



Minutes

Public Health Task Force

March 13, 2023 | 9:00 a.m. | GC 3130/Zoom

Attendees:

Members (marked box indicates Present):

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Angela DeOtis (Absent) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Kim Tjaden |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ann Bajari | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Linda Carlson |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bonita Bryant (Vice Chair) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Daleiden |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brad Gangnon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marlene Kittock |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Nelson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melissa Pribyl |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeanne Holland | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mona Volden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jennifer Ray-Mader (Absent) | <input type="checkbox"/> Toni Seroshek (Chair)(Excused) |

HHS Staff Attendees:

Ellie Vanasse	Patty Larson
Gavin Woodland	Patty Malecek
Joel Torkelson	Ranjana Pathak
Kelsey Collier	Sarah Grosshuesch
Marina Eggink	

Guests/Other:

Evelyn Combs	Michelle Wiebe
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1. Call to Order—The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m. by Vice Chair, Bonita Bryant.
2. Introductions were made.
3. Approval of the Agenda and the January and February minutes
 - a. Motion to approve Agenda and the January and February minutes by Mona Volden, second by Mark Daleiden.
4. Presentation and Discussion Items
 - a. Environmental Health-*Gavin Woodland*
 - Radon Community Tour Initiative: January is Radon Action Month and one of our initiatives is to spread the word about radon by going across the county to every city and township to relay information to their board members, city council members, residents, and constituents in attendance to share information about radon, the Public Health concern about prolonged exposure and testing and mitigation efforts.
 - (a) Some data prospective: 139 test kits sold as of 02/28/2023, 237 kits/year from 2017-2022, 165 kits sold in 2022.
 - (b) We will conclude by end of March, resume in November 2023. Spread out meetings, increase quality of interaction and presentation.
 - Water Testing Laboratory Accreditation Status: We do water testing currently but as we are not a certified accredited lab, we cannot use the results for licensure purposes. One of the

biggest needs we saw for getting well water testing accredited was to provide that service for our childcare centers and potentially Food, Pools, & Lodging services in the future. There are two analytes that we will be trying to get accredited for, Nitrates and Total Coliform Bacteria/E. Coli.

(a) Here is a brief timeline, trying to be conservative:

- ◆ April 2023 Equipment purchase: Spectrophotometer, incubator, refrigerator
 - ◆ May 2023 Confirm Total Coliform Methods: ASTM, EPA, or SM
 - ◆ June 2023 Confirm Nitrate methods: Hach, SM, or Systea
 - ◆ July/August 2023 Complete application requirements: Proficiency Tests and laboratory methods
 - ◆ September/October 2023 Submit application: Completion of required tasks, paid fees, renew on annual basis
- Environmental Health Compliant Centralization: We are working with Planning and Zoning to really help guide entities into the funnels that are best meant for their complaints. With PH Doc we can track these complaints better and help with better response time and resources.
 - Healthy Homes Program: It is a voluntary service that offers free guidance and education on reducing environmental hazards in the home. Trained staff members work with residents to help identify potential areas of concern such as mold, exposure to toxins, asthma triggers, indoor air pollution, lead, and other housing-related health risks in their homes. The 7 basic principles are:
 - (a) Dry-Moisture in homes has been linked to a wide range of health issues, including respiratory problems and accidental injury.
 - (b) Clean-A clean home helps ensure that people are not exposed to contaminants and chemicals, and that pests don't have food, water, and a place to live.
 - (c) Pest Free-Mice and cockroaches have been identified as major asthma triggers. Pests can also spread infectious disease and cause damage that could lead to a fire.
 - (d) Ventilated-Studies show that respiratory health is related to access to fresh air. Increasing a home's fresh air supply reduces moisture, improves air quality, and increases respiratory health.
 - (e) Contaminant Free-Home have many potential contaminant exposure risks, including lead, radon, pesticides, volatile organic compounds (VOC's), smoke, carbon monoxide, and asbestos.
 - (f) Safe-Most childhood injuries occur at home. Falls, poisoning, and burns are the three most common residential injuries for children.
 - (g) Maintained-Neglected homes are more at risk for moisture, pests, lead paint, and accidental injury than homes that are properly maintained.
 - ◆ The main goal of the Healthy Homes Program is to assist residents of Wright County in making their home environments as healthy as possible, by providing education and offering resources.
 - ◆ To make a referral you can either:

