# MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

**March 4, 2020**

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chair Peer at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Health Members Present: Chair Peer, Supervisor Rynes, Supervisor Gramke, Supervisor Homan, Dr. Meyers, Dr. Winter, and Dr. Somaraju.

Board of Health Members Absent: Mr. Gresens.

Staff Members Present: Marie-Noel Sandoval – Health Officer; Michelle Bailey – Assistant Director; Rick Wietersen – Environmental Health Director; Jennifer Weadge – Public Health Nurse; and Jessica Turner – Administrative Services Supervisor.

Others Present: None at this time.

## Adopt Agenda

Dr. Winter made a motion to adopt the agenda. Supervisor Gramke seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

## Approval of Minutes – 2/5/2020

Supervisor Rynes made a motion to approve the minutes of the 2/5/2020 Board of Health meeting. Supervisor Homan seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

## Citizen Participation

None at this time.

## New Business

## Administrative Division

## Review of Payments

The Board reviewed the Health Department's December and February payments in the amount of $1,422.71 and $13,905.97 respectively.

## Transfer of Funds over $5,000

None at this time.

**Health Department Report**

In the News

Ms. Sandoval reported that Rock County Public Health Department (RCPHD) Epidemiologist Nick Zupan's Opioid Dashboard went live on the RCPHD website. This dashboard was made possible by a grant. There was an announcement in the paper and there will be a demonstration at a future meeting. Ms. Sandoval stated that Coronavirus is also a current topic on the radio and in the newspaper. The CDC has provided daily updates with talking points on the latest information. They are the best resource for the most accurate and up-to-date information. The RCPHD staff has put together information for the RCPHD website. Ms. Sandoval said the RCPHD is also sending letters to all partners to let them know that the website has been updated. She said that in the event that the situation changes in Rock County, they will know where to go. Ms. Sandoval also stated that the RCPHD is updating its pandemic plan. She said that staff also has constant communication with partners (e.g. schools, daycares, providers, state health department). She stated that there is a meeting with first responders tomorrow. Staff has also been talking to businesses about having their own response plans. According to Ms. Sandoval, the United States now has approximately 60 confirmed cases with more cases pending and several deaths. Cases have been reported in 68 international locations. There are new travel recommendations from the CDC. The average age for deaths with comorbidities is 70. There have been new cases reported with no relation to travel. According to Ms. Sandoval, Rock County's risk is low at this time. Dr. Somaraju added that she will be giving a talk and answering questions on March 10th at 4:00 p.m. at Beloit Hospital auditorium about basic coronavirus information. She said they are trying to come up with a website and hotline. Their emergency room is becoming flooded with patients wanting to be tested. Dr. Winter asked Dr. Somaraju about the regular flu. Dr. Somaraju replied that there are approximately 2-4 patients per day with influenza A. She said this is slightly less than last year, but last year had a late spike in April or May. Ms. Sandoval said that the RCPHD has also received many calls. The RCPHD is referring callers to providers as they are disease investigators, not triage for treatment. Chair Peer suggested WCLO talks to provide information to the public. Ms. Sandoval replied that RCPHD staff will be giving a talk at the County Board meeting on March 12th. Dr. Winter asked if the RCPHD plan is to be more hands off because there are less nurses. Ms. Sandoval replied that if the RCPHD acted as middle man, this would delay testing and treatment. She said they will use the same process and infrastructure as other communicable disease surveillance and follow-up. Ms. Bailey added that the Public Health Nurses have been preparing and will be busy with surveillance and follow-up when Rock County begins to see cases. Supervisor Homan asked if there is any practical evidence for senior citizens to receive the pneumonia vaccine since coronavirus is similar to pneumonia. Ms. Sandoval explained that invasive pneumococcal infections can cause many infections so the vaccine is preventing more than pneumonia, and it is meant to decrease morbidity from infections. She said this is not related to coronavirus. She explained that when a patient dies from the flu, it is likely due to post-illness infections. Chair Peer asked about the naming of COVID-19. Dr. Somaraju explained that is stands for Coronavirus Disease discovered in 2019.

Surveillance

According to Ms. Sandoval, the State thinks we are peaking now for influenza.

Community Events/Outreach

Ms. Sandoval said that the Community Health Assessment is survey still open until demographic assessment is complete. Most of the surveys were received online, but there is a large stack of paper surveys from senior and

Hispanic populations. She said that the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County and the RCPHD will still be holding focus group and one-on-one interviews.

