

**MINUTES**  
**Goodhue County Public Health Service**  
**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**Tuesday, September 20th, 2005**  
**10:45 a.m.**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Government Center, Board Room**

**Members Present:** Commissioners Jim Bryant, Dan Rechtzigel, Richard Samuelson, Ron Allen and Ted Seifert

**Others Present:** Karen Main, Sue Morgan, Jason Petersen, Kristine Holst, Susan Brace-Adkins, Diane Banitt, Stacy Thuman

**I. Call to Order**

Chair, Jim Bryant called the meeting to order at 10:51 a.m. in the County Board Room.

II. C/Bryant asked if there were any disclosures of interest. There were none.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

*Motion by C/Rechtzigel, seconded by C/Allen, carried to approve the agenda for September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2005 meeting.*

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

*Motion by C/Samuelson, seconded by C/Rechtzigel, carried to approve the minutes of August 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005 as presented.*

**V. Consent Agenda**

- a. Elderly Waiver, Alternative Care Contract with Gunderson Gardens
- b. Memorandum of Agreement with Fillmore County Public Health for the 11 County SE MN Tobacco Free Communities Project. Effective 01/01/2006-12/31/2006.

*Motion by C/Rechtzigel second by C/Seifert, carried to approve the above listed consent agenda items.*

**VI. Review of Financial Reports**

Ms. Holst indicated that August 2005 Finances are as follows:

Positive Revenue Variance YTD is \$11,685

Positive Expense Variance YTD is \$65,928

Net Positive YTD is \$77,613

C/Rechtzigel questioned whether the positive variance will stay stable through the rest of the year. Ms. Holst indicated that she anticipates that it be pretty stable. C/Bryant questioned if there would be additional revenue or expenditures for 2005 that were not budgeted for? Ms. Holst stated that we will have the MPAAT grant that will show revenue and expenses, and as of October 1<sup>st</sup> we are getting an increased reimbursement for fees in skilled nursing and home health aide and for some of the waivers and, some of the medical assistance fees are going up as well, that will be extra revenue as well for 2005.

C/Allen stated that hopefully at the end of the year, that there could be \$100,000 going into the reserves.

**Immunization Fee Schedule**

Ms. Holst stated that Goodhue County Public Health Service has reviewed the immunization fee schedule, and in order to cover the vaccine and other related costs, we are recommending updating one fee, and need to receive approval for a fee of a new vaccine being offered.

In order to cover the vaccine and related costs for the Pneumovax vaccine, also known as the pneumonia vaccine, we are recommending to increase the fee from \$25.00 to \$30.00.

Goodhue County Public Health Service is also offering a new vaccine on the market, called Tetanus-Diphtheria-Accelular Pertussis. This is a vaccine for people 7 years of age or older. The Tetanus-Diphtheria vaccine didn't cover Pertussis

previously. To cover the vaccine and other related costs, we are recommending the fee of \$45.00.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Accept the Proposed Fee Schedule with changes to the Pneumovax vaccine of \$30.00 and the new fee for Tetanus-Diphtheria-Accelular Pertussis of \$45.00; implement effective October 1, 2005.

C/Rechtzigel questioned who they are providing vaccines for? Ms. Morgan stated that we offer a Tuesday afternoon immunization clinic and a variety of people who come in. The cost is the same for all of them, but there are times we have those that cannot pay, even though our fees are very reasonable because they are purchased under a special program through the State. Regardless we will provide these vaccines to the clients. C/Rechtzigel stated that we are looking at probably people who do not have health insurance coverage and do not go to the doctor to have this done, Ms. Morgan indicated that seems to be the majority of the people. C/Rechtzigel also questioned what the tetanus diphtheria would cost at the clinic, Ms. Morgan stated that they are higher by quite a percentage, not exactly sure what the actual cost is though. Ms. Holst stated that if the client did have health insurance we would recommend that they go to their doctor instead of PHS. Medical Assistance can be billed through PHS.

C/Rechtzigel questioned if the Tuesday clinics are throughout the County or if they are in Red Wing? Ms. Morgan stated that they are held in our office in Red Wing, but in the fall out-county sites are provided for the flu shots. Ms. Holst stated that in the past we offered immunization clinics out county and it was costing us a lot of money to have a nurse out there for a couple of hours with maybe 1 or 2 people coming to the clinic.

C/Bryant stated some fees have not been raised since 2003; people don't like to have big changes and prefer to have small changes each year. Are we allowed to increase or decrease our fees? Ms. Holst stated that we are allowed to change them but some of our vaccine costs have not increased and we try to be lower than what others offer. The fees will be looked at within the next year. C/Bryant questioned if they cover the cost; Ms. Holst stated that we cover the vaccine cost, the time it takes the nurse administer the shot and the supplies used.

