICS, emergency preparedness, contact tracing, and communicable disease investigation, and be available if we have a need related to the current pandemic or any future emergencies that could come up. Money can be spent to train them in preparedness activities and pay for any staff time spent in these activities. We would be developing our workforce in the courthouse and improving our knowledge to respond to emergencies that affect our communities. Berg made a motion to approve the idea, Anderson 2<sup>nd</sup> it, all present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

OTHER ISSUES? None

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SETTING DATE FOR NEXT MEETING-

Covid updates

Update on current Human Health Hazards

WIC project merger

Other concerns?

NEXT MEETING DATE- SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 4:30 PM

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn by Berg, second by Anderson. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the next scheduled Health meeting.