

**COLUMBIA/BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
April 14, 2011**

The Columbia/Boone County Board of Health met for a regularly scheduled meeting at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 14th, 2011. The meeting was held at the Columbia/Boone County Department of Public Health and Human Services, 1005 W. Worley. Health Director Stephanie Browning represented the staff. Commissioner Karen Miller represented the Boone County Commission.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ilalyn Irwin
Dr. Michael Szewczyk
Dr. David Lardizabal
Dr. Sally Beth Lyon
Jean Sax
Harold Stearley

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Harry Feirman
Lynelle Phillips
Dr. Colin Malaker
Dr. Nathan Voris

MEMBERS NOT EXCUSED

PRESENTATION:

Unite 4 Healthy Neighborhoods Transportation Action Team

Board Chair Ilalyn Irwin introduced guest speaker Sam Robinson, Healthy Community Initiative Director for the PedNet Coalition. Mr. Robinson added that Ian Thomas is the Executive Director of PedNet and that Stacia Reilly, Health & Human Services Department Health Promotion Coordinator also serves as the program coordinator for the Healthy Kids/Healthy Communities grant project. There were handouts distributed which included the presentation slide information, a Unite 4 Healthy Neighborhoods brochure as well as CoMet (Columbians for Modern, Efficient Transit) information. Mr. Robinson explained that the initiative falls under two grant-funded projects. Grant funding is from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Missouri Foundation for Health. He added that he will be discussing the “common campaign”. He gave background information on the initiative, which is Unite 4 Healthy Neighborhoods. It began in April 2010, when they held a 2-day community event in the first ward with over 300 community members attending. The group feels that it is important to have institutional partners as well as involvement of community members. This is a policy-focused grant, which is different than typical grants. With most grants, there is funding to carry out a project and when funding is no longer available, the program ceases to exist. With this grant, the focus is on policy or long-term systematic changes and changes that are permanent lifestyle changes. There are 6 action teams. As well as the Public Transportation Expansion Action Team there are the following teams: Food Asset Mapping, Food Production at Home and in the Community, Affordable and Accessible Farmers Market Produce, Neighborhood Association Revitalization, and Youth Voice 4 Advocacy. He named some of the members of the teams and the teams’ goals. He explained the health benefits of having an efficient modern transit system, such as increased physical activity. The Public Transportation Expansion Action Team wants taking the bus to be an easy choice for everyone. Studies show that economic development takes place naturally where there is efficient modern transit. The focus is on Columbia right now, but the group would like to explore the possibility of a regional transportation system as it expands to the outskirts of Boone County and even the Jefferson City area by using shuttles services. Currently it takes 40 minutes for the bus to get from the station to be disbursed and come back. If a bus or transfer is missed, it significantly affects arrival time. The

current schedule does not allow for students to use the bus from evening classes. There are several economic benefits of using the bus, including the savings on car repair and maintenance.

Ms. Irwin asked if the group has looked at why the bus is not used. Mr. Robinson explained that there will be a survey conducted. She commented that the schedule is not conducive to her work schedule. She also believes there should be "bus literacy". She has been to other cities that have public transportation and feels they are easy to use. She also believes there should be a simpler way of knowing when and where the bus goes and stops.

Mr. Robinson explained that some changes have already been made, but that changes have to be approved by the City Council and that it takes time. One change that has already been made is a time clock on the bus stops that notes when the bus comes to that stop. He also responded to the literacy issue by stating that sub-groups have been formed and were awarded grant dollars to conduct surveys and look at ways to educate people regarding riding the bus. They will also look at changing the language to an easy-to-read reading level. There are 3 subcommittees looking at these issues. There is a committee of 30 which meets on a monthly basis to address concerns and solely focus on the campaign. Another committee is researching funding options. They are also looking at private and public partnerships as an option. The overall goal for Columbia is to triple ridership within three years.

