



Calhoun County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2015

Board of Health

Dr. Mahesh Karamchandani, Chairperson
Nancy Mullett, Vice-Chairperson
Mary Jo Byrne
Amy Davis
Ronnie Sims

Health Department

Paul Makoski
Deb Metzgar
James Rutherford, Health Officer
Kristin Tekiele

County Administration

Absent

Kathy-Sue Dunn, County Commissioner
Rick Hensley

Meeting called to order

Karamchandani called the meeting to order at 8:03 am.

Agenda

Sims motioned for agenda approval, Mullett seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Byrne motioned for approval of the consent agenda, Davis seconded. All in favor, motion passed.

Public Comment

No public comment

Presentation

Makoski discussed "Elevated Arsenic Levels in Emmett Township Ground Water." The presentation included:

- How arsenic occurs.
- Health effects of arsenic exposure.
- Acceptable arsenic levels then and now.
- Timeline of water sampling in Calhoun County since 2010.
- Areas within Calhoun County identified with elevated arsenic levels.
- Remediation options for anyone with elevated arsenic levels.
- Next steps for buildings that serve 25 or more people (Type II) whose arsenic levels are elevated.

Question was asked how it is determined the areas that are tested. Current areas that have been identified are a result of water testing done because of the Enbridge Oil Spill. Environmental Health recommends that everyone has their water tested every three years, but it is not required. A water test costs under \$50. Remediation of high arsenic levels is not required by law unless it is a Type II location.

Are there plans to perform random water testing in other neighborhoods? No, due to the cost associated with the testing. If a federal or state agency were to supply funding, it could be done. The monies supplied to the Calhoun County Public Health Department (CCPHD) to deal with the Type II properties will have to be supplemented with local funds to handle the current situation. This is not an imminent health hazard.

Health Officer's Report

Rutherford presented the Health Officer's Report. The report included:

- The Albion clinic relocation is moving forward rapidly. Board of Commissioner (BOC) approval of the lease is anticipated on Thursday, March 19, 2015. Renovations will start after BOC approval occurs. Fund balance use is required to cover some extra costs such as furniture and staff workstations. Karamchandani suggested an email vote after Rutherford has more detail about the amount of fund balance needed.
- Currently, there is no family planning program in Calhoun County due to the closure of Planned Parenthood in Battle Creek. Because Calhoun County has high rates of teen pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), Calhoun County needs a family planning program. The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is encouraging the CCPHD to consider running a family planning program. The CCPHD does not have funding available to run a family planning program. Rutherford plans to visit the best of the best in health department family planning programs in Michigan to see how they do it without investing a lot of their own money. Uninsured individuals would be charged on a sliding scale.
- The Telehealth grant requests were approved by the Battle Creek Community Foundation and MDCH. The units will be placed in schools with the most need.
- Triangle Mobile Home Park Update: The United Way is bringing individuals together that have experience with the Triangle Mobile Home Park and the issues that have occurred there. The CCPHD would like to learn from the mistakes made during the condemnation of the Life O' Riley Mobile Home Park in Ingham County and prepare for the possible condemnation of the Triangle Mobile Home Park.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 a.m.

For a copy of the presentation or the Health Officer report, please contact Deb Metzgar at 269-969-6463 or via email at dmetzgar@calhouncountymi.gov