

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2011 – 6:00 P.M.
Lincoln County Health Department

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dan Caylor, Mike Loka, Gail Schneider, Bill Zeitz, John Bailey, Sue Weith, Dr. Mark Mohr.

VISITORS PRESENT: Shelley Hersil, Tammi Boers, Gene Simon

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Caylor at 6:00 p.m.
2. Approve minutes of previous meeting: Motion by Bailey, seconded by Loka to approve. All ayes.
3. “Other Tobacco Products” presentation-Tammi Boers, Public Health Educator: Tobacco companies are targeting the youth with candy flavored tobacco products and packaging to resemble candy packaging. Packaging so close you can’t tell the difference. Chewing, spit tobacco, snus, dissolvables, cigars, dry crushed tobacco.
4. DVD Fluoride Deception-Supervisor Zeitz: Zeitz had the book “The Fluoride Deception” by Christopher Bryson. Fluoride discoloring to teeth. (23 studies) Sue Weith had statistics of the benefits of fluoride.
5. Financial report: Motion by Bailey, seconded by Dr. Mohr to approve. All ayes.
6. Department Written Reports:
 - a. Public Health- At the “Communities to Action to Prevent Suicide” Conference, we co-presented with 3 other presenters from other counties. Took place on May 4th. Also in the month of May kindergarten assessments were done.
 - b. Environmental –
 - c. Public Health Preparedness Consortium-
 - d. Accreditation/Strategic Plan – No report.
 - e. Legislation Update – No report.
7. Legal Authority in Public Health Presentation: A four page handout was passed along with the power point presentation. Public Health laws recognize common public health laws and ordinances-powers of the Health Officer. Public Health issues that can only be addressed by laws, regulations and ordinances.
8. Budget 2012-5%, 10% and 15% contingency options-approval: Shelley shared 2012 5%, 10% and 15% contingency options. Motion by Zeitz, seconded by Caylor to approve 2012 budget. All ayes.
9. Seal A Smile Grant – 2011- Discussion & Action: Motion by Caylor, seconded by Dr. Mohr to apply for Seal A Smile grant targeting 2nd and 3rd graders. 6 ayes, 1 no vote.
10. Public Comment: Gene Simon from Church Mutual voiced his concerns along with others working at Church Mutual about possible environmental health issues. Four out of 120 people were found to have atrialfibrillation. He expressed that it is a high percentage of people affected.
11. Agenda items for next meeting:

LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2011-6:00 P.M.

Page 2 of 2

12. Next meeting date-June 30, 2011-Board of Health Planning Meeting-Art Lerch: Start of 6:00 p.m.
13. Adjournment: Motion by Loka, seconded by Zeitz to adjourn. All ayes. Adjourn at 7:10 p.m..



DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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May 16, 2011

Lincoln County Board of Health
Lincoln County Health Department
607 Sales Street
Merrill, WI 54452

Dear Lincoln County Board of Health Members:

We are writing regarding community water fluoridation and what it offers the residents of Lincoln County. It is our understanding that a concern has been raised to the Lincoln County Board of Health regarding the safety and effectiveness of community water fluoridation. We urge the Lincoln County Board of Health to support this valuable preventive program. The fluoridation programs in Tomahawk and Merrill has had significant positive impact on the oral health of all residents since 1951 and 1962, respectively.

Community water fluoridation is a safe, effective and well-tested public health program that benefits millions of people worldwide. The Surgeon General of the United States has called water fluoridation one of the most successful public health programs in history. All major health organizations including the World Health Organization, the U.S. Public Health Service, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Public Health Association, the American Medical Association, the American Dental Association and the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials give strong endorsements to community water fluoridation. In Wisconsin, a few of the many organizations that support fluoridation include the State Medical Society of Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Public Health Association, the Wisconsin Dental Association, the Wisconsin Oral Health Coalition, the Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the Wisconsin Academy of Family Physicians. Therefore, it is not only dentists that recommend fluoridation but a wide variety of health professionals including physicians, nurses, toxicologists, chemists, pharmacists and others. These endorsements were obtained after careful consideration and study of the scientific literature.

