

Stark County Health Board Meeting September 1, 2009

Present: Sharon Sager, Glenn Miller MD, Janet Hager, Remi Satkauskas MD, Chief Buzz Melton
Betty Hoy, Tim Haas, DDS, Nancy Eagelston,

Absent:

Also Present: Gail Ripka, SCHED Administrator; Kurt Kuchle, Sandy Sommer, Duane Stevens, Karen Sumner, Carrie Titus, Health Dept. Management Staff

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The quarterly meeting of the Stark County Health Board was held Tuesday, September 1, 2009, at the Stark County Courthouse, Toulon. President Sharon Sager called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. with 8 members in attendance.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2009 meeting. Motion was seconded by Janet Hager and carried via voice vote.

III. PRESENTATION Jan Sams, RN, Great River Community Health Center

Gail introduced Jan Sams, RN, office nurse at the Great River Community Health Center in Toulon. She gave some background on the organization known as Aunt Martha's which opened a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Toulon in February of this year. Aunt Martha's was founded in 1972 as a Youth Service Center that would be concerned with the needs of young people. Starting with a walk-in counseling center and shelter care for runaways, Aunt Martha's assessed the needs of youth and added programs to meet those needs. The name "Aunt Martha's" was chosen because a founding member recalled that when she was a teenager and was having trouble at home she could go to her aunt to air grievances and seek help. It was hoped that the name would suggest concern and caring and that young people would find at the agency an atmosphere like one finds at the home of a close relative. In the 1980s, Aunt Martha broadened their scope of services to include primary and preventive health services. It is a private, not-for-profit, regionally-based agency providing complete health and social services for family members of all ages across Illinois. Currently, Aunt Martha's has 27 health care centers in nine counties across northeastern Illinois, many of which are in the Chicago area (Chicago Heights, Aurora, Harvey, Kankakee & Danville; establishing a health care center in rural counties like Marshall, Stark & Putman is a "pilot project") Services provided at the Toulon site are primary medical care, dental care, OB/GYN and Behavioral Health. Jan explained how the number of clients has grown since February; currently the nurse practitioner is there 4 days per week; the physician is there one day per week; and the dentist is there 5 days per week. The dental schedule is booked solid through the middle of November; however they do have a "toothache list" so patients in pain can be worked into the schedule. A dental hygienist from Kewanee work there 2-3 days per week. The psychiatrist (from Chicago) is there weekly and tentative plans are to increase his days in Toulon to 2-3 per week because the need is so great. Denise King from North Central Behavioral Health also sees clients in the Toulon office. She has her own caseload and also "tandems" with the clinic clients. Jan noted that the dentist is also from Chicago. She stays at a motel in Kewanee during the week and drives to Toulon each morning. There are five medical exam rooms and three dental operatories in the clinic now and they have obtained a \$20,000 grant with the help of Don Moffit, to convert a couple of the medical exam rooms into dental operatories with the hopes of getting another full time dentist. Aunt Martha's Healthcare Network accepts private insurance and any form of public insurance including Medicaid, Medicare and All Kids. A sliding fee scale is available for those without insurance. Patients come from as far away as Champaign, Peoria, Galesburg, and Rock Island because many dentists do not accept Medicaid. Office Nurse Jamie Lemanski also helps with prescription assistance for people

who do not have insurance or have lost their jobs. In August alone, she had 86 new applicants; completing the paperwork consumes 90% of her time. Betty Hoy shared that having a facility that provides dental services to medically indigent residents is an answered prayer in Stark County.

IV. DIVISION REPORTS

A. Home Health Services

The Home Health Services report was included in Board packets. June statistics show 102 visits made to 14 patients; July stats: 130 visits to 19 patients; August stats: 90 visits to 15 patients.

B. Homemaker Services

The Homemaker Services report was also included in Board packets. June statistics show a total of 870.5 hours of service provided to 34 clients; in July, 866 hours provided to 35 clients; August, 834 hours provided to 35 clients.

C. Clinical Services

The Clinic Services report was included in Board packets. Sandy noted that since the report was written, the State budget was passed and program funding was restored to local health departments. Consequently, the Healthy Families program was fully funded and the two support workers who were laid off in July were rehired. There was a reduction in funding to Teen Parent Services (TPS) program so those services will be provided by current staff. The Tobacco program was fully funded so the Health Dept will again be able to provide nicotine replacement products.

On August 25 a special health event was held at Rumbold and Kuhn from 8:30 to 12:30. The event was co-sponsored by American Heart Association and a family endowment and targeted farmers and their adult family members. The turnout was fair – about 40 participants took advantage of the screenings offered; osteoporosis, blood pressure, non-fasting cholesterol, BMI and tetanus shots. Sandy had hoped that more farmers would attend.

