

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Monthly Meeting
Tuesday, November 25, 2008, 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order & Roll Call

The Board of Health held its monthly meeting on November 25, 2008 in Meeting Room 2 at the Brookens Administrative Center, 1776 East Washington, Urbana. The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Julian Rappaport. Board members Prashanth Gowda, Stan James, Nezar Kassem, John Peterson, Cheryl Ramirez, Julian Rappaport, Bobbi Scholze, and Betty Segal were present at the time of roll call. The staff members present were Kat Bork (Board of Health Secretary) and Susan McGrath (Senior Assistant State's Attorney). Others present were John Dwyer (CUPHD Emergency Preparedness Planner), Nancy Greenwalt (Smile Healthy Executive Director), Julie Pryde (CUPHD Administrator), and Jim Roberts (CUPHD Environmental Health Director).

Approval of Agenda/Addendum

MOTION by James to approve the agenda and addendum; seconded by Peterson.
Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION by Peterson to approve the Board of Health October 28, 2008 minutes; seconded by James. **Motion carried.**

Public Participation on Agenda Items Only

There was no public participation on the agenda items.

Correspondence and Communications

Policy with Respect to Journalism Students

Rappaport explained that he asked for this agenda item because he receives regular requests from journalism students seeking to gather information about public health. Gowda added that he was interviewed by 3-4 journalism students in the last year as well. Rappaport noted the students ask general questions and asked Pryde about the best way to direct students to the correct information. Pryde suggested the students first be directed to the CUPHD website, which has a resource for students who are writing papers. If the students' questions cannot be answered by the website then they can call Lori Holmes, the CUPHD Public Information Officer, with specific questions. Regarding the possibility that students might request a large volume of documents be copied, McGrath explained the Freedom of Information Act statute allows an agency to figure out the copying costs and require a deposit in advance. The statute allows this for requests involving an excessive number of copies and helps prevent an agency from spending money on requests where people asked for numerous documents without knowing what they need. Pryde noted that CUPHD posts as much information as it legally can on its website to make the information more accessible to the public.

Rappaport informed the Board that the resolution honoring Thomas O'Rourke's service as a Board of Health member was mailed to him with a card from Rappaport. O'Rourke emailed Rappaport expressing his appreciation.

Treasurer's Report

Approval of CUPHD Invoice for September 2008

Peterson asked to know the balance of paid invoices for the year. The information could not be provided at the meeting.

MOTION by Peterson to approve the September 2008 CUPHD invoice for payment; seconded by Kassem. **Motion carried.**

Following discussion of the supporting documenting included with the invoices, the Board decided in favor of only including the first two pages of the invoice in future agenda packets.

Issues Regarding CUPHD

Congratulations to Julie Pryde on Her Appointment as the CUPHD Administrator

MOTION by Rappaport to formally congratulate Julie Pryde on her appointment as CUPHD Administrator; seconded by Peterson. **Motion carried.**

Environmental Health Fines Structure

Peterson reported that he, McGrath, and Roberts met to discuss the creation of a fines structure and it quickly became evident that a complete rewrite of the County's Public Health Ordinance would be needed. The group intends to meet on Tuesdays before Board of Health meetings and approach the Public Health Ordinance section by section to determine what revisions are necessary. They hope to report to the Board with a recommendation for a revised ordinance in August 2009. The costs involved in inspecting a facility were discussed at length. Peterson, McGrath, and Roberts will consider the actual cost of performing an inspection in Champaign County and how other counties cover these costs through fees or other means. The current fee of \$25 does not cover all of the expenses involved. Peterson felt there should be fines for individual businesses that operate in flagrant disregard of the Public Health Ordinance. Roberts estimated the re-inspections following violations cost approximately \$75 per hour to perform and take about an hour to complete. He is looking into charging the offending business a fine to cover the hourly costs. On the enforcement side, there is also a need for public health departments to be able to give actual fines to some businesses. Roberts acknowledged the ordinance itself is out-of-date and CUPHD inspections procedures no longer exactly match the ordinance. The State of Illinois coming out with revisions to the private sewage code and Roberts is waiting to see what those revisions will be in order to incorporate the changes into the ordinance. Peterson had an inspection sheet listing the points CUPHD looks at during an inspection and stated some of the critical violations will receive a closer look by the group. The revised Public Health Ordinance will need to be approved by the Board of Health and then submitted to the County Board for approval.

