



# Minutes

Public Health Task Force

April 10, 2023 | 9:00 a.m. | GC 3130/Zoom

## Attendees:

---

### Members (marked box indicates Present):

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <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 type="checkbox"/> Bradley Hasledalen (Excused)          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Melissa Pribyl        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> David Nelson               | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mona Volden           |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jeanne Holland             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Toni Seroshek (Chair) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dr. Jennifer Ray-Mader     |   |

### HHS Staff Attendees:

Greg Wise	Sarah Dearhamer
Joel Torkelson	Sarah Grosshuesch
Patty Larson	

### Guests/Other:

Michelle Wiebe |

---

1. Call to Order—The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. by Chair, Toni Seroshek.
2. Introductions were made.
3. Approval of the Agenda and the March minutes
  - a. Minor grammatical errors were noted and changed in the minutes.
  - b. Motion to approve Agenda and the March minutes by Mark Daleiden, second by Mona Volden.
  - c. Vote-All members approve of Agenda and Minutes.
4. Presentation and Discussion Items
  - a. Homeless Presentation-*Sarah Dearhamer*
    - 2023 Wright County Homelessness Report was shared.
    - Since starting Integrated Services 2 years ago what has come to light is homelessness in Wright County.
    - Unforeseen Circumstances that have contributed to homelessness:
      - (a) Domestic Violence
      - (b) Divorce
      - (c) Loss of Job
      - (d) Sickness
      - (e) Increase in Current Rent

- (f) Chemical Dependency Issues
- (g) Mental Health Issues
- (h) Evictions
- Researchers looked at data for 93,923 people experiencing homelessness who accessed services such as shelters or transitional housing. Key findings included:
  - (a) The rate of death was three times higher for those experiencing homelessness than the general population.
  - (b) Twenty-year-old experiencing homelessness had the same death rate as 50-year-olds in the general population.
  - (c) Mortality across each racial and ethnic group was higher for those experiencing homelessness than in the general Minnesota population.
  - (d) American Indian people experiencing homelessness had rates of death one-and-a-half times higher than others experiencing homelessness and five times higher than the general population.
- The Point in Time (PIT) count for 2022 was 7 and in 2023 it jumped to 88.
- In 2022, 59 individuals and families reached out to Wright County Community Action about homelessness.
- In January and February 2023, Wright County HHS Integrated Services had 18 people reach out about homelessness, 10 of those had children.
- Monticello Help Center served 13 homeless individuals with food and clothing.
- Salvation Army had 38 homeless people in 2022 and 20 so far in 2023.
- Love Inc-Big Woods has given out 27 hotel vouchers.
- Some barriers to getting a place to live are:
  - (a) Affordable Housing
  - (b) Eviction History
  - (c) Mental Health
  - (d) Financial
  - (e) Criminal Background
  - (f) Poor Credit
- Homeless Shelters & Vouchers:
  - (a) Salvation Army
  - (b) Love Inc
  - (c) Local Churches
  - (d) Lincoln Center
  - (e) Place of Hope
  - (f) Stepping Stones
  - (g) Open Doors for Youth
  - (h) AnnaMarie's Alliance

b. Dental Update-*Greg Wise*

- In February it was National Children’s Dental Health month, so we put on a brushing contest for all first and second graders in the county and the surrounding areas. Last year there was about 159 participants and this year there was over 260. If they completed a healthy brushing chart throughout the month of February, they could hand it in to the district nurse or their teacher for a chance to win an electric toothbrush. The school with the most participants got water bottles for all participants.
- Something we have been working on is special needs and dental care. This is an issue not only in Wright County but across the state. Many folks that have special needs or disabilities need sedation dentistry or Operating Room dentistry. There are not a lot of providers that do sedation dentistry, especially for people on Medicaid or Medicare, so we are collecting stories and qualitative data to try to help bring to light this issue. Greg will be visiting Transition Trek to collect some stories on folks’ experiences with accessing dental care for those with special needs or disabilities. This is something that Greg has been working on for the past year. Currently the only places that do sedation or OR dentistry for somebody with Medicaid or Medicare are in the twin cities, U of M and HCMC. However, those wait times are over a year long.
- Later next month Greg will be partnering with the Buffalo library to read some stories to kids and there will be a dental assistant or hygienist to go through the process of what happens when you go to the dentist to help alleviate some of the kids’ fears of going to the dentist.

5. New Business

- a. None.

6. Old Business

- a. None.

7. Other

- a. Last week was National Public Health week and the board did a proclamation recognizing April 3<sup>rd</sup> through the 9<sup>th</sup> as National Public Health week.
- b. We have a new board schedule. Normally it was on the second Tuesday of the month with Task Force in the morning and then the Health and Human Services board in the afternoon. Now the Health and Human Services board will meet on the first Tuesday of the month at the regular board meetings.

8. Agenda Items for the next meeting, May 8, 2023

- a. Home Visiting Program
- b. Family Planning

9. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn by Jeanne Holland, second by Mark Daleiden.
- b. Adjourned at 10:25 a.m.