Budget
Ms. Sandoval reported no updates regarding the budget. She said they are waiting for the 2019 books to close mid-March.

Personnel
Ms. Sandoval reported that four candidates were interviewed for the Health Educator position today. She added that two Public Health Supervisor positions are still posted. Janalyn Eisele returned to the RCPHD as a Public Health Nurse. Another nurse, Christy Ferrara, is starting March 23rd.

Ms. Sandoval told the Board that a citizen member has been identified to take Judy Wade's Board of Health position. She is sending the recommendation to Russ Podzilni and then it needs to be approved by the staffing committee.

**School Health Collaborative Presentation**

Ms. Weadge gave a presentation on the School Health Collaborative group (see attached).
The Board discussed the absentee rates, procedures, and level of accountability.

**Communications and Announcements**

Dr. Winter asked about Badfish Creek. Mr. Wietersen said that winter sampling has produced the same bacteriological results as expected. Mr. Wietersen said he is working with the Friends of Badfish Creek on a Department of Natural Resources grant to do their own sampling. They are sampling where the flow from Madison starts to Fulton. He said they are finding that it is much worse in Dane County. They plan on doing genetic testing to find out if the bacteria is coming from human sources. Mr. Wietersen said the results will be summarized and sent to the state. He has not heard anything about changes in the contract for Madison. Mr. Wietersen said he will do a summary after the April sampling. On April 15th, the treatment plants will start disinfecting again. Mr. Wietersen said that this ongoing problem has been of particular concern this year due to a lot of winter water recreation. Mr. Wietersen added that they will be testing for four things at the state lab – human, bovine, swine, and avian bacteria. The state lab is hoping to eventually be able to determine exactly what is causing the bacterial contamination.

Supervisor Homan said his daughter has been working as a 911 operator for Rock County for several months. He is proud of her for saving lives.

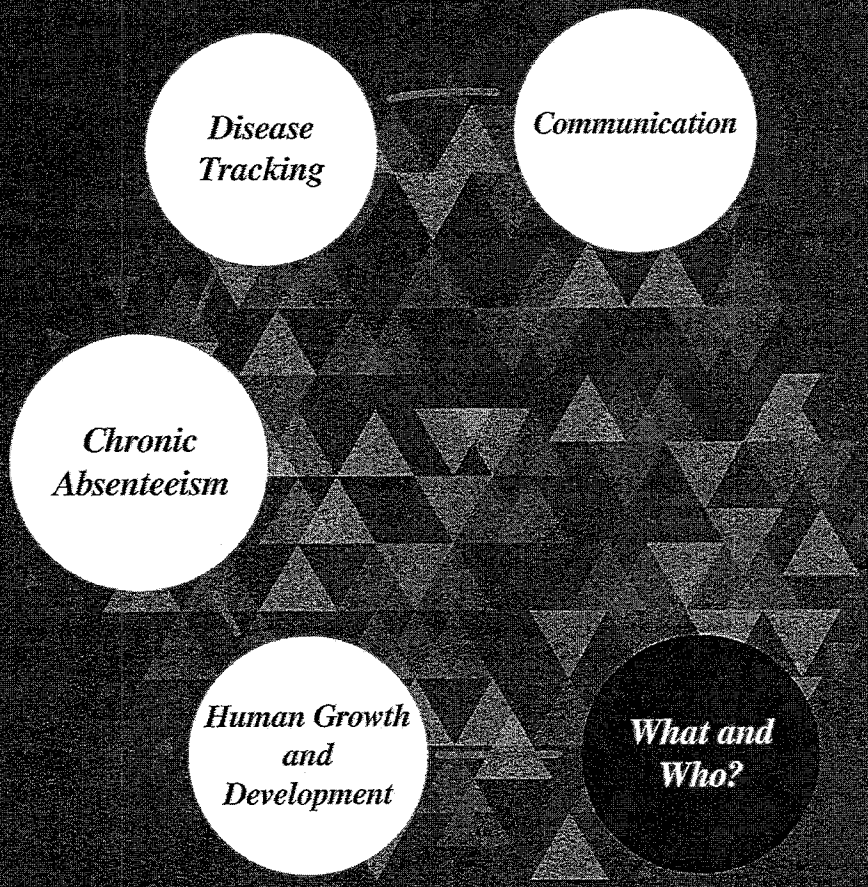
Supervisor Homan also said he and the County have been trying to lower the County's carbon footprint, and it is working. He said they have prevented 1,500,000 pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere, and that number is climbing. Mr. Wietersen asked what the biggest improvement has been. Supervisor Homan replied that they have been working to flatten out the electricity use so there are not as many peaks. They have been putting in sunroofs in the new building, bringing light through the side from concentrated a light source with reflectors and refractors into light fixtures that look like others with no operational cost. He said they will still have light switches if needed and can also filter light through a prism to extract infrared heat. They are also updating old equipment to increase efficiency.

