

Health Board Meeting  
May 18, 2021

The regular meeting of the District No. 4 Health Board was called to order by Chairman Bob Adrian, May 18, 2021, at 10:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the Cheboygan Senior Center, 1531 Sands Rd, Cheboygan, MI. Commissioner Newman extended appreciation to the Cheboygan Senior Center for the meeting space and hospitality.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:**

Alpena County:	Adrian, Osbourne
Cheboygan County:	Newman, Warfield
Montmorency County :	Balog
Presque Isle County:	Altman, Gapczynski

**Absent:**

**Excused:**

Fournier, Stacey

**Staff Present:**

Denise Bryan, Joshua Meyerson,  
Judy Greer, Kevin Prevost, Hailey  
Black, Devin Spivey, Kendra Bartz,  
EmmaVierегge, Matt Radocy

**Others Present:**

Sarah Melching

**Agenda Changes:**

None

**MINUTES**

**April 20, 2021 Health Board Minutes:** Motion by Gapczynski with support from Balog to approve the April 20, 2021 Health Board Minutes as presented. Ayes all, motion carried.

**CLAIMS**

**April 17, 2021- May 14, 2021:**

Motion by Gapczynski with support from Newman to approve the Listing of Claims submitted from April 17, 2021 through May 14, 2021. Roll call vote. Ayes all, motion carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**DEPUTY HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT**

**Revenue/Expenditure and Trial Balance Report:** Greer provided the Revenue/Expenditure and Trial Balance Report to the Health Board commissioners for their review. Amount in surplus to Fund Balance through March 31, 2021 is \$77,485.34.

Greer noted Bartz is continuing her training on the agency's finances. She questioned the need to continue to provide a detail report that had been requested by Board members who are no longer serving. Discussion around the subject resulted in the report being produced once a year, at the end of the fiscal year from now on.

Adrian questioned the possibility of additional money for staff out of COVID funds. His concern was the shortage of staffing in the area, the hourly wages of other employers, and the incentive for staff to stay and feel appreciated. Greer will review and report back to the Board.

**MEDICAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**COVID Vaccine:** Vieregge and Radocy updated the Board on vaccination clinic plans for the 12 + population for all four counties. Appointments are being set up for those that pre-registered online. All vaccination clinics are now being done out of our offices, except for one for seasonal workers in Mackinaw City on June 17<sup>th</sup>. That clinic will be for approximately 1,000 people and be using Johnson & Johnson vaccine. The homebound population can also a priority at this time. Vieregge and Radocy noted that our successful vaccinations could not have been done without the help of our National Guard and our volunteers.

Adrian expressed his gratitude also, and a discussion was held as to how to show our appreciation to them publicly. Motion by Gapczynski with support from Altman to publish an ad in all four county newspapers thanking our volunteers. Ayes all, motion carried.

**Schools:** Meyerson updated the Board on the challenges being faced by the area schools. A surge of COVID cases in March/April in the schools meant superintendents worked closely with DHD4 staff on mitigating disease transmission in the classrooms. Meyerson noted the continually changing recommendations from the State regarding social distancing, quarantine time, teams' requirements, mask requirements and extra-curricular activities has caused some challenges. Ultimate goal of keeping kids in school has been the most important.

Adrian asked Meyerson his prediction on the timeframe on vaccination ages dropping again. Meyerson explained the trial process and thought it may be fall before it is approved for under 12 years old. Altman asked Meyerson's opinion on an app the State of NY is using to prove vaccinations and if such an app is available in MI. Meyerson explained MCIR and HIPAA. Such an app is not available in MI, but HIPAA would allow you to show your own records if you choose, just not allow someone to search for your records. Those rights are for medical staff, and only for a specific need. Meyerson also explained that although MCIR is required for children, it is not required for adults. Adults can choose to not participate.

### **PERSONAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S & SUPERVISOR'S REPORT**

**COVID-19 Update:** Spivey provided the Board with a COVID vaccination update. Total vaccines administered by DHD4 is 25,181 as of May 14, 2021.

**Epidemiology Update:** Spivey updated the Board regarding COVID since the last Board meeting. We have seen a decrease in Confirmed and Probable cases and an additional 12 deaths. Spivey noted that all four counties have met the 55% vaccinated goal set by the State, meaning new guidelines will go into effect May 24<sup>th</sup> according to the State of MI Vax to Normal guide.

**Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS):** Black provided an overview of the CSHCS program. It is part of the Title V from Social Security, case management for children with certain diagnose. Black shared a story of the impact the program can have for a family with a child in need of the program. There are currently one nurse and one clerk per county serving CSHCS.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Great Lakes Monitoring:** EGLE grant has been awarded. This means four Great Lakes beaches and two inland lake beaches will be monitored starting June 1<sup>st</sup>. Prevost explained the logistics of taking samples and getting the samples to the Gaylord lab. The Montmorency EH sanitarian will be dropping off the samples.

**Food:** Prevost discussed the challenges involved with monitoring the regular food establishments and the additional seasonal food vendors. According to the State of MI, staffing should be 3.5 people to cover the area, and we have 2. Prevost noted that food and water safety is assumed by the public, and vital to public health. EPH funds are not enough to sustain the program. Also noted were the unusual increase in the number of plan reviews currently.

Altman questioned the State recommendation on sanitarian staffing vs what the State provides for the Upper Peninsula. He also questioned the website used by the State to monitor water sample results, and its lack of usability. Prevost agreed that operators should have fast access to those results, but that the site is not a DHD4 controlled website.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE HEALTH OFFICER'S REPORT**

Bryan noted the changes from the State on COVID recommendations/requirements were often made without any advanced notice to the local health departments. She reviewed COVID-19 timeline and significant events from February 2020 until May 2021. With 45 DHD4 employees, Bryan stated it was the dedication of staff to move the mountain and serve our four counties that made it happen. They handled testing, the hotline, contact tracing, schools, and vaccinations. Work place stress, lack of time off, long hours including nights, weekends and holidays, and the increased workload has taken a toll. State's mixed messages has not helped. Bryan noted the current lawsuits in Cheboygan County against DHD4, who was following State guidelines. Legal fees will add up. Adrian commented on the litigation and the disappointment of watching the State step back from the process. He noted a possible need for an executive meeting to discuss this further. He also questioned the current status of masking mandates. Bryan noted that MIOSHA enforces workplaces on employee safety. They have yet to make a statement, but are expected to soon.

The resignation of Nursing Director Curl for personal reasons has resulted in Black assuming the Director level in the interim. With a nurse also exiting, the Union has agreed to allow a nurse to remain on contract basis. Additional nursing position has been posted. Nursing Director hired and starts June 21, 2021. Discussion around a possible nurse dedicated to handle each school district next school year.

Health Officer recommends DHD4 to join the Cheboygan Chamber of Commerce. This will be a critical link between local businesses and DHD4.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

None

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**CORRESPONDANCE:** Gail Tinker sent in a thank you to all staff for their COVID response work.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, motion by Altman with support from Gapczynski. Ayes all, motion carried.

Adjournment: 11:20am

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Bob Adrian, Chairman

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Michael Newman, Secretary/Treasurer

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Kendra Bartz, Recording Secretary