Minutes for Guthrie County Board of Health

Guthrie County Health Services

November 2, 2022 Regular Meeting

**Present**

1. Board Members: Jan Mueller, Peg Snyder, Dr. Steven Bascom, Bill McDermott, Mike Dickson
2. Director: Jotham Arber
3. Staff member: Jo Rasmussen
4. Guest: Cindy Duhrkopf

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

**Board minutes**

* September 7, 2022 minutes were reviewed.
  + Motion by McDermott second by Snyder to approve the October 5, 2022 minutes. 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.

**Department Activity Report**

* Activities for Environmental Health and Public Health
  + Monthly reports of services provided for Public Health and Environmental Health were reviewed.
  + There has been a surge in requests for perc test. As of today, Justin Downing has close to 6 weeks of perc tests scheduled for next year.
* Activities for Social Worker
  + A report was shared by Jenny Jessen, MSW, of October 2022 activities.
* Epidemiology Report (including COVID activity)
  + Arber gave an update on the current number of COVID cases.
  + Arber noted that the future of free COVID vaccines might be coming to an end at the beginning of 2023. There has not yet been an official statement. The State of Iowa is changing to allowing us to only ordering vaccine once a month instead of every other week.

**Old Business**

1. Public Health and Environmental Health Vehicles update
   * Arber explained that the Chevy Malibus that Brandon Thompson had ordered through Christensen Motors in Audubon could not be filled. Christensen Motors stated that Malibus are not being made because of supply shortages. Arber and Thompson decided to change the order to two Chevy Trailblazers using the government discount.
2. Update on Iowa Medicaid billing
   * Arber explained issues we have been having with billing to Amerigroup Anthem. Our current clearing house, Waystar, has been trying to fix the issues. The issue is Anthem is rejecting a billing code even though its billing manual states the code should be used.
3. Update on IT grants
   * Arber noted we still need to purchase items before end of the calendar year. He has been working with Brian Hoffman on upgrading servers and other equipment following the guidelines of the grant.

**New Business**

1. Water test advertisement
   * Arber will be sending out the advertisement for free water testing to rural county residents. The State will pay up to $6000.00 for marketing.
2. Jenny Jessen, Social Worker, leave of absence
   * Arber reported Jessen will be on leave of absence from October 27 for up to six weeks.
3. Billing issues with Guthrie County Hospital and therapy visits
   * Arber explained an issue we found during our quality check that we have been overcharged by the Guthrie County Hospital. Per the therapy contract we are to be charged $85.00 per visit; however, the hospital was charging per unit. We sent an email and had a phone conversation with their billing department. We were overcharged for visits paid out in this fiscal year in the amount of $12,962.50. However, the amount should have been $7,097.50. There should be a credit balance in the amount of $5,865.00 which will be used to pay for October visits.
4. Security upgrade Microsoft 360
   * Arber explained that the IT department has asked the agency to use Microsoft Team for more security.

**Policy Review**

* None for this meeting.

**Guest**

**Other**

* It was noted that Jan Mueller’s term ends in December 2022. Dickson noted that the County is asking anyone on a board to fill out an application. We will check with human resources to get the correct application. Mueller noted that she would be willing to serve again.

**Next Schedule meeting dates**

* December 7, 2022
* January 24, 2023
* February meeting will be cancelled.

Meeting closed at 8:30 p.m.

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Representative of Board of Health Board Secretary