

Cerro Gordo County Board of Health
Friday, August 6, 2010

Present: Mark Johnson, MD, Chairman
Candi Schickel, Vice Chair
Barb Kellogg, Secretary
Pat O'Brien-Galasso
Phil Dougherty

Staff: Ron Osterholm, Health Director
Brian Hanft, REHS, MPA, Environmental Health Service Manager
Cathy Gomez, MBA, Finance & Administration Service Manager
Karen Crimmings, RN, Disease Prevention and Investigation Service
Teresa Symens, Health Promotion & Education Service Manager
Kara Vogelson, Organizational Development & Research Manager
Kelli Huinker, Wellness Coordinator
Lisa Losen, Home Care Aide Manager

Guests: Shea Kruger
Mary Pieper, Globe Gazette

Minutes: Motion by O'Brien-Galasso, second by Kellogg to approve the minutes of June 25, 2010 as distributed. Motion passed.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Schickel, second by Kellogg to approve the consent agenda.

With 10 out of the 12 Senior Health Clinic referrals refused, Osterholm stated that refusing a referral is normal.

A recent survey showing that more individuals have emergency supply kits and emergency plans at home was questioned. Osterholm stated he felt it has to do with our education and promotion of emergency kits/plans over the years. The 2008 flood and recent H1N1 events no doubt also contributed; our intent is to constantly communicate the need for these items.

Huinker was questioned as to her recent activity(s); she mentioned the Childhood Obesity Grant: Animal Trackers. The curriculum was piloted this past school year in three different preschools where "PE" classes were taught and handouts regarding exercise were sent home. Huinker reported that this fall every preschool in Cerro Gordo County, except for Head Start, have signed up to participate in this curriculum. Regarding the pilot program, there were no bench marks but participants' height and weight were taken at the beginning and end of the program. Huinker was also questioned regarding an article stating Iowa has a 27% obesity rate. Huinker stated no media

contacted her regarding this. The national average is a 15% obesity rate which is our goal to achieve; most everyone is above 20%.

Motion passed.

Lease Update: Ron Osterholm presented the Health Department Lease Update, which entails a new lease which is being drafted. Osterholm hopes to present the lease for signature at the next scheduled Board meeting.

The new lease is for our current area as well as the new back side area. It was asked if any offices will be re-locating internally; Osterholm stated he is looking at the new back side area as well as the flow, but if staff wants to relocate, he can look into that as well.

Wellness Center
Relocation:

Dougherty questioned the history to back up the decision to move the wellness equipment from the courthouse to the new back side area of the health department. Osterholm stated the plan has been to expand on the west side to accommodate environmental health air quality and wellness expansion. Moving the equipment from the courthouse to the health department was based on selected public access barrier. It was solely Osterholm's decision to relocate. The new area will partially be funded by a grant and partially by where the plan will be in years 2 and 3. The system needs to be accessible to the community, something which Osterholm made clear to the building committee in the beginning. Tom D has set a meeting towards the end of August to meet with the building committee.

Dougherty pointed out that the Law Enforcement Center (LEC) has an exercise room accessible 24/7 for the jailers. Osterholm and Huinker mentioned speaking with Sherriff Pals about this before moving into the courthouse. Utilizing the LEC exercise area is an issue of security, since it is located within a secure area. Osterholm stated our access to the proposed new area is far greater. The space will be leased and a grant which is not yet in-house will pay for part of that lease.

Dougherty stated the supervisor's surprise with the move after all it entailed to explain the wellness grant to the public. Huinker stated a total of 20 employees have utilized the courthouse wellness area thus far, which is an average of 3-5 per day. By moving the wellness center to Mohawk Square the hours will be broader; Huinker will have the ability monitor the area/usage more closely; and 2 extra people will be available since the hours will be extended. Osterholm mentioned out of 254 employees, only 4 have gone before the Board of Supervisors with concerns. Access for the public and other employees is intended as agreed upon.

Huinker stated the wellness center currently includes: 2 treadmills, 2 exercise bikes, elliptical machines, a home gym, free weights and a weight bench as

well as miscellaneous exercise balls and bands. When questioned if some equipment could remain at the courthouse, Huinker stated if we get a grant for more equipment we could look at that as well as an intern to cover the area. Osterholm stated the move will take place in September so until that time we can look at equipment for the courthouse.

As questioned, Osterholm stated yes, the rationale is the center will be utilized more at the health department location due to the time the area will be accessible. Osterholm mentioned what was promised at the courthouse is not longer available due to limited access points. We have a program which has objectives and we have barriers to work around.

Dr. Johnson felt it was not a good mix to have the equipment other than where Huinker lives; it should be where she is at. He suggested that Osterholm have discussion with the courthouse regarding the need to bring all the equipment to the health department yet resolve the issue with the courthouse. Huinker needs to have a complete program.

Tuition Assistance
Reimbursement
Policy:

Osterholm outlined the Tuition Assistance Reimbursement Policy which is currently in place, stating it was brought before the Board in 2008 at which time the Board approved it. Since that time several employees have utilized it and several have obtained a degree but the cost of tuition has gone up since then, thus the amendment before the Board today. The proposed new allowable maximum per fiscal year for an Associates degree is \$1,950, for a Bachelor degree \$2,600 and \$3,250 for a Graduate degree.

Motion by Kellogg to recommend adoption of the policy, second by O'Brien-Galasso. Motion passed.

Grants to Counties
Contract:

Brian Hanft stated every year we sign this contract for allocation to provide water well testing, well plugging and well rehabilitation; all 99 counties have access to this program. This year, our contract total comes to \$18,367.

Motion by Kellogg, second by O'Brien-Galasso to approve the Grants-to-Counties Contract. Motion passed.

IDPH Service
Contract
SharePoint
System:

Osterholm stated the SharePoint system is a new process for all grant holders through the Iowa Department of Public Health. Grant reports/everything will be done electronically through this system which in essence, mimics Medicaid and Medicare. All contracts will come through Dr. Johnson. Kellogg stated grant holders will have more immediate access to current data through this system.

Miscellaneous:

When asked if the tuition policy is the same as that of the county, Osterholm stated the county does not have a policy, they are still reviewing ours. Dougherty stated there is no tuition discussion at the courthouse but more

regarding certification, training and safety. Osterholm indicated 1 degree has been obtained and 2 more individuals are working towards a degree while a third individual is interested in utilizing the program. The program comes out of the Administration budget. There is a payback clause if the employee leaves within a certain time period after receiving assistance towards tuition.

Osterholm introduced Cathy Gomez, the new Finance & Administration Service Manager to the Board.

Hanft stated his section received a fantastic grant to test for arsenic in all of Cerro Gordo County. It is a 5 year grant, supported by Health & Human Services, the CDC, and the National Coalition for Environmental Health. When questioned, Hanft stated we have no water districts in Cerro Gordo County. We are going to be the point agency of this grant with the Hygienic Laboratory and the University of Iowa partnering with us.

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 10, 2010 at 12:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barb Kellogg
Secretary