Minutes for Guthrie County Board of Health

Guthrie County Health Services

March 15, 2023 Regular Meeting

**Present**

1. Board Members: Jan Mueller, Dr. Steven Bascom, Bill McDermott, Mike Dickson
2. Director: Jotham Arber
3. Staff member: Jo Rasmussen
4. Guest: Paula Spies with New Opportunities

**Call to Order -**  Dr. Steven Bascom, Chairman, opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Board minutes**

* January 25, 2023 minutes were reviewed.
  + Motion by McDermott second by Dickson to approve January 25, 2023 minutes. Motion carried.

**Financial Report**

* **Environmental Health**
  + Arber reviewed the financial report.
* **Public Health**
  + Arber reviewed the financial report.
  + The State of Iowa gave an extension for the Equity and Response Grant to December 31, 2023 instead of June 30, 2023. We should be able to carry over approximately $50,000 to use for salaries next year.
  + We are working on a Nutrition Grant which is for $35,000 per year. It is from the CDC and the State of Iowa. The State contacted Arber suggesting he apply for the grant.

**Department Activity Report**

* Activities for Environmental Health and Public Health
  + Monthly reports of services provided by Public Health and Environmental Health were reviewed.
  + Starting in April we will have walk-in immunization clinics on Wednesdays for Guthrie and Audubon Counties. The immunizations will include COVID, childhood and adult shots.
  + A reunification exercise is being planned for schools in both Counties.
  + Arber shared a Home Owners Guide for Environmental Health.
  + New property sales that have wells will receive this guidebook. The Grants to Counties will pay for the guidebooks.
* Activities for Social Worker
  + A report was shared by Arber of activities for the month.
  + Jessen should be able to start billing for Mental Health therapy by the end of March. Jessen will be doing close to 30 visits per week. Clients will be 12 years old and older.
  + Rasmussen reported the agency might have a grant through Elderbridge to help pay for Behavioral Mental Health.
  + Jessen is also a mental health first aide trainer for law enforcement. There is no charge for the cost to any County employees who would like the training since a grant covered her time in gaining the certification.
* Epidemiology Report (including COVID activity)
  + Arber gave an update on the current number of COVID cases.
  + Arber has seen an increase in Hepatitis B.
  + There is a TB outbreak in Cass County. We have not seen any cases in Guthrie or Audubon County at this time. Arber has offered to send staff to Cass County to provide assistance.

**Old Business**

1. Update on FY24 Budgets
   * Arber reported that the Board of Supervisors requested Public Health and Environmental Health budgets be reduced. Due to State changes in property taxes the County will have less funding.
   * The Board of Supervisors approved a 4% wage increase. Dickson noted that the Health insurance increased by 3%.
   * Approval of the changes made to the budget was tabled. Action will be taken at the April meeting.
   * The Public Health budget was reduced by $22,500.
   * The Environmental Health budget was reduced by $10,000.
2. Update on Child and Adolescent Health with Crawford County
   * Arber shared that we met with Hope Jensen at our office for her to review our office set up. Services should start in April 2023.
   * Lead screenings will be done with New Opportunities at WIC clinics.
3. 28E agreement between Audubon and Guthrie for Public Health Services
   * Arber presented a copy of the agreement for members to review. The board will take action on the agreement at the April meeting.
4. 28E agreement for Environmental Health for Adair, Audubon and Cass Counties
   * Arber presented it to the board for its review. The Board of Health will take action on it at the April meeting.
5. Update on Heart of Iowa Mental Health Region Contract
   * Arber noted that we have signed the contract. We are waiting for the region to sign the contract.

**New Business**

1. Update on staff changes
   * One of our health aides is currently on family leave. We are going to hire a new health aide to help with the caseloads.
   * One of our full-time nurses would like to change from full-time status to fill-in status. Arber has interviewed an RN and has offered her the full-time position.
   * Abby James has turned in her resignation. She will be moving to Minnesota. Arber has hired a replacement. She will start March 27th.

**Policy Review**

* Arber presented Social Worker policies for review.
  + Motion by Mueller seconded McDermott to accept the policies. Motion carried.

**Other**

* Arber is helping the Guthrie County Sheriff’s office apply for a grant. It would be a $250,000 grant that can be applied to salaries.
* He is also helping EMS write grants for monitors for the ambulances.
* Paula Spies with New Opportunities gave an update.

**Next Schedule meeting dates**

* Next meeting will be April 5, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting closed at 8:30 p.m.

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Representative of Board of Health Board Secretary