Roberts confirmed CUPHD is following the enforcement section of the Public Health Ordinance. Some of the details regarding hearings, such as the use of an informal consultant in an effort to bring about resolution, are not reflected in the ordinance. But the Environmental Health Division staff do follow the enforcement procedures concerning inspections and calculating inspection scores. Roberts would like the procedures to be same for both CUPHD and the Board of Health. Pryde planned to present the revisions to the CUPHD Board following their approval by the Board of Health.

Adoption of Illinois Food Rules & Regulations Amendments

McGrath explained the Illinois Department of Public Health adopted significant amendments to the food code, but has not decided how these changes will be implemented. The Board of Health is required to adopt the amendments into its Public Health Ordinance to remain in compliance.

MOTION by Peterson to adopt the changes to the Food Services Sanitation Code as adopt by IDPH on July 10, 2008 and request the State's Attorney's Office to incorporate said changes into the Public Health Ordinance; seconded by James. **Motion carried.**

Emergency Preparedness Information from John Dwyer

Dwyer reviewed the current condition of emergency preparedness for Champaign County concerning public health. **SEE TAPE** CUPHD receives an annual grant revolving around strategic planning for bio-terrorism that took a 25% cut. This grant is used for projects such as running drills for shipping medications in emergency situations. They recently received a \$578,000 Champaign community grant. Luckily, the state did not get to take a cut of this grant. The Pandemic Flu Workshop in Indianapolis was in preparation for this grant. The grant can only be spent on training or contracts for individual or agency preparedness. CUPHD is using the money to focus on continuity of services. Dwyer is in the progress of working with the group that went to the Pandemic Flu Workshop on planning for a pandemic flu emergency. Such a public health emergency will last for a longer period of time than a natural disaster like a tornado. They are soliciting plans from contractors.

James asked if Bill Keller, the Champaign County Emergency Management Agency Director, was helping with the emergency preparedness planning. Dwyer confirmed Keller had been very involved, as have two fire departments, the Cities of Champaign and Urbana, Carle Hospital, the Veterans Administration, Christie Clinic, Frances Nelson, CUPHD, State's Attorney's Office, Coroner, Provena Covenant Hospital, Pro Ambulance Service, METCAD, University of Illinois, and the Sheriff's Office. Peterson said the level of preparedness that has taken place was impressive and he felt that was why CUPHD was awarded the grant. Dwyer hopes to do at least two exercises with the core planning group and more with a larger group. They are looking into using the National Center for Supercomputing Applications to develop better surveillance with emergency rooms and branch out to other areas. Pryde stated the businesses in Rantoul are seriously working with CUPHD on emergency preparedness. Dwyer noted another focus of the grant is to get businesses involved. He is looking at putting on a seminar and town hall meetings on pandemic flu and general emergency preparedness.

Rappaport inquired whether the County Health Department should be doing anything in particular for emergency preparedness. McGrath said the issues of isolation and communication in rural areas were discussed at the conference. Pryde said CUPHD will implement a Code Red and Alert Sense. Dwyer said entities could sign a contract with a vendor for public notification. This would be in the form of a Champaign County emergency preparedness website where people could sign up to be alerted for emergencies via text message on their cell phones. James noted that schools use phone trees to contact people in the event of weather closings. James felt emergency preparedness was best left to those who could provide the best organization and CUPHD was getting this done. Dwyer noted they are developing protocols about notification in-house. Peterson remarked on the importance of strategizing on how to keep the sick isolated from the healthy to avoid spreading a disease. He raised issue of distinguishing other serious viral illnesses from pandemic flu. Dwyer stated they brought in three experts on SARS from Toronto to provide information. James asked about the probability of something like bird flu hitting the area. Dwyer and Scholze said it was a matter of when not if this would occur. Pryde recommended encouraging people to sign up for the Medical Reserve Corp, an organization of medical and nonmedical volunteers on-call for emergencies. The Medical Reserve Corp needs everyone from veterinarians, doctors, dentists, funeral directors, to data entry people. Applications can be obtained through the Medical Reserve Corp's website or through CUPHD. Pryde and McGrath indicated the first emergency could be drug resistant TB. The Board of Health congratulated CUPHD on getting this grant.

