

AITKIN-ITASCA-KOOCHICHING COMMUNITY HEALTH BOARD

Talking Points

Meeting Date: October 11, 2012

Financial Information:

- Reviewed the CHS budget and financial reports for various grants. Grants expenditures were on target for the year.

Administrative Information:

- **CHS Annual Audit** - Board Members and Public Health staff have received copies of the 2011 Audit. The Audit has been submitted and our auditor found that our records are in order. If Board members have questions, please contact Sue Erzar, CHS Administrator.
- **Triad Update** - PH supervisors /directors, CHS Grants Manager and the MDH Public Health Nurse Consultant make up Triad Group. The group has been meeting at least monthly and sometimes more frequently either by telephone conference or face-face. Most recently we have met to develop the Community Assessment data sets which will be used for our Assessment Plan. We have been reviewing available data and data sets and sources to best assess our 3 counties. Amy Westbrook, our regional Epidemiologist and Marie Margitan, our regional MDH representative have assisted us in developing this tool. Sue shared a handout which showed the areas we have reviewed. Our final product will be used as part of the Local Public Health Assessment which is a required assessment of our communities public health. The next step is populating the data onto the tool. We will be contracting with a UMD student to enter the data. This tool will list health indicators and will review statistics and trends in each of the three counties and for the tri-county as a whole over several years. Staff will be able to populate this tool going forward so that we can continue to monitor trends. Sue also noted that we will work with area hospitals who also are charged with completing a health assessment for hospitals.
- **Electronic Medical Records (EMR)** - All 3 counties are required to have EMR capabilities by 2015. We have explored plans to purchase the CHAMPS system as a three county entity. Each county would hold their own licenses and we have been offered a discounted price if we purchase as a three county CHS. We are currently reviewing the contract offered by CHAMPS in all 3 counties, and the CHS Board has approved the allocation of \$20,000 toward the purchase price. Lester Kachinske, Itasca County Health and Human Services Director thanked the CHS Board for the allocation of funds to aid in the purchase of this system. Sue shared a sample of the training schedule and training which would be provided if we move forward. C. Bennett noted she had attended a training regarding the system and felt it would be extremely timesaving for staff. S. Erzar also noted that this tool will help all counties be accountable for staff time and costs. B. McBride further noted that it is mandated by the state and federal government that an EMR system be in place by 2015.

- **CHS Conference** – The annual Community Health Conference was held October 3-5 at Cragun’s Conference Center in Brainerd. We had good attendance from our 3 counties including: Cynthia Bennett, Laurie Westerlund and Ihleen Williams from Aitkin County and Sue Erzar from Itasca County. Those who attended presented high points of the conference and the sessions they attended.
- **Other – Koochiching County Board Appointments** – Terms of office for Board Members from Koochiching County expire December 31, 2012. Current Board Members are eligible for reappointment.
- **Other – Congratulations to Mike Hanson – Koochiching County Commissioner** on his retirement, and thanks for his many years of service on the Community Health Board as a member and alternate, and Chair of the CHS Board.

Local Public Health Report:

Sue Erzar, Itasca County Public Health Division Manager, is the tri-county CHS Local Public Association representative. She presented information including:

- The Local Public Health Association met prior to the Community Health Conference on October 3. A major discussion item is helping Public Health to be better at articulating what Public Health does, so that the public can understand what Public Health means for them.
- 4 Areas addressed by Public Health include: Prevention, Populations, Health Needs on a daily basis; and Local Needs.
- LPHA is looking at Local Public Health Act Performance Measures for the Planning and Reporting system.
- The group is working on the 2013-15 Strategic Plan for LPHA.
- LPHA is reviewing the Disease Prevention and Control Common Activities framework.

State CHS Advisory Committee (SCHSAC) Report:

Cynthia Bennett, Aitkin County Public Health Supervisor is the Tri-County CHS State CHS Advisory Committee Representative. presented information including:

- The SCHSAC Group met October 3rd in conjunction with the opening of the State Community Health Conference. Minutes of the meeting have not been distributed and Cynthia will send them when they are available. Some of the items discussed included:
- A review of all committees and general reports of SCHSAC workgroups. If anyone would like copies of these reports, Cynthia Bennett can provide them.
- A major focus for SCHSAC will be investment in the Statewide Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) and Core Public Health systems.
- SCHSAC Local Public Health Infrastructure Work Group is reviewing the statute (MN 145.A), which authorizes Community Health Services in the state, to clarify the provisions for a CHS director.
- The state Health Commissioner is visiting counties throughout the state doing a “Pitch the Commish” visit of playing horseshoes and chatting with county commissioners.
- Cynthia thanked Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin County Commissioner for work as a SCHASAC alternate during this past year.

- **Public Health Reports:**

- Reports were presented by Public health staff from each county.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting of the Community Health Board will be December 13, 2012 in Grand Rapids.