

Board of Health
Minutes
July 16 2018

Chairman Novotny called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. with Commissioner Perry, Commissioner Greenough, Dr. Schueler, MD, Dr. Cotant, DDS, Dr. Christiansen, DVM, Trisha Thompson, RN, Public Health, Civil Deputy County Attorney Barry Crago, County Clerk Vicki Edelman and Sheila Newcomb, Commissioners Assistant

Dr. Christiansen moved to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2018 meeting. Commissioner Greenough seconded. Motion carried.

Reports were presented:

Dr. Schueler introduced a 3rd Year Medical Student from the University of Washington, Daniel Yang.

Dr. Christiansen, DVM

Dr. Christiansen attended the state meeting in Laramie Wyoming and toured the Veterinarian Diagnostic Lab. They are in the process of upgrading the classification of their lab. They will be able to handle a lot more dangerous cases. They will be able to handle biological warfare type organisms. To have access to the lab you have to have an ID card that you swipe. Once they are open the public will not be able to tour the facility. It is a bio-secured facility. It is one of the top labs in the country based on the cases they can take. Dr. Christianson wanted to remind everyone that with the summer heat to not leave your children or pets in vehicles. Even with the windows cracked this will not prevent heat stroke in your children or animals.

Trish Thompson, RN:

Robin King has started job sharing her position with Sheridan County and Johnson County. Nurse Thompson will start to work with the schools to meet the new by age guidelines for immunizations. Johnson County received approval from the state to install county phones in Public Health. DigeTekS will handle all the maintenance on the phones. The state will provide support for program specific items.

Public Health has been approved for 340b funding which is a drug discount program funded by the US federal government. This allows them to purchase at reduced cost. Everybody except Medicaid patients can receive birth control. Medicaid patients receive their birth control already through Medicaid. Public Health is able to provide birth control to patients with insurance or no insurance. Public Health cannot stock pile the birth control they have to order when it is needed. They are not able to do pap smears so they are looking into calling Johnson County Family Medical Center to have some doctors volunteer their time to come to Public Health once a month or once a quarter to do pap smears.

Dr. Cotant, DDS:

There is nothing new with Dental Medicaid. In the next legislative session you may see dental health therapist. Some areas classify this as a physician assistant. On the surface it sounds good but it does not have a good track record. It has been tested in various states. There are different facets that this can be classified in for instance what they are able to treat and who they are able to see. This passed in Arizona but this is regulated to Reservations. Dental Health Therapist are said to help with access to care, but in reality they go to metropolitan areas. They are trying to write into the legislation that this will not put extra burden on the state, but in reality it will.

Dr. Schueler, MD:

If the VA Nursing Home comes to Buffalo the Hospital will have a hard time staffing their nursing home, in the past they have had to close their nursing home to new admission because they don't have enough staff. The VA will pay more and they will get more reimbursement per patient per day. The Hospital will be screening and treating more complex people from the VA Nursing Home in the emergency room so that your waiting time may be longer. There is a lengthy transfer time when these people need to go to a higher level of care. The cons need to be considered in the decision.

The appeal was denied for changing the ruling for the 2012 Life Safety Code where federal guidelines state that nursing homes have to have the means for people to escape in event of an emergency or fire. Currently there are locks on the doors because some of their patients are demented and wander. The locks are disallowed unless they become a lock down unit which requires more staffing and more equipment. The Nursing Home cannot lock people in or use a combination on the door. People should be able to push on the door and escape within 15 seconds. There are fewer people that they can admit to the nursing home, if they are demented or wandering they can't safely house them there, especially on the top floor. The nursing home appealed the ruling, the state agreed with the appeal but the federal government denied the appeal.

Title 25 Protocol which is a joint effort with the hospital, law enforcement and mental health on streamlining the process, it is unpleasant, expensive and cumbersome. There has been a lot of time wasted on law enforcement on whether people are going to run away or be harmful to others. They will try to make that process a little more effective. The County Attorney and Dr. Schueler are drafting some revised protocols. Everyone is cooperating and looks like there will be some improvement.

Dr. Schueler will meet with the new full time Kaycee ambulance director, Crosby Taylor. The protocol for electrocardiograms in the field are not working that well. Communications broke down and decisions were made that did not go according to the current protocol. The hospital cannot hear the radio communications with the Kaycee ambulance. When the Buffalo ambulance goes out they hear it in the hospital but when the Kaycee ambulance goes out it is on a different frequency and because of the engineering of the Hospital, the radio waves do not make it to their antenna. The hospital does not know when Kaycee goes out on a call. The hospital gets cell phone notification minutes before the Kaycee's ambulance arrival. Frequently you need to make decisions in the emergency room about staffing and how other patients are being treated depending on what is coming in. So it would be helpful to the hospital and better patient care if they knew when the Kaycee ambulance goes out. Two options to solve the problem, one is that Dispatch provides a courtesy call to the hospital. That was requested by the ER Director and nothing happened. And two Dr. Schueler will talk with Kaycee about calling on their cell phone when they go out but sometimes they are not in cell phone range.

Dr. Schueler had a skunk on his property that was going after his neighbors horses. He thought the skunk had rabies and when Dr. Schueler came out with a gun the skunk came after him. He shot the skunk and took him to one of the veterinarians in Buffalo. Within 24 hours the rabies test came back and the skunk was positive for rabies. He notified the neighbors about a rabid skunk in the area and to watch livestock for potential sickness.

Chairman Novotny will talk with Chief Carder about Dispatch calling the hospital when the Kaycee ambulance goes out.

Chairman Novotny updated the Board about the Prevention Specialist interviews and the potential hiring date.

With no further business to come before the Board, Dr. Christianson moved and Commissioner Perry seconded to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 p.m. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

(A recording of the meeting is available upon request)