

Three Rivers District Board of Health Meeting Minutes
District Office Conference Room
January 27, 2015—12:00 p.m.

Members Present:

Judge Casey Ellis
Judge Bobby Lee Westrick
Judge Ken McFarland
Joseph Mylor, Chairman
Judge David Fields
Ben Kutnicki, M.D.

Community Present:

Staff Present:

Rachele Cobb
Georgia Heise, DrPH
Michelle Wilburn
Justin Pittman
Jim Thaxton
April Harris
Jennifer Thurman-Humphrey

Members Absent:

Delbert Cox
Open Seat

Welcome: Chairman, Joseph Mylor, called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m. A quorum was present. Mr. Mylor requested everyone in attendance introduce themselves and a round robin followed.

Topic: Public Remarks

Discussion: None.

Topic: Approval of September 24, 2014 Minutes

Discussion: Board members were asked to review the minutes from the last meeting in order to verify their accuracy. The minutes were reviewed with no discussion.

Action: Judge Ken McFarland made a motion to approve the minutes from September 24, 2014. Ben Kutnicki seconded. The motion to approve the minutes passed unanimously.

Old Business

Topic: Fleet Management Update

Discussion: Dr. Heise elaborated on the necessity for Three Rivers to have a fleet in order to assure reliable transportation for home visiting staff and because it often creates an undue hardship for entry-level staff when they incur expense up front for the use of their privately owned vehicle. It is Three Rivers' priority to ensure staff get where they need to be and can

provide the services our clients need in a timely and appropriate manner. Environmental Manager, Justin Pittman, provided an update on the status of the new fleet roll-out. He reiterated the cost savings for the agency to maintain a fleet vs reimbursing mileage as was discussed in the September 24th board meeting this past fall. Mr. Pittman indicated that Three Rivers has received seventeen vehicles with nine more in various stages of delivery and manufacture. Ten of the twelve cars scheduled for replacement have already been removed from the fleet of which two have already been sold to the highest bidder. Mr. Pittman also noted that the new fleet of Nissan Versas is averaging approximately ten miles more per gallon than the Toyota and Chevrolet vehicles we previously had in the fleet. All the new vehicles have the Three Rivers logo on the doors as well.

New Business

Topic: FY14 Audit Results

Discussion: Michelle Wilburn provided the board with a copy of the audit report as prepared by the auditor along with a copy of the letter from the auditors to the audit committee. Ms. Wilburn noted there were no adverse findings as a result of the audit and opened the discussion for questions or comments. No comments or questions were made and Mr. Mylor submitted an invitation to the board to entertain a motion to approve the audit.

Action: Judge Ken McFarland made a motion to approve the audit report dated, June 30, 2014. Casey Ellis seconded. The motion to approve the audit passed unanimously.

Topic: Financial Update

Discussion: Ms. Wilburn provided a summary of the financial statement showing the current financial status of the health department as of December 31, 2014. Ms. Wilburn iterated the margin of expense to revenue is in-line with the time of year and that a significant portion of additional payments coming from the state for federal and state programs will be paid out in the next six months. Dr. Heise opened the discussion for questions or comments.

Judge Casey Ellis inquired of the medical supplies and contracts expenses that are at 67% as of December 31, 2014. Ms. Wilburn indicated that some of the expense in the contracts was due to employment salary expense for a therapist moving from the salaries line to the contracts line; and that the medical expenses generally experience an up-front surge in the fall as a result of flu vaccine costs that will level out as the year proceeds.

Judge McFarland inquired whether or not we expect the self-pay revenues to continue on their current trend through the end of the year. Ms. Wilburn noted that those revenues also include co-insurance for home health services, and environmental services and that the trend is anticipated to continue as budgeted.

Dr. Kutnicki inquired if the Home Health Agency was operating at capacity or if referrals could be accepted. Dr. Heise elaborated that it is very difficult to retain therapists in our rural communities which keeps the agency at a certain operating level and essentially drives the capacity of the Home Health Agency. Generally the agency must resort to retaining therapists from an employment agency and even then, most of them want to work close to Lexington, Florence, or Louisville. Dr. Heise iterated that a driving force behind the lack of available therapists in our area is that a vast majority of new therapists desire to focus on sports medicine and the rehabilitation of accident victims. Helping the aged obtain a higher quality of life is not as appealing or inviting as these other areas of focus. Dr. Kutnicki asked if the financial problems of Home Health were related to inadequate utilization. Dr. Heise responded that benefits costs, reimbursements that do not cover our costs to do the services, and the rural geography of our territory does have an impact on our financial status and that more referrals would be helpful. Jennifer Thurman-Humphrey explained that we are currently operating at the national and state level for nursing and slightly below those averages for therapy utilization. Ms. Thurman-Humphrey also indicated that we do occasionally have to turn down a referral; but we try to be very cautious and evaluate if there are other agencies in the area that can serve those patients. Dr. Heise elaborated that we are trying to fill a gap with our Home Health Agency and that we do not want to compete with the for profit agencies. Dr. Kutnicki highlighted that other agencies are marketing the penalization of hospitals for readmission as a means to drive partnering and utilization of home health services. They are focusing on the assistance nursing services can provide in helping patients with medication, smoking cessation, and monitoring chronic heart failure to help patients recognize when they need to seek medical assistance before the situation escalates to the point of re-hospitalization. Dr. Kutnicki asked if patients have no preference on a home health agency if Three Rivers would be interested in those referrals. Dr. Heise confirmed there is room for referrals for nursing services at Three Rivers. Dr. Heise also briefly elaborated on a current quality improvement project with the Carroll County Hospital to reduce hospitalizations. This project team is seeking grant funding to build partnerships to educate patients on red flag issues and to address problems early in order to prevent hospitalization

Action: Judge Ken McFarland made a motion to approve the financial statement dated December 31, 2014. Judge Bobby Lee Westrick seconded. The motion to approve the financial statement passed unanimously.

