

**COLUMBIA/BOONE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 12, 2011**

The Columbia/Boone County Board of Health met for a regularly scheduled meeting at 5:35 p.m., Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 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. Administrative Assistant DeeAnn Bradshaw recorded the minutes of the meeting.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ilalyn Irwin  
Dr. Michael Szewczyk  
Dr. Sally Beth Lyon  
Jean Sax  
Harold Stearley  
Harry Feirman  
Lynelle Phillips  
Dr. Colin Malaker

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

Dr. David Lardizabal  
Dr. Nathan Voris

**MEMBERS NOT EXCUSED**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Ilalyn Irwin called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The minutes were approved as submitted.

**PRESENTATION: Diabetes Today Initiative**

Ms. Browning introduced Mary Martin, Public Health Manager. She added that she is one of three managers in the department and oversees the Community Health division. She reminded the members that diabetes was one of the issues that the citizens requested more work done on during the City's visioning process. She added that Ms. Martin will be giving an update on a NACCHO (National Association of County & City Health Officials) grant that she received.

Ms. Martin began by distributing a diabetes fact sheet from the American Association of Diabetes Educators.

She went on to explain that she is working with Eduardo Crespi, Director of Centro Latino, on a diabetes program. They have been funded to attend training in Washington, DC focused on bringing health departments and communities together to set up a community initiative. From this, it was decided to look at diabetes data. Current data available from the State is outdated and County data is not focused on the information that the visioning process shows citizens would like, which includes having diabetes educators out in the community.

To better collect information based on citizen requests, a series of focus groups are being conducted based on the racial population that has the highest morbidity rate from diabetes, which is African American. CDC (Centers for Disease Control) survey questions will be used as a model,

but there are currently too many questions to be used for a brief survey. The focus groups will look at questions regarding nutrition, exercise and diabetes and will score the questions. After it is reduced to 15 questions, the survey will be tested at area churches. The focus groups will then look at the surveys and receive feedback. They are hopeful that the survey will begin in mid to late June and it will be connected to the department's web page. It will be available as a computerized survey as well as on paper. There has already been good information received from the focus groups. Included in that information is that uninsured citizens would like to have a nutritionist or dietitian available free of charge to answer questions about their diet. The survey will not only ask age, race, gender and insured status, but also height and weight. She is hopeful that this will tie in to the department's obesity prevention program.

Ms. Martin concluded by answering the board member's questions. These included questions regarding the possibility of working with HMO's, others looking at this same information, that anyone can complete the survey and how that will effect data collected, how the focus groups were recruited, and the goal for the number of survey responses. There was discussion and suggestions as to where it would be best to conduct the surveys.

She hopes to focus diabetes related programs within the department as a result of the survey.

She also noted that the funding is \$5,000 and that it is planned for OSEDA (Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis) to be involved with the development of the survey. The survey will consist of 15 to 20 questions.

## **REPORTS:**

### **1) Health Director:**

Ms. Browning distributed Bike, Walk & Wheel Week brochures and a brief update of department activities.

She advised the members to look at the area to the west of the building as they leave. This area is the beginning of a community garden and is a joint project of several organizations including PedNet, Unite 4 Healthy Neighborhoods food groups, the Public Health & Human Services department, the Community Garden Coalition and the Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture. She added that it would not have been possible without the help of the City Public Works department. The City owns the land, which is used for storm water purposes. There is an agreement so that storm water management is not compromised. There are neighbors as well as department employees that currently have garden plots. She is hopeful for a nice project turnout.

Bike, Walk & Wheel Week is next week. Wednesday, at the Family Fun Festival, the Mayor will issue a proclamation officially announcing Columbia as a "Let's Move" city.

The department's Community Health staff is planning to go live with the electronic medical records system in early July. She thinks it will be a great and very efficient system.

The Public Health Emergency Response funding is wrapping up. This is an extension of H1N1 federal funding and the goal is to purchase items such as equipment that the department learned was needed during the H1N1 flu clinics. Some items that have been purchased include an articulating tent, vaccination stations, and fit testing equipment. The focus is on preparedness for people at risk, so the department is putting together kits for the W.I.C. (Women, Infants & Children) families that include items such as a nasal aspirator, thermometer, medicine spoon, hand sanitizer and a book titled "What to do When Your Child Gets Sick". A copy of the book was made available for the Board to review. Department nurses will be teaching some of the content of the book to the families. This will include how to recognize what is serious and what isn't, as well as when to see a doctor, go to urgent care or use an emergency department. Ms. Phillips commented that the information is good in that it is shown that emergency room visits are reduced when parents have this knowledge. These kits will be distributed closer to flu season.

The National Level Exercise, which is an earthquake drill, is next week. The City and County, as well as other organizations, will be involved and there should be video coverage available.

Next month, there will be a presentation from the Unite 4 Healthy Neighborhoods (U4HN) food action related commissions.

Ms. Browning will look into having a presentation in July from the Youth Community Coalition.

**2) Mental Health:**

Ms. Sax reported that there was no meeting due to the holiday. However, the Suicide Prevention Coalition normally meets after the Mental Health Board and did hold a meeting. The League of Women Voter's panel remains planned for the 18<sup>th</sup>, (next week) at the Library at 6:30 p.m. There will be refreshments before the panel discussion begins at 7:00 p.m.

**3) Dental:**

No Report.

**4) Unite 4 Healthy Neighborhoods:**

Ms. Phillips reported that she has had involvement with the Access to Healthy Food group. They are working to influence WIC clientele to shop at farmers market, but are running into some barriers and working on problem solving. They were hopeful to have 25 families to use as a pilot program.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

New Topics Discussion

The Board discussed issues to focus on in future meetings. There were suggestions such as policy issues that might arise from the U4HN groups, looking at how funding cuts will affect the department and what the Board can do to influence decisions, dental issues, health care reform, and department ordinances. It was agreed that the Board should focus their efforts on the most pressing and urgent issues. The Board also agreed they would like to have updated information from the CIM (Community Issues Management) system.

There was discussion regarding the Board's role. They would like guidelines regarding advocacy as well as recommendations and it was suggested there should be a review of the statutes to see if any needed updating.

**ADJOURN:**

There being no additional business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.