

Mitchell County Board of Health Meeting

04/11/25

11:58 – 1:54

MCHHCPH Conference Room

Call to Order: The Mitchell County Board of Health meet on Friday, April 11, 2025, in the Mitchell County Home Health and Public Health conference room. Jolene Norby called the meeting to order at 11:58am. Others present at the meeting were Sandy Offen, Pam Marzen, Laura Huisman, Jessa Ketelsen, Terri Tesch, Janet Borcharding, Dr. Kelly Ross, Brenda Miller, Sasha Giles, Amanda Baer, Megan Taets, and Christine Hackenmiller.

Agenda: Jolene asked for a motion to approve the agenda or if there are any changes. Brenda made a motion to approve the agenda as written, the motion was seconded by Sandy and passed unanimously.

Review and Approval of past minutes: Pam made the motion to approve February 14, 2025, minutes as printed, motion seconded by Dr Ross and passed unanimously.

Megan Taets, County Social Services Update: Mitchell County Social Services currently is 1 of 13 regions in the state of Iowa. The State has been realigned to seven districts and the new realignment will begin July 1, 2025. Our region is going away and will fit into one of the new seven districts. Currently Megan and Ashley assist with gap funding for those that have no Medicaid or waiting to get on Medicaid. They also offer general assistance for Mitchell County, overseeing Substance Abuse and the juvenile budget and so much more. Moving forward Behavioral Health (formally Mental Health) has been awarded to the Iowa Primary Care Association which unfortunately will not have the capacity to be available in all counties. However, the plan is to hire system navigators to help with guidance as to where to find assistance, these will be access points. At this time the access points have not been determined. The department of aging and disability will have access points DAP (region 3) a draft has been drawn up and awaiting approval. The biggest concern for individuals is having local access points as Megan and Ashley have been very accommodating to Mitchell County residents. Megan reached out to Jim Wherry trying to try to keep something at the local level as many people seek their help. Megan will present her case at the next BOS meeting.

Environmental Health: Amanda deferred to the report and was open to questions. Brenda questioned why the phone line was over budget. Amanda explained that this is shared between both entities. Discussion & Possible action on Environmental Health Verification Signature for Valent: Jolene elaborated on conversations had with Valent and Aaron Murphy unfortunately was unable to get complete verification as to what was being signed, and why our county was signing. Concerns were expressed with the legality behind it all. Jolene stated that the board feels it's best for Amanda to no longer sign this document for Valent. Valent will be looking at alternative routes. Pam made a motion to cease having environmental health specialist signing the verification of origin of product from Valent, motion seconded by Sandy and passed unanimously.

Home Health/Public Health Business Operations: Expense/Revenue Reports: Laura deferred to the report regarding the budget and expanded on a few points. Amendments were made to both sides. 20K from expense and revenue to help fix budge lines. FY26 budget should be approved by April 22. Elderbridge grant: We've always used this grant towards personal care and home maker services. There are now funds available for respite care (these funds can also be used toward personal care). Laura has submitted application for these funds of \$31K. All other grants Laura deferred to the report. Letters have been sent regarding rate increases. The mailing also included a new financial statement to be completed. Hoping to have all the financial statements back by next week. Slight concern with possibly losing a few clients due to the rate increase. Mission, Vision, & Value Statement: Laura and Jessa have been working with the state on updating the agency mission and vision statements and adding value statements which the agency has never had. With these updates, it brings a name change for the agency as well: Mitchell County Public Health and Home Health. The board showed approval of the new mission and vision statements. Agency brochures, website, forms, etc. will all be updated to reflect these changes. SWOT analysis was conducted on Tuesday, April 8 meeting attended by Laura, Jessa, Sasha, and Christine and this group will continue to work on a 3-year plan. Staffing Updates: Resignation letter from Allison Olson she is currently on 1 day a week and the weekend rotation. Her patient load will be absorbed by other nurses and will not look for replacement. The website is still under development Laura anticipated completion by now and was hoping to share at the meeting today. Phone system: IT is working on a new phone system for the county agency and plans to update Public Health Home Health agency first. Eventually all IT budget will be under the IT budget

for FY26 will continue to come from our agency budget. Laura requested approval to designate Mitchell County Public Health official the Public Health Department for Mitchell County. Brenda made a motion to approve the designation of Mitchell County Public Health the official Public Health for Mitchell County, the motion was seconded by Janet and passed unanimously.