Mercer County has approached the Health Dept. about collaborating with them to obtain a prostate grant to provide PSA screenings. She was notified recently that they did receive the grant so she will contact area health care providers to let them know that the screenings will be available.

Sandy noted that the Health Department has not received its supply of seasonal flu vaccine as yet. She did order prefilled syringes this year and wondered if that had caused a delay. Some providers in the area, such as Walgreens, have received vaccine and are providing flu shots to residents. Sandy also ordered more of the nasal vaccine this year. Dr. Haas and Dr. Satkauskas discussed the importance of providing flu shots in the schools. Sandy stated that she is actively pursuing this; the superintendents and school nurses have been very helpful and supportive in past years. Getting parents to sign and return the consent forms is the biggest challenge.

Sandy stated that for many years, the Health Department has been providing screenings and tetanus shots during Old Settler's Days and the Fall Festival. Attendance has declined in recent years and tetanus now has to be purchased from a private vendor since the State stopped providing it free of charge in January. She asked for Board input about continuing to send staff to these events just to provide blood pressure screenings. Dr. Satkauskas and Dr. Haas felt that because Stark County is a farming community, providing tetanus is important. Dr. Haas also felt that the Health Department's presence was important at these types of events for marketing and publicity purposes as well - to let the community know more about the Health Department and what services are available to them. Sharon stated that the Board would be willing to cover the cost of tetanus vaccine (\$19.50/dose) so it can be provided at no charge to residents. Sandy will bring attendance numbers back to the board at their next meeting.

D. Environmental Health Services

Kurt reported that 29 certified food handlers attended the food sanitation refresher course held in August; 10 were from Stark County. Because of the recent Hepatitis A outbreak in Rock Island County, good handwashing practices/techniques were stressed more than usual. Water well and septic inspections have picked up a little recently. Kurt included updates on Smoke Free Illinois in his report to

the Board. Progress has been slow since the law was first implemented so it is still very difficult to collect fines or prosecute violators.

Due to the cooler temperatures this summer, it's been difficult to capture mosquitoes to test for WNV. All test results for mosquitoes and dead birds collected so far have been negative. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has confirmed the first human West Nile virus case reported in Illinois for 2009. The St. Clair County Health Department reported a person in their 50s with onset of illness in late August.

Buzz Melton asked about collection programs for fluorescent light bulbs. The Chamber of Commerce in Wyoming is considering sponsoring a project for collection & disposal, since many people complained of having boxes of used fluorescent bulbs. Kurt will check with IDPH & IEPA regarding the possibility of having a one day collection site for Hazardous Materials, including fluorescent bulbs.

E. Emergency Preparedness

Gail reported that the Health Department is gearing up for a new grant year. Although we don't have the grants in hand yet, we will be receiving the basic Emergency Preparedness grant, the City Readiness Initiative grant, and also the H1N1 grant this year. Gail noted that a full scale Emergency Preparedness exercise is required every 3 years; because the Stark County hosted the full scale regional exercise in June this year, we won't have to host again for quite a while.

F. Health Education

Carrie was notified recently that the Heart Smart for Women grant has been renewed in the amount of \$18,000. A class will be held in either Toulon or Wyoming in March-May. The 12 week, one hour a week class for women 18 and over focuses on increasing physical activity and fruit and vegetable consumption. The 2009 Senior Living Series held events in June, July, August and September: topics included Healthy Eating for 1 or 2; Medication 101 and Prescription Assistance; Downsizing, and Caregiving. It will close with the 3rd Annual Senior Expo on October 10 at Bradford Courtyard Estates.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT

A. SCHD Budget

As of July 31st, the Health Department bank balance was \$151,906.24. Stark County did repay the loan of \$36,750 when the property taxes were collected. The first installment of property taxes was received in the amount of \$11,100.00. Because the bank balance has increased, the CD that matured in July was reinvested at the State Bank of Toulon at a rate of 1.94% for 182 days.

Family Planning services for the period of 12/1/08 through 7/31/09 were provided with an average cost of \$47.12 per client for a total of 62 client visits. Projected costs for the Homemaker Client supplement program is \$146.00 for FY09. Duane explained that the Bank Service Charge of \$85.55 was for the purchase of new checks when the County Treasurer switched to a new computerized accounting system.

