

**CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
190 East Michigan Avenue, Suite A-100, Battle Creek, MI 49014  
October 20, 2003  
**MEETING MINUTES**

**PRESENT**

BOARD OF HEALTH      Larry Anderson  
                                 Jean Cook-Hughes  
                                 Byron McDonald  
                                 Ben Miller  
                                 Pat West

HEALTH DEPARTMENT: Kathy Ferguson  
                                 Ted Havens  
                                 Ginger Hentz  
                                 Amy Latham  
                                 Paul Makoski  
                                 Heidi Oberlin  
                                 Brigette Reichenbaugh

CALHOUN COUNTY      Jim Latham  
                                 Greg Purcell

I      **CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The meeting was called to order by Larry Anderson at 8:05 a.m. beginning with introductions.

II      **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The following items were added to the agenda:

- Discussion regarding the NCBC
- Affiliation with the Deaconess School of Nursing resolution

Larry motioned for approval on the agenda as amended; Jean Cook-Hughes motioned; Byron McDonald (Mac) seconded.

III      **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

IV      **CONSENT AGENDA**

- September 15 Meeting Minutes; Mac approved; Ben Miller supported

V      **CONTRACTS**

**Resolution 33-2003** Mutual Aid Agreement: Heidi Oberlin summarized the need for the mutual aid agreement (e.g., Hep B outbreak several years ago). Amy Latham summarized that two health departments have passed this agreement, Van Buren and Berrien, to assist each other when the need arises. All Emergency Preparedness Coordinators are in favor and will move forward on this.

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Greg Purcell asked about the details and clarified that this is formalization to the process already in place.

Mac: Asked if this is any way regionalizing Health Departments.

Heidi answered no.

Mac moved to approve; Jean supported. Approved unanimously.

**Resolution 34-2003 - Acceptance of HCAP Grant:** Heidi summarized: This grant was awarded to look at county-wide access to care issues. There are many partners identifying the gaps and the approaches to the gaps. Approximately 1/3 of the \$923,000 is allocated to the Health Department whereas the other 2/3 will be given to the partners. Heidi is presenting to the Board of Health due to additional staffing requirements (e.g., team manager, program coordinator). Funds from this grant will also pay for a portion of the NCBC salaries and NCBC program. Freeing up these funds will allow for hiring of a part-time nurse at the Clinic.

Mac supported, Ben seconded.

**Comment:** Mac stated that this looks very similar to the Kellogg Foundation program, CHIPS, whereas approximately \$5,000,000 was spent with no outcome. He hopes the HCAP grant will have better outcomes.

Larry stated that this is not a CHIPS program. This focuses on the un/underinsured citizens and was adapted by 12 different agencies in coordination with the RHA and the Access to Care taskforce, not consultant driven.

Ben commented that we just trimmed our Team Manager role. Is there anyway that we can operate this under the current structure.

Heidi stated that the person hired will know up front that this is a three-year term. The HCAP program needs somebody with authority and direction since we are the fiduciary. The individuals noted as partners were part of the initial application process. There will be official contracts for each partner agency that will be approved by the Board of Health. For example, there were three entities in Albion that were identified. It will be the decision of those three agencies who will receive funds from the HCAP grant, one of those three agencies will be allocated to receive and designate those monies.

Greg congratulated everyone for their time and effort. Greg had three questions: 1) Is there a local match required and if so, where is it coming from? 2) Since this will require a staffing change, will require BOC approval also. 3) Albion issues.

Heidi answered that there is a fully equipped dental operatory proposed in this grant proposal. This will continue after the grant has ended. Another focus will be potentially working with the school wellness program identifying school nurses in the school for students/families that are under/uninsured. Utilizing existing resources (FHC in Albion has not been used to its fullest capacity).

Greg asked what the exit dollars are. Grants are great; however, they are not forever. What is the 3-5 year plan for the project once the dollars have diminished/ended? He also commented that we are happy today, at the end of the three years, where will we be and will we sustain this?

Larry: 1) the HCAP grant team will look at existing health plans within the community and tag-on to what already exists (exploring the possibilities). There were definitely lessons learned from the failed CHIPS program.

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Mac: Is there anyway to guarantee that the Team Manager and Coordinator are Calhoun County residents? How will they be hired?

Heidi: We will go through the typical county hiring procedures.

Greg: Feels that if the County is good enough to work in, it should be good enough to live in, however, the law does not allow us to hire specifically within Calhoun County.

All in favor. Approved the HCAP grant.

**Resolution 35-2003 – Affiliation Agreement with Tenet Health System ID, Inc.** Heidi summarized that we were approached by a nurse that would like to obtain her Public Health experience through Calhoun County. The contract was sent to Nancy Mullett for legal review. Nancy had several comments and suggested that Deaconess revise. Heidi has contacted Deaconess who indicated that they will make the suggested changes.