*Motion by C/Seifert, second by C/Allen, motion carried to accept the Proposed Fee Schedule with changes to the Pneumovax vaccine of \$30.00 and the new fee for Tetanus-Diphtheria-Accelular Pertussis of \$45.00; implement effective October 1, 2005.*

## **VII. Administrative Reports**

### **A) Environmental Health Report – Jason Petersen**

- Mr. Petersen stated that his item on the agenda, a variance request, has been withdrawn by Ms. Finholdt, there is nothing to be considered at this time.
- C/Allen questioned if the restaurant issue in Welch has been taken care of. Mr. Petersen indicated that they are compliant and have not had any other issues.

### **B) Director of Nursing Report – Sue Morgan**

#### **DHS Bulletin:**

Today, a new DHS bulletin was issued announcing increases for a variety of Home and Community-Based services and programs as of October 1, 2005. The increase totals 5% for Medical Assistance service rates (RN, aide, and all therapies) as well as 2.2553% increase for waiver rates. All providers receiving the 2.2553 increase must dedicate at least 75% of the additional revenue to increase wages and benefits and pay associated costs for all employees, except for management fees, the administrator, and central office staff. There have not been any increases from the State since July of 2003.

#### **South Country Health Alliance:**

Many new programs are being rolled out this year. Two are voluntary programs. The program for the over 65 population that combines the Medical Assistance cap with the Medicare cap is called MN Senior Complete. Ability Care is similar, but focuses on just the Medicare cap for the under 65 disabled population. We are currently working with South Country to train appropriate public health staff prior to the implementation dates. One necessary component is to align the clients with a prescription drug provider, as on Jan. 1, 2006, this responsibility rolls over to one of seventeen pharmacy groups. Our nursing staff will likely be advocates in assisting clients to get signed up and learn how to navigate the system. We continue to benefit from our association with this organization.

**UCare Toothcare Van:**

We have received word that the Dental Van will return to Goodhue County Public Health during the week of July 17-21, 2006. Also, we inquired about the number of clients that received services this past July and were informed that 29 total clients were seen. Some of these 29 were seen more than once, coming first for an exam and returning for more intensive work. UCare was very pleased with their reception in Goodhue County and stated they look forward to returning. Ms. Morgan indicated that we will work with them when they return to see if we can have them go to an out-county location, C/Rechtzigel stated that Zumbrota tends to be a central area for that part of the County could possibly work with the Zumbrota VFW that could be a good location right on the main drag. C/Rechtzigel stated that we are working to put the Public back into Public Health and as we get more word out about these programs, more and more people will say "wow, I didn't even know that it was available, let's go and utilize it." He encouraged staff to keep up the good work. C/Bryant also suggested that another site in Zumbrota could be City Hall or the library. C/Bryant questioned if a Goodhue County resident could make an appointment to go to the dental van in Rochester? Ms. Morgan stated that you can, and they would set that up through the 800 number for UCARE.

**C) Healthy Communities Director Report – Susan Brace-Adkins****Disease Prevention, Control and Immunizations**

- It is still unclear about the supply of Flu Vaccine for this fall. We have received information from Sanofi Pasteur that they will be shipping us 200 doses to arrive no later than September 23.
- A new meningococcal Vaccine will now be available called Menactra and a new adult tetanus-diphtheria-acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) will be available.

**Kids: Handle with Care**

- On October 6, 2005, Dr. David Walsh will be in Red Wing to present his research on the teen brain. His new book is titled "Why do they Act that Way?" There will be a conference for professionals during the day and a free parent session that evening at First Lutheran Church.
- The Kids program also had a display at the county fair with public health's other priorities, tobacco and fitness and nutrition.