B. State Budget

Gail noted that the Local Health Protection grant was restored at 100% when the final State budget was passed; most other grants were restored at nearly 100%. Duane stated that Stark County has received all State and Federal payments due for the current fiscal year.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. H1N1 Influenza

Gail reported that the latest word from IDPH is that the H1N1 flu vaccine should be made available to local health departments by mid-October. The Federal government is providing all of the vaccine, syringes, cotton swabs, etc. The State is signing up providers who wish to obtain the vaccine for their patients. Gail noted that Dr. Satkauskas and Aunt Martha's are on the list to receive vaccine. The vaccine has not been ordered yet and calculating the amount is difficult. If the flu becomes more virulent and the media hypes it, then more people will request the vaccine. However if things remain quiet or status quo, then the public might not be as eager to receive the vaccine. Health Departments

are receiving a grant specific for them, which outlines a three-phase process. Phase one and two are planning and phase three is implementation. The funding amount for both counties will be a pretty sizeable amount to carry out these phases. Other providers, such as a physician's office or Walgreens can collect a fee for administering the shot; they cannot charge for the vaccine since it is provided free-of-charge. Public Health departments may not charge for either because the grant provides sufficient funding to cover all costs. Things could change quickly, but at this time, they are still considering two shots spaced three weeks apart. The Health Department plans to offer the one-dose seasonal flu vaccine in late September, early October and then provide the first dose of H1N1 in late October, early November. Betty Hoy asked if there would be any priorities for H1N1. Gail explained that supplies will be limited initially and certain priority groups will be encouraged to get the shots first – pregnant women, people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months; health care and emergency services personnel with direct patient contact; children 6 months through 4 years of age; and children 5 through 18 years of age who have chronic medical conditions. Once the demand for vaccine for the prioritized groups has been met, vaccinations should begin for everyone from 25 through 64 years of age; and then for those 65 and older. Current studies indicate the risks for infection among persons over 65 is less than the risk for younger age groups. Local Health Departments participate in a conference call with IDPH every Monday; these conferences have now been extended to hospitals (Geneseo & Kewanee) so everyone receives/hears the same information from the State. Gail stated this has been a very intense process so far. Dr. Satkauskas asked how the vaccine will be shipped. Gail stated that five manufacturers are producing the vaccine for the U.S. – Sanofi Pasteur, Novartis, GSK, Medimmune and CLS. Vaccine will be shipped to clinics, offices, health departments and other designated sites via centralized distribution. Sandy explained that this is the same process that is used to ship vaccines for the childhood immunization program to immunization providers. The majority of the vaccine will be in multi-dose vials, the remainder in single dose syringes or nasal sprayers. The aim is to have enough vaccine in single dose syringes (i.e. preservative free) for young children and pregnant women. There was discussion about giving the vaccine to pregnant women. Gail noted that so far, children and pregnant women appear to be disproportionately affected by the new pandemic virus; per the Center for Disease Control, 6% of confirmed deaths from the H1N1 flu have been pregnant women and among people infected with H1N1, pregnant women, particularly during the last trimester, are more likely to be hospitalized than the general population.

B. Hepatitis A

Gail discussed the Hepatitis exposure that occurred in Rock Island County. Approx 10,000 patrons who ate at the Milan McDonalds were at risk for Hep A. In July, 12 staff members from our Health Department assisted the Rock Island County Health Department during the two day clinics held at Rock Island High School. Immune globulin (Ig) and Hepatitis A vaccine was provided to approx 5,000 persons. Gail explained that the original case (a food service worker at the Milan McDonalds) was confirmed positive with Hepatitis A on June 9, 2009, but this was not reported to the Health Department either by the lab or the physician's office for nearly a month. A subsequent employee was confirmed positive with Hepatitis A on July 15, 2009. By late August, the number of cases had grown to 32; 18 cases are in Rock Island County, four are from out of state and the rest are in the Illinois counties of Mercer, Henry, Warren and Woodford. Scott County, Iowa, also has at least one confirmed case of Hepatitis A from the McDonald's outbreak.

C. Mental Health

The Mental Health Task Force continues to meet every other month; the next meeting is September 24th in Toulon. While cuts were being proposed during the State budget crisis, there was concern that funding for the Stark County Mental Health Initiative would be eliminated. However, the programs are again fully funded. Stark County is very fortunate to have mental health services through Aunt Martha's and North Central Behavioral Health.

VII. ACTION ITEMS*

Election of Officers

Current Health Board officers: Sharon Sager, President; Dr. Haas, Vice President; and Buzz Melton, Treasurer. Dr. Miller made a motion to retain the same slate of officers. Motion was seconded by Janet Hager and carried via voice vote.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Buzz Melton stated that he truly enjoyed serving on the Stark County Health Board. However he will not be running for re-election to the County Board next year and therefore will no longer be appointed to the Health Board member in that capacity. He would be very willing to serve on the Health Board in the future should there be an opening.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, it was properly moved and seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Stark County Health Board is Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by: Karen Sumner