



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

BOND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes of Meeting

March 25, 2024

Those physically in attendance:

Members:

M. McCullough
C. Ackerman
T. Hall
K. Hamilton
J. Kirkham
E. Korte
D. Lippert
A. Oestreich
P. Siefken

Others:

S. Eifert, Administrator
R. Dothager, Dental Services
M. Helmkamp, Clinical Services
B. Strieker, Compliance & Human Resources

Those in attendance via Zoom:

Others: B. Goodiel, Home Health/Hospice
P. Feazel
L. McMinn

Members Absent:

R. Nehrt
J. Rehkemper

Board of Health President M. McCullough called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Hearing from the public

There were no community members in attendance.

Minutes of February 26, 2024

Prior to the March meeting, Board of Health members were provided a copy of the minutes from their last meeting held on February 26, 2024. With no additions or corrections, J. Kirkham motioned to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by D. Lippert, and the motion passed unanimously.

Administrator's Report

Thursday, March 28, is the Health Department's annual Health Fair. The event is scheduled from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. in the Bond County Health Department Conference Room. M. Helmkamp, Director of Clinical Services, shared the tests that will be provided. All county employees are encouraged to participate and the event is also open to the public. Approximately 70 appointments have been made to date and walk-ins are also being accepted.

Bond County Health Department Administrator S. Eifert reported he recently met with the Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), Dr. Sameer Vohra. Joining along with other representatives from the Illinois Association of Public Health Administrators, S. Eifert indicated the Director shared IDPH's fiscal year 2025 priorities. Modernizing data systems used by the Department was among the priorities, which will provide more up-to-date information for public health planning.

IDPH will also be working with focus groups and subject matter experts to review and enhance abilities to affect identified public health improvements. A cost capacity assessment is planned as well to ensure human resources are allocated appropriately and skilled workers are available through workforce development. Investments in health equity will also continue.

S. Eifert indicated Public Health is celebrated nationally in April. IDPH as well as local health departments will be recognizing the many ways public health protects and promotes the health of communities.

Financial Report/Review of Bills

An overall decrease in the Health Department's cash balance was reported for February. Three payrolls were paid during the month, which contributed to the \$31,995 decline. The Health Department's current cash balance is \$1,519,402. Detail on income and expenses was provided prior to the meeting in the Board's meeting packet. S. Eifert noted funds from the SIPA grant have been moved to a certificate of deposit with money withdraws scheduled that will be used to subsidize home health nursing salaries.

Prior to the meeting, Board of Health members were provided a list of invoices paid during the month of February for their review.

A motion was made by A. Oestreich to approve the Financial Report and to also receive and file the invoices for audit. C. Ackerman seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

None

New Business

Director of Bond County Home Health & Hospice B. Goodiel presented the annual report for home health and hospice services and the Service Plan for Hospice. Serving the 5 counties of Bond, Clinton, Fayette, Madison and Montgomery Counties, there were 324 admissions to home health services during the year and 63 patients to hospice. Brian reported patient satisfaction surveys continue to be very good for both departments with Home Health receiving a top 5-star rating through the national, standardized survey implemented by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. During fiscal year 2023, both Home Health and Hospice recorded a financial loss. Expenses have remained consistent over the past 3 years while income has decreased. B. Goodiel indicated retaining a social worker continues to be difficult with the low number of worked hours.

Following review of the annual reports for home health and hospice along with the Hospice Service Plan, a motion was made by T. Hall to approve the reports as presented. The motion was seconded by J. Kirkham and passed.

The Board of Health Finance Committee recently met to review Home Health financials and reimbursements from third-party payors. A. Oestreich, Chairperson of the Finance Committee, reported over the last several months, a thorough review of insurance reimbursement rates has been completed with the assistance of an external consultant. Findings identified those Medicare Advantage plans that are reimbursing for provided care significantly below the department's costs. Negotiations have been underway seeking improved reimbursements. While negotiations are in process with Aetna for updated rates, the Board of Health Finance Committee recommended new

admissions with Aetna coverage not be accepted for services at this time. Their recommendation was supported by the full Board of Health and authorized leaders to incorporate this change as determined appropriate.

A. Oestreich also reported during the Finance Committee's meeting, discussion was held on a cost of living increase for all staff. Based on the current financial picture of the Bond County Health Department, A. Oestreich indicated the Finance Committee is presenting a motion and second to provide a 3% bonus to staff members instead of a cost of living increase. At a cost of approximately \$68,000, Health Department leadership will work through the specifics of the bonus' administration. The motion passed unanimously.

With recent updates made in state and federal policies, personnel policies have been updated to align with these changes. During the Board of Health's Personnel Committee meeting on March 13, the policy updates were reviewed. Board of Health members were provided copies of the changes prior to the meeting and a brief synopsis was also provided at the meeting. With a motion and second presented by the Personnel Committee to approve the policy updates, the motion passed unanimously.

At 7:45 p.m., J. Kirkham motioned for the Board of Health to enter into Executive Session for Administrator S. Eifert's annual performance review. The motion was seconded by D. Lippert and passed. At this time, S. Eifert exited the meeting room and other Board of Health employees attending were excused.

Following the Executive Session, the Board of Health public meeting reconvened at 8:30 p.m. Members commended Administrator S. Eifert for his outstanding leadership and dedication to the department's growth and expansion of services.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Board of Health is scheduled for April 22, 2024

Adjourn

At 8:35 p.m., D. Lippert made a motion to adjourn the meeting. E. Korte seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.



T. Hall, D.O.
Secretary