Mac approved. Ben seconded.

Discussion: Jean asked how long this contract would be for.

Heidi: Deaconess would like this agreement to be for three years; however, we could make shorter or hire at our discretion.

All in favor.

## VI FINANCE REPORT

- Kathy Ferguson, Finance Officer
  - ♦ September Financial Summary and Narrative

Kathy summarized the September/year-end report. She indicated that is a preliminary report. Kathy stressed that this is preliminary due to incoming bills. Year-end books will not be closed for several months. There is word that MDCH/state funds could be cut; however, we do not know where funds will be cut. There is no way to plan due to uncertainty in the state budget.

Mac: How much does it look like we will have in the end? How much of the \$82K needs to be returned to the State?

Heidi answered none. The overage shown is Calhoun County dollars.

## VII OTHER BUSINESS

### *Health Officer Report*

- Ginger Hentz, Planning and Development Director:
  - Grant update

Ginger summarized her report stating that most of the monies received were continuation funds. We have about \$40K pending in outstanding grants. We have about \$1M in grant requests not funded. Approximately \$130K of requested funds were continuation programs, e.g., lead program with CDBG. The remaining \$870K requested was for new programs and new monies. Competition is greater now and we are more proactive in seeking funds. In the past we only sought grants that we were sure we could get.

Jean asked what the Bureau of Primary Health Care is.

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Ginger explained that it is the Bureau under the Federal Government supporting health care programs such as the NCBC, HCAP, etc.

Larry asked about the Nurse Family Partnership.

Ginger stated that it was not awarded to us. We are looking at new ways of packaging our programs (e.g., we applying with surrounding communities (i.e., Kalamazoo County) to serve additional numbers of citizens and that several counties are working together for the good).

- Ted Havens, EH Director:
  - Environmental Health report

Ted asked Paul to brief the Board on the West Nile Virus.

Paul indicated that this was a very good year for Calhoun County. The mosquito numbers were down. Calhoun County is squeezed between two counties in Red (high rates of WNV tested in birds and mosquitoes). We credited this success to trapping, basins, etc. This year we only found approximately 10 mosquitoes with West Nile Virus whereas in the past, numbers were quite high. No individuals, pets, etc. tested positive in Calhoun County. Next year we will copy this year's procedures.

Larry noted this within the State of Michigan; there were only two positive cases.

Paul stated that their theory is: 1) Mosquitoes acquired immunity 2) The statistics for West Nile Virus in crows in Ohio are down by 90%. Mosquitoes have shifted to another quadrant within the U.S., west of the Mississippi River. The mosquitoes that we are working to control carry several other diseases, such as St. Louis Encephalitis, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, etc.). There have been no reported cases of other diseases in Michigan either.

- Nursing Clinic of Battle Creek: Heidi passed out Lena's (consultant) recommendations including clinic hour reduction, staffing changes, etc. These were presented at a meeting with Larry Anderson, Chris Christ, Angela Graham (BCCF), Heidi, and Lena Hackett on Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. At that meeting they discussed the PEGR (federal audit) and the primary pieces required. The understanding after the meeting was for Chris Christ to inform Drs. Ptacin and Collins of the recommendations and decision.

Heidi summarized the suggested NCBC governing board resolution presented at the Thursday, October 16<sup>th</sup> NCBC Advisory Board meeting. Heidi clearly stated that she can't say what is behind this.

Comment [BRR1]: HO: leave or remove this statement?

Ben: "I'm stunned." He has the up most respect for Drs. Collins and Ptacin; we have bent over backwards for funding, billing, etc. although not always successful. Ben feels that they are out of line. If a consultant is requested for assistance, then it is possible that one may not know how operate the NCBC.

Larry: The comments by Dr. Ptacin were off-base. He had been informed by Chris Christ following the meeting on Wednesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. They were informed.

Mac stated that he has the highest regard for Drs. Ptacin and Collins for what they started and have done for the community. He feels that we have done everything we could do. Drs. Ptacin and Collins clearly want to run the NCBC by themselves. Mac feels that we should let them go out and be on their own per their quote "...the future of the clinic is certain with or without federal funding." Let them run the Clinic if they are that deeply involved.

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Jean had a similar reaction. Her feeling is that somehow this is a problem through the Enquirer. The Enquirer has the story wrong and may have misquoted individuals. Perhaps this issue needs clarification in a follow-up article. Didn't like hearing about all of this through the paper. Jean suggested that the Health Department inform BOH members before similar articles are published.

