



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

**FARGO CASS PUBLIC HEALTH
BOARD OF HEALTH
MAY 20, 2016, 12:00 NOON**

Present: Dinah Goldenberg, Mayor Tim Mahoney, Chelsey Matter, and Mike Thorstad

Absent: Chris Anderson, MD; and Arland Rasmussen

Others Present: Larry Anenson, John Baird, MD; Desi Fleming, Doug Murphy, Melissa Perala, and Ruth Roman

Dinah Goldenberg, Chair called the meeting to order.

Announcements: Add January 22 minutes to agenda for approval.

Approve minutes from January 22 and April 22, 2016: Mike Thorstad made a motion to approve the January 22, 2016 meeting minutes. Chelsey Matter seconded and motion carried. Mike Thorstad made a motion to approve the April 22, 2016 minutes. Chelsey Matter seconded and motion carried.

Reports: Because of the increased meetings frequency of reports was discussed. Board just wanted to hear about extra ordinary things including reports on public health accreditation.

Report on TB story: A news media story raised concerns on the risk of tuberculosis in regards to refugees in our community. Dr. Baird reviewed how refugees are screened before and after they enter our country. TB has been around for centuries and infected individuals were isolated in sanatoriums before but now we have antibiotics to use for treatment. Treatment is provided to those with both latent and active TB as well as doing contact tracing and treating close contacts. It is not a major health problem or risk. Dr. Baird has authority to confine active TB patients to make sure they get treated. We do all we can to keep our community safe. Chelsey Matter asked to be sent some talking points so we understand the situation and educate the media. Dr. Baird did update our web site. We could copy that information and send it out to you.

Preliminary 2017 budget discussion: Preliminary discussion regarding budget timeline. Budget meeting with the Board of Health will be in June.

Tobacco Tax Measure: Included in the packets was a one-page document from the North Dakota Association of Counties with a budget breakdown of the Tobacco Tax Measure Analysis. Raising a tax on tobacco products has been shown to discourage youth to start smoking. Discussion on if this is something that the Board of Health would support. Chelsey Matter made a motion to support the tobacco tax measure. Mike Thorstad seconded and motion carried. Ruth will have staff draft a letter for the Board of Health to utilize as a letter to the editor.

Public Health Accreditation: Justin Bohrer, our accreditation deadline is June 30 because after that the fee schedule has changed and it jumps considerably. Discussed preparing documentation and plans to apply in the development work stage of 12 – 18 months. Will proceed as an individual but will still collaborate on our services with other public health agencies.

Other: Chelsey Matter asked for a report about opiates. Ruth has been looking at treatment facilities in the community. There is conversation regarding a potential new treatment facility coming to this area. Dr. Baird has been working at the issue of agencies carrying Narcan for emergency use. Fargo Fire are getting their staff training to carry Narcan. Discussion that the primary thing to do is to assist the individual in breathing and call 911. There was good attendance at Community Forum held in West Fargo. The state and local communities need funding for behavioral health.

Adjournment: Next Meeting June 23, 2016, 11:30am at City Commission Chambers.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Anderson
Principal Office Associate