Report from CUPHD Administrator

The Administrator's report was mailed to the Board in advance of the meeting. James asked McGrath if the Board could adopt a mileage reimbursement rate instead of paying the rate set by the Internal Revenue Service, as the County Board does with the mileage rate paid to jurors. McGrath stated the juror mileage rate is set by statute, but the mileage rate with entities is usually the IRS rate. The County Board and the Board of Health have already approved the contract with CUPHD.

Rappaport asked Pryde to speak about IMRF. Pryde stated that CUPHD will have to pay increased IMRF costs for its public health employees in 2009 and the IMRF costs are expected to double in 2010. IMRF will be a significant expenditure for employers. Peterson asked why employers would have to pay so much more. Pryde explained there is no regulation to the industry and after the IMRF fund took loses in the economic downturn all employers are now required to make it up. Peterson asked if this fund was raided by the state government. McGrath stated the state legislature is prohibited from raiding the IMRF fund.

Division Monthly Reports

Maternal & Child Health (Gowda)

Gowda noted that CUPHD offers gas cards and car seats for women in their first month of pregnancy beginning October 1st. He wanted this information to be sent to clinics and Frances Nelson to make women aware of the program. Pryde confirmed CUPHD is making efforts to advertise this program and agreed to check that Frances Nelson has the information. McGrath suggested sending a program flyer to the Child Support Enforcement Office on Mattis Avenue.

Infectious Disease, Mobile Unit (James)

James noted CUPHD's Infectious Disease Division and Mobile Unit Program are doing their job. Pryde added they have been giving lots of flu shots.

Environmental Health (Peterson)

This topic was covered earlier in the meeting.

Wellness & Health Promotion (Ramirez)

Ramirez presented at the recent Women's Health Conference about chronic disease health management and offered to the Board a DVD on the subject at a future meeting. The Board supported the idea of a future presentation. Ramirez spoke about the Illinois Public Health and Community Mental Health reception in Springfield on March 25, 2009 about combining resources to advocate for public/mental health. They are trying to get a legislative person to talk about the different national policy issues. Ramirez will be attending the National Health Association Conference on April 28th-30th. The conference title is Public Health in Peril: the Call to Action. Conference presenters will include a group who has designed a behavior health intervention program for veterans, Faces and Voices of Recovery, and a researcher studying drug policy in Illinois. The Campaign for Mental Health Reform will address the topic of mental health parity. She encouraged Board member to attend the conference. They need more funding to have an impact. After the discussion about IMRF and funding new initiatives, Ramirez was perplexed about the Board of Health's budget as new Board member. She wanted to know over what part of the budget the Board has discretion. Peterson stated about half of the over \$800,000 budget are grants administered by CUPHD. The core programs administered by CUPHD must be funded and they are expensive. The Board's discretionary spending includes the child dental access program administered by Smile Healthy, the Senior Wellness Program administered by the Regional Planning Commission, and Perinatal Depression Program administered in collaboration with the Mental Health Board. Rappaport and Peterson encouraged Ramirez to attend the Budget Subcommittee meetings to gain a better understanding of the budget as it is being prepared.

MOTION by James to receive and place on file the CUPHD Division Monthly Reports for October 2008; seconded by Gowda. **Motion carried.**

Issues Regarding RPC Senior Wellness Program (Scholze)

Scholze reported that she met with RPC's Senior Services staff and talked at length about data demonstrating the services that have been provided. RPC did not have any data on the services they have provided with the Senior Wellness Program funding, so Scholze suggested what they could bring to the Board to show how the program is doing. She learned that RPC does not do any long-term case management. Scholze later met with a separate agency, Family Services, which also provides services to seniors in Champaign County. She distributed several handouts to the Board showing the data provided by Family Services documenting the services they provide to seniors. The handouts show the number of clients Family Services has served in

2008 in the County cases. Scholze explained how the data is recorded. This information is a result of Rappaport asking Scholze to track down exactly what RPC is doing with the Board of Health funding. RPC could did not present anything more to her than what they have reported in their quarterly report to the Board. Scholze was presenting the information on Family Services to show the Board what another agency has been able to do for seniors in Champaign County and the data they are able to provide. She noted that Family Services is serving a lot of people in the county. They have a training program for caregivers and are running a Senior Taskforce to assist in agency coordination. Family Services has not received any state payments since June 2008. Scholze was very impressed with what this agency was doing with very little money.