Topic: Variance Committee

Discussion: Mr. Pittman provided the board with a copy of Three Rivers' variance committee policy that addresses the onsite variance process/committee. Mr. Pittman highlighted the regulations that provide for a variance in the event it is not feasible for a homeowner to comply with the onsite regulations for a variety of reasons including space limitations, etc. Mr. Pittman indicated that Three Rivers typically only receives one of these requests per year and that an expert is called in to meet with the committee when it becomes technical in nature. Mr. Pittman also noted that the committee member operating from the county in which the variance is requested is recused from the committee and holds no vote to avoid any conflict of interest. Mr. Pittman requested that the three new judges sit on this committee to address variances as they arise.

Topic: Heroin Update

Discussion: Jim Thaxton provided the Board with a copy of a presentation from the Northern Kentucky Heroin Impact Response Task Force, a summary of activities since the last Board of Health report, and a flyer for the 2015 Regional Opiate Summit. Mr. Thaxton reviewed the accomplishments of the last year, outlined the barriers the taskforce and communities are facing as it pertains to the Heroin epidemic, and provided an outlook of activities for the next year. Mr. Thaxton highlighted that the American Journal of Public Health recognized addiction as a disease in 1919 (almost one hundred years ago); yet today it continues to carry a significant stigmatism that prevents patients from receiving the help they need to overcome the addiction. Mr. Thaxton also highlighted some of the facts from the presentation which included 123 heroin overdoses at the five St. Elizabeth Healthcare Hospitals in the Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD) region for the month of December 2014. Of the 123 overdoses, only one patient survived. Mr. Thaxton also noted that the University of Cincinnati Hospital is seeing a lot of patients in the ER for overdose with 410 zip codes from the northern Kentucky area. Of the accomplishments to date, Mr. Thaxton mentioned that funding had been provided by Steve Beshear, Governor of Kentucky and Jack Conway, Attorney General of Kentucky, to provide naloxone kits to University of Louisville, University of Kentucky and St. Elizabeth hospitals to distribute to patients when they come into the emergency room with overdoses. Mr. Thaxton made note, however, that it is the task force's desire that these kits be put into patients hands prior to receiving care in the emergency room for overdose. Mr. Thaxton mentioned that the task force has a presenter available to educate students with the requirement of meeting with parents at a separate date and time to facilitate dialog at home with their children on the topic of addiction and abuse. Mr. Thaxton also informed the board that the task force is looking for an alternate location for the monthly meeting held every 2nd Tuesday of every month at 8:30 a.m., in order to make attendance of the rural communities more convenient. Dry Ridge has been suggested as a possible location. The facility/location would need to accommodate thirty to forty people. He

also noted that everyone is welcome including fiscal courts, medical personnel, and other policy makers.

Other successes include that of a young man who was recently saved by naloxone on a Sunday after his mother attended a presentation the previous Thursday on how to recognize someone on heroin and how to administer the naloxone kit. Her son is now in treatment for his addiction, which increases the number of documented lives saved to seven as a result of the use of naloxone kits distributed by the task force.

Mr. Thaxton also highlighted that the task force recently received five hundred thousand dollars from RC Durr to address key aspects of the response plan: advocacy, prevention, harm reduction, and training for police officers. Police officers completing the training will receive an \$88 pair of impervious gloves that have the same sensitivity, but prevent needles from perforating the glove when they are required to frisk persons carrying needles. Mr. Thaxton concluded the discussion with a demonstration of a training naloxone kit and a variety of books and videos available on YouTube.

Topic: Board Member Update

Discussion: Dr. Heise mentioned that Mr. Robert Walker, District Board member from the Owen County Local Board of Health has resigned from the Board, creating an open seat on the District Board and local Owen County Board. That seat will be filled at the next local board meeting and a representative from the Owen County Board will be elected to the District Board at that time as well. The vacated seat by Mr. Walker will remain open until that meeting.

Topic: Strategic Plan 2015-2019

Discussion: Dr. Heise presented the board with a copy of Three Rivers District Health Department Strategic Map wherein she reviewed the strategic priorities of the health department, how those priorities line up with the mission of public health, and how there is a need for funding to line-up with community needs. Dr. Heise elaborated that we want to try to get legislators to see that our funding could be modified to better align it with the services needed to ultimately have a positive impact on our health status. Dr. Heise provided an open invitation to any board member to sit-in on any of the strategic planning groups, participate, listen, or even run the group if desired. Dr. Heise noted that Three Rivers greatly appreciates all involvement from the Board.

Topic: Adjournment

Action: Judge Ken McFarland made a motion to adjourn. David Fields provided a second. The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Three Rivers District Board of Health

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Board Chairman 03/25/15
Date


District Director 3/25/15
Date


Board Secretary 3/25/15
Date