Dr. Lyon asked about current ridership. Mr. Robinson explained that overall, it is close to 20%, but is different in different areas. She commented that another category of the benefit of ridership is increasing parent involvement in their children's schools. She commented that many families made the effort to get to the school for school programs, but the schedule is critical especially for after-hours events. Mr. Robinson added that they are working on way to partner with the schools.

Mr. Robinson added that he feels fortunate to be working with Department of Health & Human Services, the Public Works Department, and the public transit system together.

Mr. Robinson reiterated the goal of ridership and added that if ridership is tripled in the next three years, several things will happen as a result. It will reduce the headways from 40 to 30 or even 20 minutes. Once that threshold is reached, ridership automatically increases due to riders not being as concerned about what time they catch the bus. This is because the wait time is much less for the next bus.

Mr. Robinson finished by asking that Ms. Browning and the Board, either as a group or as individuals, to consider supporting the vision.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Ilalyn Irwin called the meeting to order at 5:50 p.m.

The Board voted unanimously to support the goal of CoMet.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Board recognized DeeAnn's work on the minutes from the March 10th meeting summarizing the animal ordinance. The minutes were then approved as submitted.

REPORTS:

1) Health Director:

Ms. Browning distributed a handout regarding 2011 budget reductions at the federal level. She added that this is the time that the City budget is started and she is not sure yet of the 2012 impact.

Some things that will occur are significant reductions to Centers for Disease Control. She noted that this is something to watch in the coming weeks. She would like to have contingency budgets in place, but added that she was sure the City and County cannot absorb the costs.

She then reported that the department is working on quality improvement. The focus is improving quality customer service, efficiency, etc. Training has been done for all staff. There is a team of 11 people trained at a higher level that is actively soliciting information from department employees. Some things that have been done include deployment of the electronic medical records system set for July, the electronic inspection system for Environmental Health which has saved considerable data entry time, nurse practitioners added walk-in clinics for women's health services, which has decreased the no-show rate and had tremendous results. Environmental Health is also looking into options for Spanish language classes, which would also teach employees how to work with non-English speaking clients. She commented that the group is doing great job.

She distributed a copy of the customer satisfaction surveys currently being conducted by the department. The example survey distributed is from vital records. The survey takes under a minute to complete and is available on a touch screen Netbook computer. Numbers are automatically tallied and available online. The department is one of three pilots in the City. There are several strategies for getting feedback. The department's strategy is the survey in the building. The Police Department is handing out a card with website information and the Office of Neighborhood Services employees are giving out a postage-paid survey when they are out in field. The department is conducting these surveys in every division. The City will look at the pros and cons of this to share with other cities. The cons include having the survey translated for non-English speakers and entering the results ourselves, as well as clients that have never used a computer having trouble navigating the survey. The surveys began on April 1st and there are results from over 300. Ms. Browning will bring updated information to the future meetings.

Ms. Browning shared that she was selected as one of the scholars for the National Public Health Leadership Institute in Chapel Hill, NC. She started working in March through webinars, conference calls and reading. She will be traveling, at the end of the month, to North Carolina and is looking forward to it. Some of her colleagues that will be there are from state, local and federal levels of government, as well as non-profit organizations. They are working on an assessment and will receive one-on-one coaching from the Center for Creative Leadership, a worldwide organization that focuses on leadership skills. Ms. Browning received congratulations from the Board.

2) Mental Health:

Ms. Sax again reported that the League of Women Voters will hold their panel discussion on May 18th at the public library at 7:00. There will be snacks, drinks, and social time 30 minutes prior. She believes there is a good line up of speakers.

There was no board meeting in March due to weather. This month's meeting was held at Phoenix House as the board members toured the facility. They continue to discuss doing a needs assessment.

3) Dental:

No Report.

4) Unite 4 Healthy Neighborhoods:

The Board commented on the great presentation by Mr. Robinson. They agreed that they would like Ms. Browning to arrange for members from the other action teams to do presentations at future meetings.

ADJOURN:

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.