Public Health Updates. Jessa deferred and expanded on a few points in her report. It is National Public Health Week. Upcoming events: Mental Health Walk May 15th and the Denim Walk, sexual assault awareness April 30th Jessa invited all board members to join in on these walks. Emergency Preparedness EOP needs to be signed yearly. Pam will need to sign the action plan for the building and Jolene will sign the action plan for the agency. The Wellbeing and Community Health Clinic location change for Stacyville started today at the church. During this clinic she had 5 individuals for blood pressure checks verses normal 1 and she also received a home health referral. 28 attended NARCAN training last month and Jessa is working on coordinating additional classes with a few local Banks and she is also looking at additional classes for this summer in Osage and St Ansgar. A bike rodeo will be held on May 15 at the City Park partnering with Osage PD and the Mountain Bike Club. Helmet fittings and bike inspections will be available that day. Around 100 free helmets are available to give where needed. NexAir mentioned they would be willing to help where needed. Jessa thought maybe they could supply water and cookies for those in attendance but questioned if should avoid this due to controversial issues. BOH thoughts: Sandy and Brenda did not see any issues at this time however Jolene suggested maybe checking with Hardware Hank and/or Kwik star first. Jessa has signed up for a Car seat safety class. This will be a 3-day class in Preston, Minnesota - May 27-29. Currently 675 cases of measles in 20 states, 1 case in Minnesota and 97% of these cases are unvaccinated or status unknown. Jessa met with the Hospital to discuss what it will look like if /when cases hit Mitchell County. She gave information for clinic staff for knowledge on giving advice to callers with questions regarding measles. Jessa will be stopping at Mennonite communities to help educate and give resources and at a few Amish households for education and resources. Public Health alignment: Public Health will be present in all 99 counties but still uncertain what the regions will look like. Projected to see these changes in FY27.

Home Health Update: Sasha deferred to the report and updated on census as of today. Current census 79 and 8 referrals on the board.

QAPI Update: Sasha is taking over QAPI with guidance from Laura and Jessa. Performance Improvement Project (PIP) focuses on infection control in the home Sasha continues to monitor and educate all staff, nurses, aides, and therapy staff. Chart audit information in the report goes over quarter 4 waiting for quarter 1. Overall looking better than the previous quarter. Sasha attended the Iowa Home Care Association's Spring conference and came back with new knowledge and excellent guidance. Specially a new script for follow-up discharge calls. Laura & Sasha met with Pastoral association, senior life solutions and local Nursing Homes to discuss services we provide and our referral process. Standing orders: Sasha would like to have standing orders for simple wound care and UA for suspected UTI to help decrease ER visits and/or hospital stays. Dr Ross is willing to sign the standing orders form to help bridge the gap between start of care and the development of the Plan of Care. Since Dr. Ross has given his approval, no motion is needed. When using the standing orders the patients PCP will be notified of the standing orders signed by Dr Ross.

Agency Other: Website was available by end of meeting. Jessa shared the website with the board. The website was not completed but it gave a preview of what's to come. Agency will eventually have online immunization scheduling through the website. Laura will also post the agendas, minutes and calendar with all meetings listed to the website. The plan is to pay in advance of 5 years using the Dairy Farmer Grant funds. These funds are also being used towards the building of the website. Hopefully by May 1st the website will be completed and up and running.

Public Comment:

Next Meeting: June 6, 2025, at 12:00pm.

Meeting adjourned: 1:54 pm