**Adjournment**

Supervisor Gramke made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Winter seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Turner, Recorder
Not Official Until Approved by the Board of Health




# Rock County School Health Collaborative

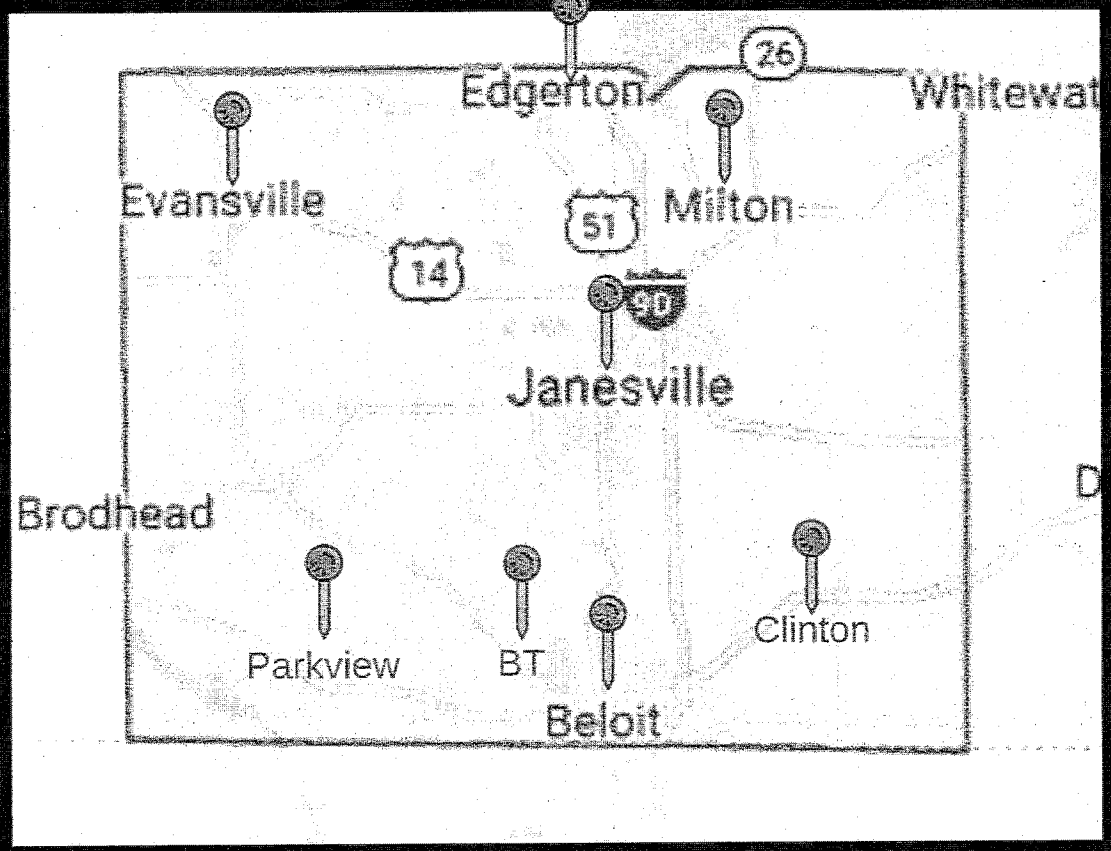
*Jen Weadge, BSN, RN*

# *What is the School Health Collaborative (SHC)?*

- Formed in November of 2018
- Collaboration with each district throughout the county
- Focus on health issues that affect the county
- 10 Active members (attends meetings)
  - 8 school districts - all districts but one actively participates

***Who Participates?***

# School Nurses on SHC



## *What projects should the SHC work on?*

- Mental Health
- Health and Wellness
- Communication
- Sexual Health

***Sexual Health***

# *Human Growth and development*

- STI rates are high in Rock County
  - The 15-19 year STI rates are 4 times higher than the county rate.
- HG&D curriculum's vary among districts
- Evansville School District requested PHN to participate in an advisory committee for HG&D in 2019
  - Key takeaways:
    - Advisory Committee should meet every 3 years
    - Curriculum should reflect
      - Inclusive language
      - What family unit is
      - Healthy relationships
    - Most important - Teacher must feel comfortable teaching HG&D
      - Information is omitted based on comfort levels of topics

