

Minutes

North Shore Health Department Board of Health
4800 W. Green Brook Dr., Brown Deer, WI 53223

Thursday, January 16, 2015

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:15 pm by Kathy Platt.
2. Roll Call
Present: Dr. Mary Jo Baisch, Barbara Bechtel, Dr. Debesh Mazumdar, Bill Warner, Dr. Gary Lewis, Dr. Christopher Simenz, Thomas Noble, Tasha Jenkins (Director of Office Policy and Practice Alignment, Wisconsin Department of Health Services), Kathleen Platt (interim health officer), Sanja Petric (public health nurse) and Jamie Kinzel
Absent: Dr. Claudia Altmann
3. Persons Desiring to be Heard
There were no persons desiring to be heard.
4. Approval of October 16, 2014 Minutes
Bill Warner moved to approve the minutes as submitted, Mary Jo Baisch seconded. Motion carried.
5. Introduction of New Public Health Nurse, Sanja Petric
Kathy Platt introduced Sanja Petric, who started as a full time public health nurse on December 1, 2014. She is working out of our Brown Deer office.
5. Presentation of Level III Health Department Certificate by State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services Representative, Tasha Jenkins
Ms. Jenkins presented the Board of Health and health department staff with a certificate, identifying the North Shore Health Department as a Level III Health Department. She congratulated staff and Board members for their hard work to increase programming and our commitment to serving residents in our area. Dr. Mary Jo Baisch requested that Ms. Jenkins also present this certificate to village managers/city administrators, and Ms. Jenkins stated that she would be happy to do so.
6. Discussion Regarding Hiring of Health Officer
Jamie Kinzel reported that interviews were conducted with a few of the applicants. Jamie thanked the board members who participated in the interview process. The health officer position has been offered to Mrs. Ann Christiansen, and she has accepted the job offer. Ms. Christiansen will start her employment on February 4, 2015.
7. Discussion on Flu Cases and Flu Vaccine
Kathy Platt explained to the Board that the health department administered approximately 630 flu vaccines this season, including 111 at the mass dispensing exercise at University School of Milwaukee. Our numbers remain low as we still are unable to provide reduced cost VFC

vaccines to any child with insurance. We plan to order approximately the same amount or slightly fewer doses of flu vaccine for the upcoming season. We have about 70 doses remaining from our current supply. We also plan to again order standard quadrivalent vaccine as we did this year, rather than high dose or intradermal vaccine. Dr. Mazumdar suggested that we offer intradermal vaccine as an alternative, as his patients find it much more comfortable/less painful than an intramuscular injection. The intradermal is approved for use in children and adults aged 9-64 years, so this could not be used for the bulk of our vaccine clients, who are older adults, aged 65 and above. The decision of whether to offer intradermal vaccine will be discussed with the new health officer.

The department has been busy with flu cases. We are notified of flu related hospitalizations, which are only indicators of flu prevalence in our area. We have had a large number of reports on flu related hospitalizations, again primarily older adults. The majority of these hospitalized people did receive the influenza vaccine, however the coverage is not good due to the genetic drift of the Influenza A strain that is being found. The Influenza A H3N2 strain has had a significant genetic drift, which decreased the effectiveness of the vaccine, even though this strain is in the vaccine. Last year at this time, we had five reports of influenza related hospitalizations, and as today, there are 60 reports of flu hospitalizations. Two of our three skilled nursing facilities reported outbreaks of flu/flu-like illness and we obtained Tamiflu from the public health stockpile due to their inability to obtain sufficient supplies promptly from their pharmacy, located in Minnesota.

As a proactive measure, we identified assisted living apartments and independent apartment buildings that have large numbers of older adults living there and/or had cases of influenza-related hospitalizations. We contacted the apartment management offices for permission to provide and post informational posters in their common areas pertaining to how to control flu: the three main messages are to get a flu shot, use good hand hygiene and if you have symptoms of flu, to stay home and call your health care provider.

8. Discussion on Ebola Preparedness and Monitoring

Initially, health department staff met with North Shore Fire/Rescue to establish a protocol for EMS and public health safety in the event of an Ebola case in the North Shore. Ongoing updates have been coming from the state regarding identification, monitoring and care of any low, moderate or high risk travelers or Ebola contacts. We completed 21 days of phone monitoring for a resident who returned from Liberia, and this person completed the monitoring period without fever or other symptoms. Interestingly, the person returned to Liberia for their employer and then again returned to the US for a conference on the East Coast. Even though the person had no plans to return to the North Shore, the CDC interviewer identified the North Shore address as the destination and we were assigned to interview and monitor the individual for symptoms. We then worked with the state to transfer monitoring responsibility to the different jurisdiction in North Carolina. While we were monitoring him, North Shore dispatch was kept notified of need for special intervention, should a call come in from the address of the traveler. In addition, two nurses met with Shorewood schools health staff and reviewed basic personal protective equipment donning and doffing, hand hygiene and basic infection control principles, as well as how Ebola is being managed in the US via identification of all travelers and monitoring either by phone or via direct contact.

9. Health Officer Report

Kathy Platt made the following report:

- The Department received a radon grant for 2015, and staff has put up displays in North Shore libraries with material on the effects of radon. The department is also offering reduced cost radon kits. Our objective is to have at least 100 completed tests in our jurisdiction this year.
- The annual report is being completed.
- We have presented two more "Remembering When" fall and fire prevention group presentations for older adults; these were at The Porticos and the Brown Deer Senior Center. This is a program developed by the National Fire Protection Association and is a joint presentation with the Health Department and North Shore Fire/Rescue. Another presentation is scheduled for February at River Park Apartments in Shorewood.
- The department is co-sponsoring an Affordable Care Act presentation with Columbia St. Mary's, Milwaukee Enrollment Network, and Covering Kids and Families-Wisconsin. This event is scheduled for Tuesday, January 27th at the Shorewood Village Center at 6:00 pm- 7:00 pm.
- The DNR has indicated that there will be beach testing grant money for 2015. There will not be an increase in the amount of money, however additional information will be requested, including the presence of algae, water turbidity, presence of birds, etc. We anticipate that we will go ahead and provide this information to maintain the grant for beach testing, as residents using our three beaches expect that the water is tested for coliform levels. Dr. Baisch asked about any efforts or grants being looked into for swimming lessons for children whose families cannot afford lessons or drowning prevention strategies. This will be a topic to discuss with the new health officer.
- The Health Department continues to work actively with REDgen group, a community coalition promoting resiliency for adolescents and families. We assisted the coalition with applying for a grant through the Charles E. Kubly Foundation. A representative from the North Shore Health Department participates in the mental health subgroup, as well as the large REDgen meetings.

10. Scheduling of Next Meeting and Location

The next Board of Health meeting will be on April 16th, 2015, at 7:00 pm in Shorewood, 2010 E. Shorewood Blvd.

11. Adjournment

At 7:55 pm, Dr. Baisch moved to adjourn, Bill Warner seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen S. Platt, Secretary