
**BAYFIELD COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
Tuesday, February 23, 2022 – 5:00 PM**

Present: Jeremy Oswald, Tom Snilsberg, David Zepczyk, Mary Dougherty, Ellen Braddock

Absent: Fred Strand, Elaine Kopp, Deb Dryer, Terri Kramolis

Staff: Amy Jarecki, Sara Wartman

- 1. Call the Meeting to Order** : The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Oswald.
- 2. Approval December 14 , 2021, Meeting Minutes** : A motion to approve the December 14, 2021 meeting minutes was made by Zepczyk; motion seconded by Snilsberg. Motion carried.
- 3. Public Comment** : None
- 4. Situational Update and Discussion Regarding COVID-19 Recovery Phase & COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics** : Sara Wartman, Health Director shared information on the current state of the local Covid-19 situation. Cases were up in January due to the Omicron variant. The Health Department pulled back on contact tracing during this time as there were so many new cases right after the first of January. We had hired extra contact tracers and enlisted the help of the state Department of Health Services to assist with the calls. The number of new cases has dropped from about 200 (two hundred) cases a week to about 50 (fifty) a week, which is manageable with the staff we have currently. Health departments are now not expected to be following up on each and every Covid case per the state Department of Health, which frees up our regular staff to work on other public health programs. There seems to be a national shift from a pandemic to an endemic as mask mandates are being lifted across the country. Wartman talked about the Covid-19 Vaccination clinics that our department has been offering. The clinics have not been well attended anymore. Our department has contracted with a state group who will run the clinics around the county to give our public health staff a bit of a break. If the demand isn't there, the question is should the Health Department keep providing these vaccination clinics for the public.
- 5. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Resolution to Amend 2021 Health Department Budget** : Amendment to the Bayfield County Health Department 2021 budget to adjust for increases/decreases in federal and state grant funding. A motion was made to recommend the resolution to the full County Board by Snilsberg; motion seconded by Dougherty. Motion carried.



Bayfield County Health Department

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Sara Wartman, BSN, RN, CLS

Director / Health Officer

6. Update on Health Department Programs and

Services: Programming over the past quarter continued

to focus on COVID response and recovery due to prioritization of communicable disease follow-up and mitigation. Our department is now offering Covid-19 testing a few days a week for free and there is a program that will allow us to get reimbursed for each test administered.

7. Update on Health Department Staffing: The Health Department staff has held stable during the last two (2) years during the pandemic. The Covid nurse that had been hired last summer has since resigned as has the Reproductive Health nurse that was hired to run that program. Both positions had been limited term. Wartman doesn't expect to be renewing the contracts of the part time contact tracers due to the number of cases going down. Some of the other local Health Departments have been keeping their contact tracers on staff to assist in easing the transition into normal public health programming.

8. Committee Input : None

9. Next Meeting Date :

Tuesday, April 12, 2022, 5:00 pm, in the Bayfield County EOC and remotely via Teams.

10. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Jarecki

Amy Jarecki, Office Manager