**Health Priorities**

- Kenyon fitness campaign is going strong and we have continued to canvas the city and given away prizes to those who are being physically active. The tagline for all fitness related activities for public health are: "Just Be Active". We will have a family fun fitness day and walkathon for the Kenyon City Trail on Saturday, September 24 showcasing healthy lifestyle information and fitness stations for kids as well as a fitness theme outdoor movie at the Depot.
- Public health is part of the new Red Wing group working on fitness. It is called "Make the Move Red Wing" and will have its kick off event on Saturday, October 1 in the morning at Bayfront Park. More information to come.
- We are working with the MN Future Consumers of America group from Goodhue to present "Nutrition Buddies" a nutrition curriculum developed in conjunction with the USDA and their new food pyramid. We have presented classes in Kenyon and Red Wing to summer child care programs.
- We are providing the "Eat Better, Move More" curriculum at Zumbrota Towers – a 12 week nutrition and walking program for seniors.
- The County Fair showcased the top health priority with our display on nutrition and fitness and the second hand smoke priority with our display on tobacco.
- We provided nutrition and fitness information at the Cannon Valley Trail event "Voices of the Valley" this past summer.
- We are providing fitness and nutrition training at our Bloodborne Pathogens training that schools are required to provide – more fun than always listening to how to protect you from those awful, nasty germs.
- The health insurance and prescription drugs working group has a panel group workshop on Tuesday, September 27 from 7-9 p.m. in Kenyon. There will be a pharmacist, an insurance representative, a medical provider and a community advocate talking about prescription drug costs, generic drugs, how to talk with your provider about prescriptions, what to look for in an insurance plan, supplemental and community resources available. This group is working on a "commonly asked question" sheet on prescription drugs and hopes to take its show on the road into other county communities.
- We are a member of the Red Wing Chemical Health Council and are working on tasks to decrease underage drinking.

C/Bryant stated that he had a meeting with David Willoughby from MPAAT. They have a booklet on getting people to quit smoking. He stated that he will forward on to Melissa Cushing, so that it can be brought to the insurance committee so that they have another resource for Goodhue County employees. If you have 8 or more employees or more that wish to try and quit smoking MPAAT will come down and work with those employees, free of charge, to get them to quit. Ms. Brace-Adkins stated that they are impressed with MPAAT and all of their information. Ms. Brace-Adkins stated that at the wellness day last year, they

had information on the quit plan and all of the information on all of the places in Goodhue County that people can get smoking cessation.

Ms. Main indicated that Public Health has hired a staff person to do the work on the MPAAT grant, Tom Wolff. This is a 2 year grant position.

Diane Banitt stated that her transition into Public Health has gone fine and she has moved over with lots of stuff. Ms. Banitt updated the Board on things that are going on with the KIDS Program. Ms. Main stated that Diane does a wonderful job of getting the big people here for not much money.

## VIII. Old Business

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Draft 2006 Budget**

Attached is the revised budget for 2006. Public Health is requesting \$714,274, the same amount as the 2005 request. We have been able to balance the budget based on information we received in the last two months.

We have reduced our estimate for health insurance from 15% to 4% for a savings of \$28,615. We are appreciative of the hard work of the Insurance Committee and the County Board. We believe these decisions are in the best interest of the County and the majority of employees.

We have reduced our estimated expenditures for mileage from 30% to 20%, and changed our projection due to eight months of 2005 figures, for a savings of \$24,622. We believe the federal reimbursement for mileage will not exceed the new rate of 48.5 cents a mile during the next year and may be reduced. Our budgeted amount is sufficient for the 48.5 cents increase during all of 2006.

We have increased our estimates of revenues from the Waivers and from Medical Assistance by 5%. This is an addition of \$24,150. This increase is based on actions of the State Legislature in the special session.

We are continuing economies presented in earlier versions of the 2006 budget. These include elimination of the half time health educator and no contributions to reserves. We have made realistic positive adjustments in several sources of income based on eight months of experience. We now know that we have been approved for the MPAAT, Regional Tobacco and Emergency Preparedness grants. The final amounts awarded for these grants total \$206,770.

We are certain the 2006 budget will be balanced with a zero increase but there may be some small adjustments based on information we received late on September 9 having to do with an additional increase in state funding. At this time a number of questions regarding the use of these funds must be resolved.

Ms. Main indicated that they are no longer recommending cutting any programs as a result of having to balance the budget.

C/Bryant commented that they should be aware that the County Board has had a discussion as a Committee of the Whole regarding a cost of living adjustments for employees and something will probably come out of that, may be following the budget workshop on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Main indicated that the 2.2553% revenue has not been figured into the 2006 budget and that would offset any cost of living adjustment. C/Bryant stated that they are considering it but nothing has been decided yet. C/Samuelsen stated that will put more demand on our budget. C/Bryant stated that PHS has added revenue that needs to also be put in the budget. It would offset the cost.

C/Rechtzigel stated that the budget looks good. The Public Health department is so tied into what the State does and when the Board passed the zero percent increase in January, it was difficult for you to put this together. He appreciated having the time to learn and appreciated them going back to the drawing board, and stated that he also spent some time in the assisted living quarters and they are relieved to have the homemaker program stay in place.

C/Allen questioned if there will be a 3<sup>rd</sup> draft? Ms. Holst stated yes that the first draft was hard to do without a lot of the information from the State.

