



Calhoun County Board of Health Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2016

Board of Health

Nancy Mullett, Chairperson
Mary Jo Byrne, Vice-Chairperson
Amy Davis
Rebecca Fleury
Rick Hensley

Absent

Mark Crawford
Kathy-Sue Dunn, County Commissioner

Health Department

Deb Metzgar
Kristin Roux
James Rutherford, Health Officer

Other

Dr. Joyce deJong, Calhoun County
Medical Examiner
Jo Catania, Chief Investigator,
Calhoun County Medical
Examiner

Meeting called to order

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

Agenda

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

Consent Agenda

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

Public Comment

No public comment

Presentation

deJong discussed the Calhoun County Medical Examiner program. The presentation included:

- Explanation of the Medical Examiner Advisory Committee and Medical Examiner feedback form.
- October through December 2015 tracking of: Medical Examiner Investigator (MEI) response time to scene, transport response to scene, and MEI time spent on scene.

Question was asked why the MEI would not respond to a scene within 60 minutes. Geographical location, such as Homer or Albion or the MEI being on another scene when the call comes in, could cause a longer response. Discussions are occurring with local law enforcement as to the

possibility of having officers act as back-up MEIs when there are multiple death scenes occurring at the same time.

- 2015 overview of deaths in Calhoun County including types of deaths.
- Breakdown of types of suicides, accidental deaths, and drug related accidental deaths.
- Comparison of drug related accidental deaths between Calhoun, Muskegon, and Kalamazoo counties.
- Calhoun County referrals to the Gift of Life.
- The Calhoun County Medical Examiner has obtained full accreditation from the National Association of Medical Examiners through January 12, 2020.
- Types of staff employed by the Medical Examiner's office.

Question was asked if there is a standardized method the investigators use while on a death scene. Yes, there is a standard form used for documentation and investigators are all trained to handle a death scene in the same way. Catania shared this form and offered to teach basic death investigation to local law enforcement agencies free of charge at their facility.

Is the Medical Examiner's office involved in Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)? Yes, there is a forensic pathologist present at the meetings held at the Calhoun County prosecutor's office.

Health Officer Report

Rutherford presented the Health Officer Report. The report included:

- The Michigan Community Dental Clinics (MCDC) overview: a not-for-profit corporation which partners with local health departments to provide dental services to Medicaid enrollees and low-income, uninsured residents of Michigan. Community HealthCare Connections (CHCC) has available space for rent on the 2nd floor of their building. This space currently contains two dental chairs which would need to be expanded to four or six to accommodate the MCDC. No associated costs are available yet. Time frame to get a dental clinic up and running is estimated to be from four to six months.

Question was asked why CHCC isn't using this space any longer. CHCC is no longer receiving referrals from the Emergency Department at Bronson Battle Creek for anyone that came in with dental pain. When Bronson Battle Creek took over the hospital and many changes were made to management, the referral program dwindled. The Oaklawn Hospital Emergency Department does not refer dental patients to CHCC.

- Lead update: A lead task force committee has been created in Calhoun County which includes CCPHD staff. Lead is a housing issue in Calhoun County, rather than a water issue. The CCPHD can do a better job testing children in order to identify the problem. Identifying more cases of high lead levels will in turn qualify Calhoun County for state and federal dollars to help pay for remediation of homes with lead paint. Grants are being sought to pay for lead analyzers.
- Arsenic update: Water wells in the Oakridge Business Complex have elevated arsenic levels. Municipal water is being brought to the area to resolve the issue. There is a

residential neighborhood nearby with elevated arsenic levels as well. In residential neighborhoods, the CCPHD has the authority to advise and educate only. The CCPHD does not have the authority to force the closure of residential wells for elevated arsenic levels.

- The Triangle Mobile Park has a back tax payment due on March 31, 2016. If the taxes are not paid, Calhoun County will become owners of the park.

Meeting adjourned at 8:53 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