

DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT NO. 2
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
District Health Department No. 2 – Multi Media Room Lower Level
May 24, 2010 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL OF BOARD MEMBERS: Mike Hunt, John Moehring, Patricia Schmidt, Beverly Scott, Joe Stone, Bill Thompson, Kathleen Vichunas (arrived 8:35 a.m.), John West (arrived 8:50 a.m.)

STAFF PRESENT: Lynnette Benjamin, Health Officer; Doug Getty, Environmental Health Director, Debra Pelton, Finance Director; Linda Rich, Home Health Director

PUBLIC PRESENT: Norma Pennington, Connie Stasiak, Sharon Bryant-Langley, Bonnie Klann, Liz Chadwick, Jeff Patrus

The meeting was called to order by John Moehring at 8:30 a.m.

Adoption of Agenda

Motion made by Patricia Schmidt and seconded by William Thompson to adopt the agenda as is.

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Passed

Open to Public

Liz Chadwick, Home Health Care Nurse, asked the Board to consider something other than layoffs for Home Health Care providers. Layoffs are very disruptive for staff and clients.

Bonnie Klann, Home Health employee, agreed with Ms. Chadwick.

Consent Agenda

Motion made by Mike Hunt and seconded by William Thompson to accept the minutes from the April 26, 2010 Board of Health Meeting and from the May 12, 2010 Special Board of Health Meeting

Roll Call: All Ayes
Motion Passed

Public Health Officer's Remarks: Lynnette Benjamin provided the Board a future Public Health perspective relative to the Health Care Reform Bill and Medicaid expansion, to stress how long term decisions need to conform around the changing health care environment.

Finance Report

Approval of Expenditures

Motion made by William Thompson and seconded by Mike Hunt to approve the expenditures of \$370,187.60.

Roll Call: William Thompson: Yes; Kathleen Vichunas: Yes; Patricia Schmidt: Yes; John Moehring: Yes; Beverly Scott: Yes; John West: Yes; Joe Stone: Yes; Mike Hunt: Yes

Motion Passed

Ms. Benjamin went over the Finance Reports that were in the Board packets. Ms. Schmidt commented that she liked the way the reports were done – easy to read. Mr. Hunt noted that the graphs showed how for five (5) months in a row the cash balance was lower than at this time last year.

Audit Clarification: Auditor Cindy Scott spoke to the Board and needed the Board to specifically approve reinstating the Finance Directors years of service back in May, 2008. The Finance Committee was provided with the detail information, but when it came down to the actual motion in the Board Meeting, the years of service was not a part of that wordage, so if that was the intent of the Board and they could be formally approve it, if not could the Board approve what their intentions were.

A lengthy discussion took place in regards to the Finance Director moving back into MERS.

Motion made by Patricia Schmidt and seconded by Mike Hunt to restate a motion made at the May, 2008 Board of Health meeting to read: “Consider the current Finance Director as an employee of District Health Department No. 2 and allow the employee to receive the same benefits afforded to other non union administrative staff. Further to recognize all years of service with the agency (15 years total) and place the employee at Step 5 of the pay scale.”

Roll Call: William Thompson: Yes; Kathleen Vichunas: Yes; Patricia Schmidt: Yes; John Moehring: Yes; Beverly Scott: No; John West: No; Joe Stone: Yes; Mike Hunt: Yes

Motion Passed

A lengthy discussion was held in regards to “New Hires” and “Re-Hires”. Ms. Schmidt suggested that there needs to be a written policy. Mr. Hunt suggested that perhaps we contact Mr. Freel and he could help us with this policy and its language.

Motion made by Mike Hunt and seconded by Joe Stone to have Mr. Freel research the personnel policy changes. Ms. Scott noted that she hopes the Board doesn’t have Mr. Freel do this right away because per Ms. Benjamin there is research to be done. Mr. Hunt amended the motion to have Mr. Freel look into this matter after DHD2 has done research.

Roll Call: William Thompson: Yes; Kathleen Vichunas: Yes; Patricia Schmidt: Yes; John Moehring: Yes; Beverly Scott: Yes; John West: Yes; Joe Stone: Yes: Mike Hunt: Yes

Motion Passed

Motion made by Patricia Schmidt and seconded by William Thompson to approve the tabled minutes of March 22, 2010.

