



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

BOND COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Minutes of Meeting

January 27, 2025

Those physically in attendance:

Members:

M. McCullough, Board of Health President
C. Ackerman
C. Bohannon
T. Hall
K. Hamilton
E. Korte
R. Nehrt
A. Oestreich
P. Siefken

Others:

S. Eifert, Administrator
R. Dothager, Dental Clinic
B. Strieker, Compliance/Human Resources

Those in attendance via Zoom:

Others:

P. Fain, Director of Finance
B. Goodiel, Home Health/Hospice
L. McMinn, Disease Intervention
M. Miller, PCC Director

Members Absent:

D. Lippert
J. Rehkemper

At 6:40 p.m., Board of Health President M. McCullough called the meeting to order. All attending stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Hearing from the public

There were no comments from the public.

Minutes of November 25, Meeting

Minutes from the Board of Health's last meeting held on November 25, 2024 were available to members prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Dr. T. Hall to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by R. Nehrt and passed unanimously.

Administrator's Report

Bond County Health Department Administrator Sean Eifert reported with the new Federal government administration taking office earlier this month, continued funding for public health programs is uncertain. Several programs at the Health Department receive monies through federal funds that are passed-through state agency grants and directly from federal grant funds. S. Eifert reported he will continue to stay involved with state agencies that are monitoring potential changes in funding. With current cash reserves, the health department is secure and S. Eifert indicated he will remain involved with advocacy efforts to help maintain stability of local public health services.

Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2024 ended close to budget. S. Eifert reported overall revenue of \$5,651,307 and overall expenses at \$5,200,120. The Department's cash balance as of the end of December 2024 is \$1,748,338.

Finance Committee members met prior to the meeting and reviewed the Accounts Payable Ledger for the months of November and December 2024. All Board of Health members were also able to review the ledger on the Board's private area of the website. With the Finance Committee presenting a motion and second for the approval and filing of the invoices as identified in the ledger, all members voted in favor and the motion unanimously passed.

A motion was made by C. Bohannon to accept the financial report as presented. C. Ackerman seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

None

New Business

The Board's Ad Hoc Committee appointed to review the overall financial performance of the home health program has concluded. Their deep dive into the financial challenges impacting home health centered on low reimbursement rates received from payors. Reimbursement rates have not risen enough to offset inflation that has increased the cost of care. The number of patients with Medicare Advantage plans have also increased with many of the plans reimbursing at rates lower than traditional Medicare rates. Board of Health members thanked the team in Home Health for their ongoing work to balance reimbursements and expenses. Discussions will continue with contracted payors for increased rates to match the cost of care.

To zero out the current negative balance in the Home Health account, the Ad Hoc Committee recommended a transfer of funds from the Hospice account surplus. With the Ad Hoc Committee presenting this as a first and second motion, all members voted in approval and the motion unanimously passed. After the transfer of funds is completed, the financial performance of home health will continue to be monitored for any losses of \$140,000 or more during the next 6-month period, February to August, for any further assessment needed.

Dr. T. Hall reported the Board of Health Personnel Committee recently met. During their meeting discussion was held on a potential tuition reimbursement policy for employees and holiday benefits for employees on leave of absence. As drafts of these policies are completed, they will be brought to the full Board of Health for review and approval. Also, during the meeting, the end-of-year employee statistics were shared along with results from the recent employee survey. The overall average composite score for the survey was 4.22 on a 5.0 scale. This was a slight increase over the survey completed in 2022 of 4.0. Departments with more than 5 completed surveys will be receiving results specific to their department. All other departments will have results grouped together. These will be sent to department leaders to share with department staff. From these, initiatives can be developed towards improvement in areas highlighted.

Discussion was held on the new form created for the Board of Health's annual performance evaluation of Administrator S. Eifert. The new form will be sent out both digitally and by mail for members to return to Dr. T. Hall by February 10.

Dental Director R. Dothager reported sedation dentistry will be available beginning February 6. A third-party provider will bring licensed professionals including an anesthesiologist and nurse on-site to administer sedation. The new service will be for children who may have a large amount of dental work to be completed or have special circumstances. Currently, families are being referred to northern Illinois near Chicago for this type of service. During February, new patients residing outside of Bond County will be accepted for general dentistry services.

Executive Session

There was no Executive Session held.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Board of Health will be on Monday, February 24, 2025, and begin at 6:30 p.m.

Adjourn

With no further business to be brought before the Board, Dr. T. Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. R. Nehrt seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.



T. Hall, D.O.
Secretary