James remarked on the fact that different agencies are providing overlapping services to the same group of people. Scholze concurred and sees the same problem of coordination at the Senior Taskforce. There needs to be one place a senior citizen can call to be connected with services.

Rappaport observed that last year the Board discussed developing a process to evaluate applicants and programs for providing services to ensure the Board was getting the highest level of services for its money. In the coming year, he hoped to move towards a more competitive process for funding. He expressed that the Board should not automatically reapprove another year of funding for the current programs. Scholze commented on the importance of accountability for programs funded with public funds. The Board discussed evaluating all the programs it pays for.

Segal asked whether there was a difference in size between RPC and Family Services. Scholze did not know, but offered to find out. It was noted that RPC hired an additional staff person for the Senior Wellness Program. Scholze pointed out how phones calls and appointments with populations like senior citizens often reveal more needs than the individual first indicated. Segal noted that Family Services serves small community including Foosland. Scholze stated that Family Services gave her permission to share their data publically. The Board discussed looking into an evaluation process and developing relationships with agencies like Family Services who could submit proposals for funding by the Board of Health. Scholze offered to facilitate a meeting with Family Services if the Board was interested in more information.

Issues Regarding Crisis Nursery Perinatal Depression Program (Segal)

Segal stated she and Rappaport attended a meeting last Thursday with Mental Health Board representatives about the Perinatal Depression Program progress. The representatives from both boards expressed satisfaction with Crisis Nursery's reporting. The Mental Health Board is beginning its new budget year and looking at possibly expanding the collaboration between the two boards. Peter Tracy had informed Segal and Rappaport that a program's funding can be renewed for another year without undergoing the competitive process. Adjustments can be made to the program's contract with a renewal as well.

Issues Regarding Smile Healthy (Kassem)

Kassem thought Smile Healthy was seeing more children because the need is growing in the community. He understood Smile Healthy might be applying for other grants to fund their activities. Greenwalt reported that Smile Healthy receive a \$100,000 grant and a \$50,000 grant from Carle over a week ago. Half of the grants will go towards buying equipment so their mobile unit can perform digital X-rays and part of the grants will be to set up a clinic at Frances Nelson. Pryde confirmed the demand for mobile services in the Champaign-Urbana area has skyrocketed, as have demands for free breakfasts and lunches for children. Greenwalt stated a few more dentists have agreed to provide dental services through the program. She said Smile Healthy enjoys a pretty collaborative relationship with the local dental association.

Segal asked if the program provided orthodontics. Greenwalt said they did, but only that which is medically necessary. Scholze asked if data showing the trends could be added in an Excel spreadsheet format and Greenwalt agreed. Kassem said the State Dental Society was aware of this program's success and it is being used as a model for increasing access to care. The way Smile Healthy and The County Public Health Department work together is apparently unique. Pryde noted that Champaign County probably provides more dental coverage than other counties.

MOTION by Kassem receive and place on file the Smile Healthy October 2008 monthly reported; seconded by James. **Motion carried.**

Other Business

Approval of FY2009 Calendar of Meetings

MOTION by Peterson to approve the FY2009 calendar of meetings as presented; seconded by Scholze.

James stated the County Board liaison to the Board of Health would be appointed at the County Board's December 1, 2008 Organizational Meeting.

Motion carried.

ADDENDUM

Consideration of Funding Anti-Stigma Alliance at Ebertfest

Segal said the Board of Health was offered the option of being a co-sponsor of the Mental Health Board's anti-stigma event at Ebertfest for \$1,000. Rappaport noted the Board did not have to make a decision at this meeting and Segal concurred the Board could decide in January. Ramirez had experience at the event and explained how a film selected by Roger Ebert is shown, sponsoring entities could distribute information on their services, and a community forum is held. James did not support using \$1,000 for this purpose, which he viewed as a form of advertising. He wanted the Board of Health to focus on helping people with its money. Segal thought the Board needs to look at developing support in the county for Board of Health initiatives so taxpayers can understand what is being done with their money and to make the Board more visible. Peterson suggested inviting Peter Tracy to the Board's January meeting to have a formal evaluation of this proposal.

Public Participation on Non-Agenda Items Only

Dwyer was asked by Susan Monte to urge the Board to take the online Champaign County hazards mitigation survey.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork
Board of Health Secretary

Secy's note: The minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.