

CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MEETING MINUTES  
DATE: February 24, 2003  
Battle Creek, Michigan

PRESENT:

Board of Health                      Jean Cook-Hughes, Vice Chairperson  
   Byron McDonald  
   Ben Miller, County Commissioner  
   Jeffrey R. Mitchell  
   George Perrett  
   Patricia West

Health Department                      Heidi Oberlin, Health Officer  
   Ted Havens, Environmental Health Director  
   Kathy Ferguson, Finance Officer  
   Dianna Morand, Administrative Assistant  
   Dr. Greg Harrington, Medical Officer

Calhoun County                              Greg Purcell, County Administrator  
   Nancy Mullet, Legal Counsel

Guest    Art Cole

- I.      Jean Cook-Hughes called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. in the Health Department Conference Room, George W. Toeller Building, 190 E. Michigan Avenue, Battle Creek, Michigan.
- II.     George Perrett moved to approve the Agenda. It was seconded by Byron McDonald and approved unanimously.
- III.    PUBLIC COMMENT - none.
- IV.    MEDICAL REPORT  
  
          Dr. Harrington indicated that we are on the tail-end of the influenza epidemic.  
  
          He said that we will be starting the West Nile control program this spring.
- V.     CONSENT AGENDA  
  
          Moved by George Perrett and seconded by Jeffrey Mitchell. It was approved unanimously.

VI. CLOSED SESSION - for the purpose of labor negotiations.

George Perrett moved to go into closed session at approximately 8:10. Seconded by Byron McDonald. Approved unanimously.

The meeting was resumed at 8:30. George Perrett moved approval of the proposed agreement with the MNA as presented in closed session. It was seconded by Ben Miller and approved unanimously. The Agreement will be presented to the Board of Commissioners for final ratification.

George Perrett moved approval of the proposed resolution of the grievance with Carmen Sweezy and CCHD. It was seconded by Ben Miller and approved unanimously.

VII. RESOLUTIONS:

**Res. 06-2003** Approve the Agreement with Dr. Steven McCornack for the period December 1, 2002 through March 31, 2003.

Moved by Ben Miller; seconded by Byron McDonald and approved unanimously.

**Res. 07-2003** Approve Amendment #1 to the CPBC Agreement for the period 10/01/02 through 09/30/03.

Moved by George Perrett, seconded by Ben Miller, and approved unanimously.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Presentation by Art Cole:

Introductions were made at this time. Art Cole explained the method used during the retreat in order to come up with a plan for the Board of Health. He explained that first the historic evolution of the Health Department was reviewed in order to see what lessons can be learned from that history.

From there the Board moved on to looking at where the Department is at this time. And then they looked at where they would like to go in the future. Erv Brinker??? from Summit Pointe was invited to share some of his insights on governance. He offered some perspective by asking some questions in terms of how the board functions, what is expected of the executive, and what is the relationship to outcome? Mr. Cole indicated that this was a particularly enlightening portion of the retreat. He said there were a lot of "what ifs and how abouts and gee, we never thought of."

Art Cole emphasized that the 'Mission Statement' and 'Vision' of the Health Department are truly what the members of the Board want of themselves.

He then reviewed the Executive Summary of the Board Retreat. He said that it was noted that Calhoun County is rated at the bottom 1/3 of the state which is at the bottom 1/3 of the country by current health indicators.

Byron McDonald expressed his concerns about making Heidi a Chief Executive Officer. He feels that the title will not come across well to the public. He also said that by the looks of the way budget cuts are coming down, he feels that public health is coming down to doing the basics. He indicated that he feels that time would be well-spent on finding ways of bringing in more money.

#### IX. FINANCE REPORT

Kathy Ferguson indicated that as of the end of January, the Health Department was in quite good shape with the only possible exception being the situation with school nursing. She said that the schools are not yet sure as to how much they are going to be cut so they have been waiting for that information prior to doing contracts with the Health Department. So we do not have that income in yet.

She said that we do not have any clear information ourselves from the State. Heidi agreed that the information that we have gotten from the State has not been given to us in a way that is understandable.

Byron McDonald inquired as to the status of the Nursing Clinic. Heidi said that it is still a priority to keep the Clinic in the same location. However, she said that there are a lot of requirements by the federal government. Due to the latest budget cuts from the State, she believes that there will be more staff moved to the Clinic. She indicated that the question of the future of the Nursing Clinic with the Health Department will still be pending, well into 2003.

#### OTHER BUSINESS (continued)

Heidi said that the Health Department has received its accreditation certificate. Jean Cook-Hughes stated that it was quite an accomplishment to achieve this, with commendation.

Byron McDonald inquired as to how many Spanish-speaking clients the Health Department sees. He indicated that the Family Health Center has received a grant for a Spanish-speaking interpreter and he wondered if that might be something we might want to look into.

#### X. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.