

Board of Health: Kenosha County Public Health**Meeting Minutes: 11.09.21**

Microsoft Teams Virtual – 12:00 Noon

Agenda Item	Talking Points	Action Step (Who & When)
Call to Order, President	The meeting was called to order at 12:02 pm. (00:00:14)	
Approval of Minutes of October 12, 2021 deferred to January 11, 2022 in-person meeting	Motion to approve the minutes of October 12, 2021 deferred to January 11, 2022 in-person meeting. (00:00:40)	
Public Comments	None (00:00:42)	
President's Comments - Covid testing in the schools	Dr. Gerlach stated that due to everyone's busy schedules, no letter has been written regarding schools doing their own testing. Rapid tests are in short supply for kids that need to return to school. Dr. Gerlach is looking at a CDC document related to the rise of multi-system disease that is happening with Covid and children. Positive Covid cases are on the rise for children. (00:01:08 – 00:03:09)	
Health Officer/Director's Report a. Title X Changes – Krista Tappa b. Express STI Testing Service Plans – Gillian Greene c. Crucial Conversation on Equity – Kirsten Gundersen d. Other Public Health Services Update	<p>Skipping "Title X Changes" due to unforeseen circumstances with presenter.</p> <p>"Express STI Testing Service Plans"</p> <p>Gillian Greene is a Public Health Nurse working with the Home Visiting Team at the Health Department as well as finishing her Master's in Nursing – Health Care Policy. She has been working with Krista Tappa to implement an Express STI Testing Service at both the Job Center and WIC office locations. Kenosha County has the second highest incidence of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea in our state. In 2020, the CDC deferred all asymptomatic screenings due to the Covid-19 pandemic. As 80% of all Chlamydia and Gonorrhea cases are asymptomatic, we have missed numerous cases. The Express STI Testing is a way to increase capacity for asymptomatic screenings and is a great strategy to decrease the burdens on our staff. A patient would be able to walk-in or make an appointment. If they meet inclusion/exclusion criteria on intake form, they will be treated as an Express STI Service Patient. Working to implement an Expedited Partner Therapy along with this. The state of Wisconsin allows the provider to prescribe for the patient who tested positive, as well as send in prescription medications to treat their partner(s) as well. Currently working on a marketing strategy for this. Objective is to increase capacity, decrease the burden, and ultimately see the rates of Chlamydia and Gonorrhea drop in Kenosha county.</p> <p>Have learned best practices from City of Milwaukee Health Department who offer Express STI Testing.</p>	

	<p>Also talking to Cudahy Health Department to glean best practices to bring to Kenosha for a more customer-service oriented model to provide to the community.</p> <p>Crucial Conversation on Equity</p> <p>Kirsten Gundersen is a full-time Public Health Strategist – Health Equity for the Health Department. Thanked the Board for meeting with her on equity conversations. These conversations have greatly informed this work. To date, Kirsten has had 94 of these conversations with all Health Department staff, Division Managers, Board of Health and Health Equity Task Force. These conversations informed our Strategic Plan for Equity. Topics covered: inequities in communities we serve as well as within the health department, education on equity related issues to the health department, challenges, barriers, and strengths. Kirsten did a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis and as part of the strategic plan, wrote a mission, goals, objectives, and activities.</p> <p>Some of the SWOT results included below:</p> <p>Internal Strengths: staff, as well as management, are committed to improving equity, improved transparency and communication, improved relationships with diverse communities in Kenosha County.</p> <p>Internal Weaknesses: staff feeling burned out (Covid), some implicit bias and some outdated vocabulary exist.</p> <p>External Opportunities: growing importance of health equity and racial equity all over the country, we declared racism as a public health crisis in Kenosha County.</p> <p>External Threats: community mistrust of Government.</p> <p>Themes from Board of Health interviews: diversifying membership on the Board of Health, building better relationships with each other and community engagement.</p> <p>Details of SWOT analysis were put into an 18-month Strategic Plan for Equity. The mission is to improve the equity of the Public Health Department’s internal systems, programs, and culture to strengthen its ability to enhance health equity and racial equity in Kenosha County.</p> <p>Three mail goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foster greater community trust in the health department 2. Advance the equity of our program and services 3. Work on improving staff knowledge on health equity and racial equity <p>Each goal has objectives and activities: We’ve been doing mobile health missions which have been very successful. Using these to increase access to our services, especially in underserved communities. We will continue and grow these mobile missions. Looking to expand the work of the Health Equity Task Force. Complete an equity analysis and action plan for at least 3 of our programs. Systematize racial, ethnic and</p>	<p>Kirsten will email SWOT analysis to the board</p>
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	<p>LGBTQ data tracking and analysis for at least half of our programs. Establish a non-English language equity policy for all our health department programs. Have three equity related trainings for all staff, required new staff equity training, and organize a staff led equity committee. Reviewing health department job descriptions, interview processes, recruitment process, policy on discrimination in the workplace. Reimagining and redirection of public health – getting us out back into the community to bring our programs and services to them. Kirsten will present in May of next year at the Wisconsin Public Health Association.</p> <p>Other Public Health Services Update</p> <p>Our Covid cases are ticking up a bit. Hospitalizations have plateaued. Watching these very closely. .2% of our kids are vaccinated. Huge push to get as many people as possible their booster shots and kids vaccinated before the holidays.</p> <p>Vaccine clinics are scheduled at the Job Center: (anyone can come to these clinics)</p> <p>11/11/21 from 4:00 – 7:00 pm 11/12/21 from 9 am – noon (KUSD off) 11/19/21 from 9 am – noon 12/10/21 from 4 pm – 7:00 pm</p> <p>Businesses have been calling the health department to come in and give booster shots. Working with our state partners on this. Mobile missions continue every Wednesday vaccinating homebound people.</p> <p>Radon program is back. Selling kits for \$5 with canned goods. Incentive for people to bring tests back to us so we can run the labs. Kits can be purchased at KCJC or KCC.</p> <p>In process of hiring positions for new SAMHSA grant. By January 1, 2022 grant will be fully staffed.</p> <p>We are now able to respond to every single positive Covid case. After CDC approval, we are now able to give Moderna boosters for all. We have no shortage of vaccines. (00:13:50 – 00:50:45)</p>	Jen will send out clinic flyers
Corporation Counsel's Report	Nothing to report. (00:50:48)	
Other Business as Allowed by Law	None (00:50:58)	
Closing Board Comments	Next meeting December 14, 2021 – if no quorum, meeting will be informational	
Adjournment	<p>Motion to adjourn meeting by John O'Day, seconded by Julia Robinson. Meeting adjourned at 12:54 pm. (00:52:060)</p> <p>Prepared by Karen Kersting, Board of Health Secretary</p>	

	Respectfully submitted by Jen Freiheit, Health Officer/Director	
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Present: Dr. Diane Gerlach, John O’Day, Jen Freiheit, Kirsten Gundersen, John Moyer, Roger Perez, Lori Plahmer, Julia Robinson, Dr. Rita Ventura

Not Present: Dr. James Foster (excused absence), Dr. Domonique Pritchett (excused absence)