# *Chronic Absenteeism*

- Chronic absenteeism: missing 10% (18 days) or more of school each year
- 1 in 5 children in Rock County are chronically absent
- Chronically absent children grow into adults who:
  - are unable to acquire or maintain jobs
  - are financially unstable
  - have chronic health conditions
  - are socially inept

***Reducing Chronic Absenteeism***

# *How Can the SHC help with this issue?*

- Make schools and communities aware of the problem
  - Created a letter to go out to all healthcare providers
- Assess schools practices around absenteeism
- Develop a plan
- Determine interventions
- Evaluate the interventions

## *Tracking Illnesses*

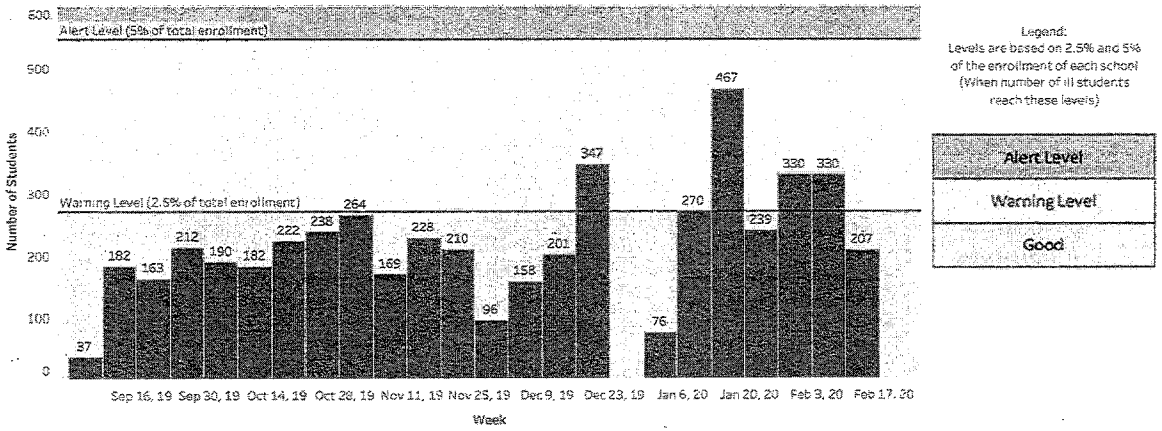
- Piloting illness absence tracking with Beloit School District elementary schools
- Discussing current trends related to flu, strep, and others
- Providing guidance and information

***Tracking Report Example***

# Tracking Report Example

## Beloit Elementary Schools Illness Absence Report

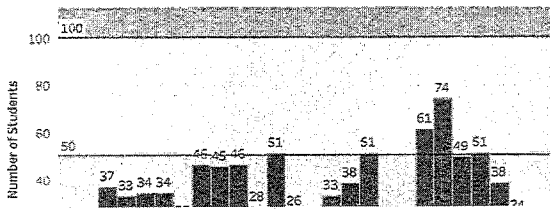
All Schools (2) Weekly Number of Students who were Absent due to Illness



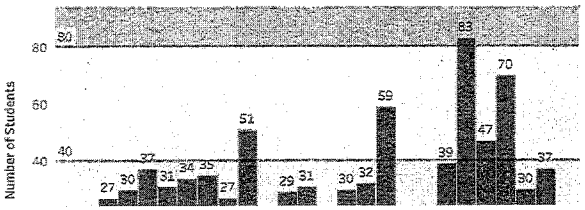

Legend:
Levels are based on 2.5% and 5% of the enrollment of each school (When number of ill students reach these levels)

| |
|---|
| Alert Level |
| Warning Level |
| Good |

Converse Elementary (2)




Gaston Elementary (2)



## *Communication*

- Improved communication between RCPHD and Rock County Schools
- Building trusting relationships
- Sharing of resources among the nurses from each district

***Why is this important?***

# *Communication*

- Platform to discuss other public health issues that affect school families
  - Emergency preparedness
  - Immunization rates
  - Communicable diseases
    - GI illness increases
    - Respiratory illness increases

- Provides consistent messaging to families throughout the county