Minutes for Guthrie County Board of Health

Guthrie County Health Services

August 3, 2022 Regular Meeting

**Present**

1. Board Members: Jan Mueller, Peg Snyder, Dr. Bascom, Mike Dickson
2. Director: Jotham Arber
3. Staff member: Jo Rasmussen, Jenny Jessen
4. Guest: Paula Spies with New Opportunities, Cindy Duhrkopf with Partnership 4 Families

**Call to Order -**  Dr. Steven Bascom, Chairman, opened the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

**Board minutes**

* July 6, 2022 regular meeting was reviewed.
  + Motion by Snyder second by Mueller to accept the July 6, 2022. Motion carried.

**Financial Report**

* Financial reports for both departments were reviewed.
  + Environmental Health
* Arber reviewed the financial report.
  + Public Health
* Arber reviewed the financial report.
* Arber presented to the board about sharing utilities cost with Guthrie/Adair EMA office. Arber noted that the plan will be that public health budget will pay 100% of all utilities. EMA will reimburse public health an amount yet to be determined by the board of supervisors.
* Items have been purchased with the IT and Confinement Grant for Guthrie County. The agency tried to purchase the majority of the items in FY21/22; however, the funding won’t come in until FY22/23.
* Arber noted that we need an invoice from the sheriff’s office for their purchase for the confinement grant.

**Department Activity Report**

* Activities for Environmental Health and Public Health
  + A monthly report of services provided by each department was presented by Arber using a new format for the activities reports.
  + Arber noted that we had a dog bite in July that involved one of our employee’s dog.
  + Arber noted that Emergency Preparedness is working with Guthrie County EMA on hosting an emergency preparedness exercise.
* Activities for Social Worker
  + Report was shared by Jenny Jessen, MSW, for the month of June.
  + Jessen is transitioning into the supervisory role for the HOPES program for Guthrie and Audubon Counties.
* Epidemiology report (includes COVID activities)
  + Arber gave an update on the current number of COVID cases.
  + Arber explained the new variant of COVID called BA.5.

**Old Business**

1. County Ordinance Tanning Facilities for Environmental Health
   * Discussion was held regarding the ordinance. Arber requested a decision from the board to proceed with the ordinance.
   * Motion by Snyder and seconded by Mueller to send the ordinance to the County Attorney for review. Motion carried.
   * After the County Attorney reviews the ordinance then Arber will present it to the Guthrie County Supervisors.

**New Business**

1. Healthy at Home Program
   * Arber explained the program called Healthy at Home. We will be partnering with local physicians/providers to make home visit for those residents that are unable to go to the physician/provider offices.
2. Mental Health Therapy Program
   * Arber noted that this will be for Jenny Jessen’s mental health visits. If Jessen does ten clients in each County, she will meet the guidelines for her two-year supervision requirements.
   * For this program clients will be for over 18 years; however Jessen could consult children but has been recommending to the two children’s therapist out of Audubon.
   * Funding can come from local grants and possibly Regional Mental Health.
   * Jessen will do two days a week of therapy. Guthrie visits can be done at the Guthrie County office; Audubon might be in the office at the hospital.
   * Arber is working on rates and sliding fee scale for therapy visits.
3. Subcontract with New Opportunities for Vaccine for Children Clinic
   * Arber shared that our staff assisted New Opportunities to give vaccines to school aged children in Carroll County. New Opportunities is working on becoming a VFC provider.
4. Salamander Inventory Software
   * This was funded by the Emergency Preparedness Coalition grant. This is a rapid tag inventory software. Arber noted that we can work with the maintenance department to use this software for all County inventories if they are interested.
5. BBQ for a Better You
   * Arber explained the goal will go to communities to promote public health and community partnerships and will offer free BBQ hot dogs lunch or supper. This will be part of our community needs assessment.
   * A suggestion by board members was made to coordinate with farmers’ market.
6. Annual Lake Panorama Inspections Billing Process
   * Starting in 2023 we will bill all homeowners at Lake Panorama annually for their septic systems. The systems will still be checked every fourth year by staff members.
   * Arber will present a cost report at the next meeting to set the rates for this service. Currently we charge $50 on the year their septic was inspected.
   * The Lake Panorama Association stated they will help us send out information about this change so we can educate the homeowners.

**Policy Review**

* None for this meeting.

**Guest**

* Paula Spies – New Opportunities was awarded the maternal child grant from DHS.
* Cindy Duhrkopf – thanked the staff for the good work in Guthrie and Audubon County HOPES program.

**Other**

* None

**Next Schedule meeting dates**

* September 7, 2022
* October 5, 2022
* November 2, 2022
* December 7, 2022

Meeting closed at 8:24 pm.

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Representative of Board of Health Board Secretary