Roll Call: William Thompson: Yes; Kathleen Vichunas: Yes; Patricia Schmidt: Yes; John Moehring: Yes; Beverly Scott: Yes; John West: Yes; Joe Stone: Yes: Mike Hunt: Yes

Motion Passed

Short and Long Term Recommendations: Ms. Benjamin went over Plan A and Plan B. She and Union President Bonnie Klann have already sat down to discuss these recommendations. Plan A would involve a union vote. Ms. Benjamin told the Board that she is still doing research on the long term plan and that it would be discussed at the next Board Meeting. Mr. Hunt asked about going to Blue Care Network. He feels if the insurance was changed it would be a huge savings for the agency. Ms. Benjamin replied that when the option was given to staff not many were in favor.

Ms. Benjamin went over the finance reports the Board had requested. She advised everyone to be careful what programs were eliminated – all are connected in some way.

Motion made by Mike Hunt and seconded by William Thompson to approve Plan A with union cooperation.

Roll Call: William Thompson: Yes; Kathleen Vichunas: Yes; Patricia Schmidt: Yes; John Moehring: Yes; Beverly Scott: Yes; John West: No; Joe Stone: Yes: Mike Hunt: Yes

Motion Passed

Medical Directors Remarks: Dr. Bush informed the Board the Well Child Program was up and running that morning. Right now they are waiting for their clients and said that is one of the problems with this program – people who don't show up.

Correspondence: Ms. Benjamin went over the letters that were in the packets which were Northeast Michigan Affordable Housing and the State of Michigan Single Audit Findings.

Motion made by Beverly Scott and seconded by Mike Hunt to support Northeast Michigan Affordable Housing Grant.

Roll Call: William Thompson: Yes; Kathleen Vichunas: Yes; Patricia Schmidt: Yes; John Moehring: Yes; Beverly Scott: Yes; John West: Yes; Joe Stone: Yes: Mike Hunt: Yes

Motion Passed

Commissioners Comments

Ms. Scott asked about letting local realtors know about the space DHD2 has to rent downstairs in the West Branch Office. Ms. Pelton explained who can/cannot occupy our space. There are some very active feelers out there.

Ms. Scott noted she received a three (3) page letter from the Finance Director that was not given or made available to the public. She felt there was a lot of misinformation in the letter and it should be discussed in a public meeting. Mr. Stone spoke up and said the letter was probably written because Ms. Pelton felt she was being attacked in public, which she was and was defending herself. He felt it shouldn't have happened in public and it should have been done behind close doors. Ms. Pelton told the Board if she did anything inappropriate she apologizes, but would like to know from Ms. Scott, if she received e-mails and letters in her mail box, why are they not made public, why is she being picked out. Ms. Scott replied again that the letter should have been made public. Ms. Benjamin said that she is very disheartened by everything that has been going on and she has always felt she had an open door policy. She feels at times the leadership at DHD2 does not get any trust or respect from some of the commissioners. Ms. Benjamin questioned why employees are not going to their managers if they have a problem instead of straight to the commissioners. She feels if this is the case, why is there a Health Officer. Ms. Schmidt agreed with Ms. Benjamin that the Board needs to follow the organizational structure. She feels that if employees would like to speak with a commissioner it should be done while all of them are together. Mr. Hunt commented it was very inappropriate to talk about the Finance Director in public. All commissioners should go through proper channels and not go out on their own. They should be informing the Chair and Health Officer if they have any concerns or questions, not going directly to the employees. He feels proper procedures should be followed.

Gerry Chase from the Northern Health Foundation spoke to the Board in regards to the West Branch building and what happens when the lease is up in 2013. A suggestion was to lower the rent for a number of years. He passed out sheets with the figures on it to accomplish this task. Mr. Chase said he would have to survey the building to see what repairs would need to be done. Mr. Stone asked if this had to be acted on today. Mr. Chase replied it could wait until the next meeting, but if the Board would pass a motion today to authorize him to start taking a look at the building, he could at least start this process.

Motion made by Mike Hunt and seconded by Patricia Schmidt to give the Health Officer approval to look into the cost savings for District Health Department #2 building repairs.

Roll Call: William Thompson: Yes; Kathleen Vichunas: Yes; Patricia Schmidt: Yes; John Moehring: Yes; Beverly Scott: Yes; John West: Yes; Joe Stone: Yes; Mike Hunt: Yes

Motion Passed

Open to the Public

Phyllis spoke in regards to the Great Start Collaborative

Bonnie Klann: Noted that the Nurse Practitioner volunteered to cut her hours.

Bill Review: Bills were reviewed by the Board of Health

Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.