- (i) Call our Public Health office and request to make a referral-763-682-7468
- (ii) Go online to our Public Health webpage and search environmental health.
<https://www.co.wright.mn.us/299/Environmental-Health>

- ◆ Coming soon to the Healthy Homes Program is Asthma Home-Based Services-The Asthma Program in Wright County will provide opportunities for a health care professional to meet with clients diagnosed with asthma or asthma like symptoms, their caregivers, and family in their own homes.

b. Health Equity-*Ellie Vanasse*

- Ellie is the coordinator for our Healthy Equity Action Team at Wright County Public Health. We joined a cohort through the Minnesota Department of Health. One year was a cohort with 4 or 5 other local health departments working towards receiving training and developing an action plan for health equity so by the end of the that year we had a pretty well-established team, and we had an action plan, that was in 2018. This had to take a backseat during our emergency response, but we have started our work as an action team again in the last year. Among many things we focus on staff development. We provide resources for staff to change their own work to try to achieve this goal of health equity. We have staff representation from all three teams in Public Health as well as all the different program roles. Over the years we have hosted trainings on different topics, we made a book club. We do a survey every couple of years on their comfort and knowledge with health equity topics. We write newsletters for our coworkers. We recently went through a Mission, Vision, and Values activity just within our team of six and this helps us make sure we are spending our time best and appropriately to what we are trying to do with our mission. Our mission is “Through relationship development, dialogue, and education, the Health Equity Action Team empowers Public Health staff to place equity, justice, and collective liberation practices at the center of our work”. When deciding what projects we are going to do, we have six values: We value relationship and connection. We value practice, not perfection. We value curiosity. We value realness. We value collectivism. We value strategic and thoughtful risk-taking. We go through an action planning process yearly. Some of that is just moving forward with any objectives for the year and some of that is developing new objectives as we see how things are going in Public Health. Four of our objectives refer to something called squad. A squad is a group of about 3-5 Public Health staff who get together about once a month to have a discussion about some sort of self-selected health equity topic. We have had someone talk about maternal health in the past. We did have a group talk about the syphilis studies. We have groups talking about public health and criminal justice reform. 35 out of 41 public health staff are in a squad at the present time. We do a staff assessment every even year, so we did our second one in October. We had improvement in people both staff ranking themselves has having a better understanding of health equity topics and improvement in how they see Wright County Public Health addressing health equity topics. Health equity training is also done at the Public Health yearly all staff retreat.

c. Community Health Improvement Plan-*Joel Torkelson*

- 2023-2025 Community Health Improvement Plan PowerPoint shared.
- This plan is five years in the making. This plan will need to be approved by the HHS board.

- A Community Health Assessment (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) needs to be submitted every five years.
 - It is a long-term, systematic effort to address public health problems in a community.
 - The CHIP is developed collaboratively and defines a vision for the community's health; the CHIP is the community's plan, not the community health board's plan for the community.
 - Our priorities, Misuse of Alcohol, Tobacco, & Other Substances, Dental Health, Mental Health & Wellbeing, are the same priorities identified in our previous plan (2020-2022).
 - This document will be posted on our public website once it is completed and approved.
5. New Business
- a. Election of Officers
- Toni Seroshek has expressed interest in continuing as Chair. Motion to approve Toni for Chair by Mark Daleiden, second by Brad Gangnon.
(a) Toni will continue as Chair.
 - Bonita Bryant expressed interest in continuing as Vice Chair. Motion to approve Bonita for Vice Chair by Mark Daleiden, second by Brad Gangnon.
(a) Bonita will continue as Vice Chair.
6. Old Business
- a. None.
7. Other—*Sarah Grosshuesch*
- a. We anticipate the Opioid Advisory Council's RFP to be released sometime in April with the closing date in late May. Hoping funds will go out in July. This is a loose timeframe.
 - b. We are getting word about the second round of settlements, and we anticipate a significant increase in the amount of funds that the county will work with in the community.
8. Agenda Items for the next meeting, April 10, 2023
- a. Survey Data and HHS Scorecard
 - b. Opioid Survey Data
9. Adjourn
- a. Motion to adjourn by Melissa Pribyl, second by Mark Daleiden
 - b. Adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

pl/sg