C/Seifert stated that from the conference last week, the State Health Department of Health is going towards Essential Local

Activities that Community Health Boards need to provide and state outcomes. How well and not how well you do on that will impact any grant money from the State. He cautioned the Board that our homemaker program and some of our other programs do not add or increase the state wide outcomes. In the future we are going to have to keep close attention to the Essential Activities keep the flow of state of federal funding to this Community Health Board. Ms. Main stated that they are going to start tying funding on how well you do the essential outcomes and would be timely for Public Health to perhaps determine how we think we stand with the different categories of services, a report could come to the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the year. C/Rechtzigel stated that it is also important that we do not cut off our nose despite our face. If we end up pulling from the homemaker program to get \$10,000 from the State and end up moving people to a nursing homes and pay more taxes there, we will be paying more money to move people out of their homes to do full time care. We did not gain anything, we need to be cautious in following that carrot that gets dangled in front of us. Ms. Main stated that we do have essential functions and some of them we are not doing as well as we should. We want to start the year with going over those things.

C/Samuelson questioned where the shift is coming from? Ms. Main stated that it is coming down from the Feds, and the state is following the process in saying let's define what Public Health is and let's see if we are doing it. It is a 5 year process that they are going through. C/Samuelson asked if they have any plans of replacing some programs or thoughts of dropping them. Ms. Main stated that the direct care services are on the line in lots of counties with the hope that the private sector would take them over, but we also have the role as the safety net. We are the only one in the county that has to take people and assure that they are getting the services that they need. C/Samuelson stated that if Public Health does not do the services they need to be the watch dog and be sure that these people are taking care of.

C/Allen stated that the goal at the State level is looking at private industries to take some of these functions, Ms. Main stated that some of the agencies have developed a sliding fee scale so that private agencies look more attractive to insurance companies or private pay people whereas the bottom end of the scale is low enough that those that have nothing can get the services from the safety net provider. C/Allen questioned if there is a plan down the road to work with private industries to help them, is there collaboration with private? Ms. Main stated that these are good questions and we are moving into Ms. Morgan's report.

#### **Homemaker Services Survey**

Ms. Morgan stated that it was a good process and gathered a lot of information and it was definitely an exercise that was worth while.

Ms. Morgan reference the report that was in the packet outlining the details.

In the agencies that were surveyed within the Goodhue County area and some outside of the Goodhue County area but provide services to Goodhue County. We did identify 6 of 10 that would be able to assist to make the need of providing homemaker services in the Goodhue County areas. Many of the providers that were highlighted in blue, we work with already. We provide a choice of providers to our clients and let them choose, that is something that is part of the Home Care Bill of Rights to allow the client to choose their provider. They all stated that they would have to hire additional staff if County were no longer providing homemaker-only services. There was one agency that provides a sliding fee in addition to Public Health, the rest of them do not have a sliding fee and their rates do vary with the lowest rate being \$16.50 per hour up to \$23.00 per hour.

In looking at the volunteer network, there are three agencies in Goodhue County that currently do provide some homemaking services. The concern remains if they would have adequate volunteers to meet the need in the County. Faith in Action, Central Goodhue County has submitted a grant request to help them work with more community members to identify and train more volunteers to be better prepared to meet the need. We work with Pine Island Home Services and Wabasha Faith in Action.

The third part of the survey was the area Public Health Agencies. There are 6 of 10 that do provide Homemaker Only program in their counties, they all offer sliding fee rates, but they do vary quite widely. The goal is to assure that the service is available to those that are at the greatest need and do not have access to a private pay system.

C/Rechtzigel questioned if he lived in Fillmore County the lowest rate is \$20.00 per hour and if in Sibley County it is \$0.70 an hour. Ms. Morgan stated that rate for Fillmore County is for nursing visits and not homemaker, they do not have sliding fee for homemaker; Ms. Morgan indicated that Goodhue County's lowest sliding fee rate is \$5.00 per hour for homemaker.

C/Allen questioned if Ms. Morgan was surprised that there are as many private agencies as there are. He stated that he was surprised. Ms Morgan stated that she was not surprised and knew that they were out there because we do work with some of these some other agencies. She also pointed out that not all of them are willing to travel to all of the areas of Goodhue County the 6 that

were highlighted do service one area of the County or another, but perhaps not the entire County. We need to assure that the service is provided through out the County. C/Allen questioned where the gaps are in the County. Ms. Morgan stated that the gaps are in the southwestern area, Kenyon, Wanamingo area, due to the fact that Zumbrota Home care went out of business about a year ago. They provided services to quite a pool of people out there. A variety of agencies have had to step up to meet the need out there, she also noted that Lake City Home Care went out of business in July of this year so we no longer have that resource available. Ms. Morgan stated that it has been a concern in the past for agencies to provide Homemaking because of the reimbursement being so low. The State has now increased those waiver rates. The 2.255% increase will fall into the homemaker program.