Hundreds of studies carried out in many different countries in the past 50 years have proven the effectiveness of fluoridation. Studies have repeatedly demonstrated that drinking water with the optimal amount of fluoride reduces the incidence of tooth decay by approximately 30%. Fewer caries are associated with fewer abscesses and extractions of teeth and with improved health. The health and economic benefits of water fluoridation accrue to individuals of all ages and socioeconomic groups, especially to poor children. It is a popular misconception that fluoridation helps only children. Adults as well as children benefit from drinking fluoridated water throughout their lives. Several studies show that people in their sixties who have lived all of their lives in areas with sufficient fluoride in the drinking water have much less tooth loss and tooth decay than do adults in non-fluoridated communities.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention stated that the fluoridation of drinking water is one of the ten great public health achievements in our country.

We are well aware of some of the anti-fluoridation literature that is available. This literature often misinterprets legitimate research, misquotes the works of scientists, contain fabrications, and uses poorly designed and politically motivated so-called studies.

Throughout the world over 320 million people receive the benefits of fluoridation. In the United States, there are approximately 195 million persons served by water supplies whose content has been adjusted to the recommended optimal levels, or whose natural fluoride content is dentally significant for prevention. Because of the value of fluoridation, several of our neighboring states (Minnesota, Illinois and Indiana) actually mandate that community systems fluoridate their water supply. California and Arizona recently passed a mandatory fluoridation law. In Wisconsin, over 3 million people, or 90% of the population drinking water from a public water system, have the advantages of optimally fluoridated water. There are 262 public water systems in Wisconsin that fluoridate.

Fluoridation has been estimated to have a cost-benefit ratio of about 1:38; that is, every dollar invested in fluoridation saves approximately thirty-eight dollars (\$38.00) in dental expenditures. The economic importance of fluoridation is underscored by the fact that frequently the cost of treating dental disease is paid not only by the affected individual, but also by the general public through services provided by health departments, welfare clinics, health insurance premiums and other publicly supported programs.

Please consider the many indirect benefits from the prevention of dental decay, such as reduction in pain, a more positive self image, fewer missing teeth, fewer teeth requiring root canal treatment, reduced need for dentures and bridges, fewer cases of malocclusion aggravated by tooth loss, and less time lost from school or work from dental disorders or visits to the dentist. These intangible benefits are impossible to measure economically and are often taken for granted.

On behalf of the Division of Public Health, we certainly encourage the Lincoln County Board of Health to support this valuable prevention program for the benefit of all your residents. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Warren LeMay, DDS, MPH
Chief Dental Officer
Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Division of Public Health



Robbyn Kuester, RDH
Fluoridation Program Coordinator
Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Division of Public Health

Lincoln County Health Department (LCHD)
Board of Health Update from April 23, 2011 – May 13, 2011

Special Scheduled Meeting Attended by Director

- April 25th – Meeting with CSSW and Social Services regarding Home Visit Grant

Public Health Report

See statistical Report

- Suicide Prevention: Co-presented with three other presenters from other counties on building suicide prevention coalitions at the “Communities to Action to Prevent Suicide Conference” in Stevens Point on May 4. There were 27 participants in the audience.
- Health Department held Kindergarten assessments for Merrill on May 11 and 12 serving 35 children. This summer staff will re-evaluate the need for assessments and perhaps refocus target groups to daycares and 4k.
- Nurses have been providing back up services for the jail during times of influx. Currently we have been able to absorb the additional hours among current staff schedules.

Environmental Health

See statistical Report

- Renewals will be going out the week of May 16th.

Public Health Preparedness

- No report

Accreditation

- No Report

Legislative Update

- No Report

Public Health Preparedness

- LCHD will be participating in long term support meetings for those recovering from the tornado. Planning efforts currently are focusing on town suppers giving those affected by the tornado time to network and support each other.