Heidi: The Health Department was blindsided by this. Heidi believes that they were upset that they were not a part of the decision/recommendations. What is most unfortunate, the consultant has indicated that the NCBC will pass the PCER. The staff read that article as a vote of no confidence. We are recruiting staff to come work in this program and this article deflates the true meaning. Heidi feels that the article was demoralizing for the staff. Due to non-billing, the federal government does not want to pay for the care we are providing. Per a discussion between Lena and Heidi, Lena was unhappy with the article. As a result, Lena may consider not contracting or be able to contract with the NCBC Board.

Comment [BRR2]: Leave this comment in minutes?

Larry feels that they may have a difficult time keeping the NCBC alive without federal dollars and a billing system, which currently is close to being put in place. Family Health Center has indicated that they are not in a position to take on billing at the NCBC. Battle Creek Health System indicated that they would not take on the responsibility of the NCBC, however, may provide some funds.

Comment [BRR3]: Leave this statement/opinion in the minutes?

Comment [BRR4]: Take on billing rr the NCBC?

Ben: The NCBC employees are Health Department employees receiving county benefits. How would this be implemented and how is this feasible?

Jean: What is the NCBC Board asking us to do with this resolution?

Larry: The NCBC Advisory Board has no legal stance. They are an advisory board that they developed. There is no legal status, we are the responsible Board.

Heidi: They are asking us to approve the request to transfer the authority.

Larry: Transfer of authority/approval of recommended governance structure cannot be completed until BOH and the BOC approve the recommended governance structure.

Greg: They are proposing to use the consultant that made the recommendations attached. Appears that they want to operate the clinic how they want to operate it, excluding the "strings" attached (e.g., federal dollars, union contract, billing, etc.).

Larry: The consultant recommendations requiring change are proposed because the NCBC hasn't met the Federal standards of care.

Mac: Is there a way for us to give them what they want for them to find out how good they have it with us.

Greg: Mac's proposal is intriguing; however, this is what you are asking: They would be required to find health insurance, life insurance, dental insurance, telephone system, computer system, etc. without federal funds.

Heidi: We are looking at this as a jewel to the community not to the Health Department.

Greg: Lena's recommendation is giving them some of what they want. Use Lena as a facilitator to bridge this issue. We have recognized their concern that they would like to have some voice/say in the matter.

Ben: The Board of Health has never received a communication regarding suggestions, concerns, etc. from the NCBC Advisory Board.

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Mac: Suggested that Heidi and Kathy provide the NCBC Advisory Board a detailed list of the clinic operations (e.g., insurance, computers, telephone, etc.).

Larry: Dr. Ptacin would like a "Heidi" and a "Kathy" full-time in the NCBC. It appears that he does not understand there are funds allocated to these positions.

Heidi: Due to staff requirements preparing for the audit, Heidi requests a letter of confidence that the BOH is behind the NCBC staff. Would the BOH agree to meet with the NCBC Advisory Board?

Mac moved that Larry meet with the staff at the NCBC after today's meeting and speak on behalf of the BOH that we are behind them. Be honest with them and tell them that we will consider the Governing Board but the Clinic will not end.

Greg: One of their recommendations is to continue meeting with Lena Hackett, Larry should send a letter for the BOH proposing that the BOH meet with the NCBC Advisory Board and discuss further options.

Jean asked if the Health Department staff were aware of this article before it was published.

Heidi stated yes. John VanderMeer attended the NCBC meeting Thursday, October 16th. After the NCBC meeting she met with the NCBC staff and informed them of the article.

Kathy: The Medicaid/Medicare billing requires cooperation of the doctors in order to bill (physicians need to code, complete paperwork, etc.).

Heidi: Heidi spoke with Dr. Ptacin who indicated that he felt that there was misquoting in the article on Friday.

Heidi and Larry will visit with the NCBC staff after the BOH meeting today to boost their moral.

Greg: the BOH needs to respond to the governing issues.

Larry: The BOH will write a letter to the NCBC Advisory Board stating that they have received their concerns/recommendations. We will not take any action until the PCER is completed. We will work together to resolve these issues. These issues will be handled carefully.

Jean: Be careful what we would/would not consider.

Mac: Do not put "list of operations" in letter, just in "back pocket" for future reference.

Kathy: Federal money is \$243K and no state dollars. They raised \$130K.

Motion to follow up with the Advisory Board and that Larry meet with the NCBC staff and develop a letter to the NCBC Board.

Jean supported. All in favor.

#### *Board Business*

- Ends Policies

Will be put on hold for next meeting.

### VIII ADJOURNMENT

Larry Anderson adjourned the meeting on 9:40. Mac motioned; Ben supported. All in favor.

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