Ms. Morgan reviewed the Public Health Policy regarding homemaker clients with the Board.

Ms. Morgan stated in summary we are working with other providers in the County we do not exclusively want to be the providers of this service. She also stated that she feels it is a very necessary service and we are not able to provide that without the utilization of the other agencies. We were very pleased to balance the budget without having to discontinue the service.

C/Rechtzigel asked if it could be determined that after all of the fees are paid, on average what would the overall cost would be per client per month to Goodhue County to provide this service. In looking at the stats, nursing home is \$9,000 monthly, what would it cost us to keep people out of the nursing home?

C/Allen stated that he would like to see the total cost of the homemaker budget and how revenue is generating on that, Ms. Morgan pointed out that on the 4<sup>th</sup> bullet point of the handout; in 2004 we relied on tax levy for over \$146,000 of the total expense, C/Allen questioned if the difference in those numbers is revenue. Ms. Main stated that it was.

C/Seifert stated that a dilemma that we have with this is what kind of service the particular client is going to receive on the doctor orders. The homemaker is one where the private market says the reimbursement on that does not cover our costs and on the other hand when there are skilled nursing visits, home health aide and homemaker, they are going to come out on billing on the other services. He also suggested the sliding fee scale - should the county provide that service? Do we want to bill less or do we want to take it out of the tax levy or should we tell a private company if you provide this service, the County will make of the difference? C/Seifert stated in looking at what the State is saying and the state outcomes, and this is where our money needs to go but as C/Rechtzigel would say we want to keep people from going into the nursing homes because that is expensive, so we need to pay attention to the homemaker clients and be sure that they have services. This is going to be a bit of a balancing act for us.

C/Rechtzigel stated that the cost for a client to have homemaker service is \$15.21 a week or \$60.85 a month, that is the cost for Goodhue County out of pocket. C/Allen stated for a total of about \$12,000 per month for 201 clients.

C/Samuels questioned of sliding fee is considered, is it decided by the State or who? Ms. Morgan stated that it is a management decision as to whether or not an agency is going to offer sliding fee rates.

C/Rechtzigel clarified that it ends up being \$730.20 a year per client for 12 months for 201 clients.

C/Bryant commented that he had a nice visit down in Zumbrota with Theresa last week. He commented that he heard first hand, how the client benefits from the program. It was nice to hear the budget report and by some comments made today, it would be advantageous to work together with the privates, not to change anything that we are doing, just to sit down in the same room and talk about it. There are lot of agencies going into the same buildings and with limited resources, maybe there is a way we can work together.

## **IX. New Business**

*Motion by C/Rechtzigel, second by C/Allen, motion carried to follow the motion from the County Board to increase the federal reimbursement rate to 48.5 cents for the last four months of 2005, September 2 through December 31<sup>st</sup>.*

## **X. Committee Reports**

### **A. Administrative/Finance Committee – Jim Bryant**

Ms. Main clarified that this is the committee tied in through the County Personnel Committee which is served by the chair and vice chair. C/Bryant stated that a resolution was passed that all personnel issues come through the County

Personnel Committee.

B. PHS Advisory Committee – Ron Allen

Will be meeting on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> .

C. South Country Health Alliance – Ted Seifert

Met last Monday and additional duties have been taken on that the States and Feds have asked them to do. They have returned member counties \$815,000 from January to August. It is working for us. They might be looking at Medicare Part D, the pharmacy part of it but may delay a year, considering Hurricane Katrina. Still 5 counties would like to join. It appears that Wabasha and Dodge will become MSA's.

D. SCHSAC – Ted Seifert

Met at the conference in Brainerd, most of it centered on the hurricane and emergency preparedness. Commissioner of Health stated that in the 36 hours over a holiday weekend they were ready for 5,000 people.

E. S.E. EMS Board – Richard Samuelson

Attended the last meeting, they are having a slight budget problem but it is a well managed organization and they are doing a great service.

**XII. Other**

**A) Approval of Disbursements**

*C/Allen move, C/Rechtzigel second, motion carried to approve the disbursements.*

**Other**

**XIII. Adjournment**

*C/Rechtzigel move, C/Seifert second, motion to adjourn the September 2005 Public Health Board meeting.*

Respectfully Submitted:

Richard Samuelson  
Secretary

Karen Main  
Director of Public Health