



North Shore Health Department – Board of Health Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2022

The Board of Health Meeting was called to order on Thursday, February 17th 7:02 pm by Kathleen Platt

- 1) Roll Call: Present- Rosalyn McFarland, Chelsea Holtz, Kristine Peterka. Christopher Okunseri, Debesh Mazumdar, Kathleen Platt. Absent- Rosalyn McFarland, Christopher Simenz, Bayside (vacant), Gary Lewis

A quorum was present

- 2) Persons Desiring to be Heard: There were no persons desiring to be heard
- 3) Minutes of November 18th, 2021 were reviewed by members, motion to approve made by Debesh Mazumdar, seconded by Kris Peterka and passed
- 4) Health Department Administrative Items
 - Health Director/Officer Transition: We have interviewed and are in the process of offering the Health Officer position to a candidate that meets qualifications to maintain us as a Level III Health Department. The candidate has a background in public health and case management, as well as budget management and department supervision. She has an MBA in Healthcare Administration as well as an MPH degree.
 - Environmental Health: Brad Simerly presented proposed inspection fee increase as well as rationale for needing this increase. He also provided comparisons of our current and proposed fees with fees charged by other health departments. Even with the proposed increases, our fees will remain in the middle of the range for health departments in the area. There were some questions regarding what constitutes a “potentially hazardous” inspection for retail sales and Brad explained that this refers to any temperature sensitive food, as potentially hazardous to the public, not hazardous for him to complete the inspection. Debesh Mazumdar made a motion to approve the fee increases as proposed, this was seconded by Kris Peterka and passed. We will forward this to Brown Deer Village Board for further action prior to the increase taking place.
 - Influenza- we gave fewer influenza vaccines this year than in most previous years, however our mass clinic at University School was very well received and we plan to continue that next year. We have ordered our flu vaccine for fall, 2022 and increased the numbers of high dose vaccine, decreased multi dose standard vaccine.
 - We are due to start our Community Health Assessment/ Community Health Improvement Plan process and have initiated planning for that. Since we have some additional funding through COVID ARPA funds, we are hoping to be able to complete a more comprehensive outreach and analysis of the data we obtain. We also are planning to use the spotlight provided by COVID work, including a vastly increased social media following to obtain more input from North Shore residents and partners. Kayla Bonack is coordinating the preparation and planning, and we have three student interns assisting in this as well. We will be reaching out to all Board of Health members for key informant interviews within the next several months.

- Mobilizing Communities for a Just Response- I forwarded the grant application to all BOH members. This includes the work plan and budget for this grant, with the goal of identifying possible contributory factors to the decline in childhood within the North Shore. We were awarded \$30,000 to complete this work. The state has not yet publicly announced the recipients of this grant, although the list does include many agencies other than public health departments.

5) North Shore COVID19 Update

- Numbers of cases are now going down following a massive surge in cases starting in December. The Omicron variant increased numbers to a point that we needed to stop attempting to call each case and needed to triage cases and focus on people 65 and older, along with school aged children and their families. Even with that change, our staff was nearly overwhelmed with case numbers requiring importing from staging, triage review and calls. We are planning to continue to focus on vulnerable populations- school aged children and people over 65- as we move ahead.
- Transition to recovery- Like most other health departments, we are struggling to transition back to our core staffing, while maintaining awareness and capacity to respond to COVID surges. We have re-initiated Stepping On classes, blood pressure monitoring at senior centers, car seat installations, childhood vaccination administration and surveillance, lead follow up and other disease follow up. We remain a full position down in core staff, although we have LTE COVID response staff backing us up in all COVID related work. Each LTE COVID response staff member is assigned to a specific area of COVID work, in addition to routine calls to high risk cases, and are assigned a supervisor on our regular (core) staff. This has freed up our department to start looking at what changes in programming may be needed since we essentially went to "all things COVID" in March 2020.
- We have established a COVID surveillance program to gather information on cases in adults over 60 and will monitor hospitalizations, vaccination status, ICU status and potentially variant status in a format that will allow us to identify disease trends, similar to how we have been surveilling influenza related hospitalizations for the past several years.
- We received 21,000 N95 masks through DHS stockpile and distributed to the public through the libraries, and to all village/ city halls, police departments, North Shore Fire Rescue, DPWs in all communities, schools and senior independent apartment buildings. We have some masks remaining and will provide as needed to the public, schools or other agencies as needed.
- Vaccination program- we are continuing to offer first, second and third dose (when applicable), along with boosters for all eligible age groups. We continue to hold clinics at Brown Deer and Shorewood offices and Karin and Odile are doing outreach to schools and businesses to provide needed vaccines in the community as well. We have been informed that vaccines for 6 month-4 year olds will take at least two more months for approval and when that does happen, some community partners, such as pharmacists may not participate in vaccinations for this age group. Vaccines for small children will likely need to be done by Primary care clinics or Public Health.
- COVID grants- discussion about COVID funding, different funding streams have different start and end dates, and varying restrictions on use. Work plans are being developed for these to ensure compliance with DHS/ CDC guidelines.
- School update- Kayla continues to provide weekly updates to school leaders and Kathy continues to meet with area district superintendents bi-weekly for updates and discussions regarding recommendations for mitigation, and planning for future. Most

of our schools are maintaining mask requirements for now, but with increasing pressure from parent groups and school boards, it is likely that these will be dropped before the end of the school year. We are continuing to be in frequent contact with schools, although their ability to contact trace within the school is severely limited and with our Disease Investigation plan not including calling all cases, we are not always aware of children who are household contacts to positive family members. Even when we were calling each case, it was not uncommon for family members to not include school aged children or refuse to let us know what school they attended.

- Other items- no other items were brought up.

6) Adjournment Motion to adjourn made by Chris Okunseri, seconded by Rosalyn McFarland and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm.

Dated: May 19, 2022

Kathleen S Platt

North Shore Health Department Health Officer, Secretary

Approved