

JO DAVIESS COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2008

The Jo Daviess County Board of Health held a meeting on Wednesday, February 13, 2008, in the conference room of the health department. The meeting was called to order by Board of Health President Jim Lander at 6:58 p.m.

Board of Health members present: Jim Lander, Robert Chorak, Dr. Lloyd Callaway, Karen Scheele and Marge Monteluis, County Board Representative

Board of Health members absent: Elizabeth Blair, Peg Dittmar, Laura Dwinnells Duerr, Edwin Kuhle and Mike Petitgout

Staff members present: Peg Murphy, Matt Calvert and Evelyn Folks

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Approval of December 5, 2007 Board of Health Meeting Minutes

The December 5, 2007, meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Marge Montelius and a second by Robert Chorak.

The agency will not have an Ameri-Corp intern in the next fiscal year. Peg has proposed that the funds that would be used for the intern be budgeted for a cost-shared abandoned well sealing project. Sealing those abandoned wells will protect our groundwater. The homeowner would pay half the cost. This would only apply to existing old (unused) wells. The estimate of abandoned wells in the county could be as high as 1000. The funds would be on a first come, first served basis. The average total cost is estimated to be between \$350-\$400 for materials and the Environmental Health Department would supply the labor.

NEW BUSINESS

Quality Assurance Report: Client Care Committee

The committee has a short meeting with Joanne Kutz, Quality Assurance Auditor. She stressed the need to have surveys completed by the public and will sent quarterly finding to the Client Care Committee.

Home Health Care Report

Peg distributed the report of visit frequency and stated that the census this week is 39.

McBee & Associates has been able to recoup about \$40,000 in payments from Medicare in past billings. Their fee is about 20% of monies found. Since Medicare is changing their rules, it is essential that we have the contractor to find the dollars that would be lost in the changes that may be sometimes very obscure.

Medicare is going to freeze Home Health Care reimbursement rates.

Allison Gillies and Marsha Christ will be attending the Illinois Home Health Care Conference in Chicago.

Peg is in the Illinois Home Health Care Strategic Planning Commission and past president of Home Care Across Illinois Executive Board.

Environmental Health Update

Matt Calvert distributed copies of the ordinance revisions he has completed. The new language is clear and defined and this will be a great tool should they have to be used in court cases. They have been approved by the Illinois Department of Public Health Department of Food, Drugs and Dairy; IDPH Environmental Committee and the States Attorney. The next step will be in the JDC Social and Environmental Committee and then the County Board. Motion to approve by Dr. Lloyd Callaway and second by Robert Chorak. All were in favor.

The annual numbers for well and septic permits are down but are better than the state average.

Plans are in the works for a township tire pick-up to be held at the Highway Department. If approved, the event would be paid for by the tire tax (new tires).

Application has been made to the EPA for a county-wide tire pick-up in Elizabeth at the Community Building site. This would cost the county \$0 and county residents would be the participants.

Meetings are going on around the county regarding the mega dairy farm in Nora. Public Health, the EPA and the Department of Agriculture all have different areas of responsibility.

All 3 sanitarians in the department have completed the sewage training. Matt and Evelyn Folks are attending a supervisory management training (6 days) in Peoria that is spread out over February and March.

Matt was congratulated for his hard work on environmental health issues.

Emergency Planning

No firm date has been set yet for the county-wide table top exercise. The hope is for sometime in April at the Stockton High School.

We will be holding monthly drills using the StarCom radios. All health department staff will have the opportunity to participate.

Peg and Matt participated in a regional table top drill in Oregon, IL.

Peg is a member of the Illinois Public Health Mutual Aid Executive Board and is running for another 3 year term.

On January 10, 2008, 29 staff and volunteers completed the NIMS-700 training. This was a general class and gave all a basic reference of the emergency process and chain of command. Colin Fulrath, Jo Daviess County Sheriffs Department, was the instructor. NIMS is the National Incident Management Service.

Staffing Needs

The health department is still recruiting for full and part time nurses and a part time health aide.

Board of Health Vacancy

Peg is currently seeking another physician for the Board of Health. By statute, the requirement is for 2 physicians and 1 dentist and members representing all areas of the county.

Tuition Reimbursement Study

Although the issue is still in committee with the County Board, Peg would like a Board of Health member included.

County Computer Study by Consultants

The hope is that by the next board meeting, we can have firm estimates on costs of needed equipment. Funds are available in the capital improvement fund.

Boards of Health and Governance of National Performance Standards

A small grant is available through IDPH to pay for a survey of board of health members. This survey would cover the national public health performance standards. Accreditation of health department boards is voluntary at this point. This would involve about 2 hours on a Saturday. Motion to have Peg proceed with a time and schedule was made by Dr. Lloyd Callaway and second by Marge Montelius.

Next Meeting Date – April 2, 2008

Motion to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. made by Robert Chorak, second by Dr. Lloyd Callaway.

Secretary