

**Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Board of Directors Meeting
December 17, 2019**

**APPROVED MINUTES
September 17, 2019
1:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.
UW School of Medicine & Public Health
Health Sciences Learning Center
750 Highland Ave
Madison, WI 53705**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Dr. Richard Moss, Vice-Chair Dr. Robert Corliss, Secretary Dr. Jamie Schauer, Jeffery Kindrai, Charles Warzecha, James Morrison, Greg Pils, Gil Kelley

WSLH STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Peter Shult, Dr. Dan Kurtycz, Allen Benson, Christine Gunter, Jim Sterk, Kevin Karbowski, Cynda DeMontigny, Jan Klawitter, Kristine Hansbery, David Webb, Steve Strebel, and Nathaniel Javid

DNR STAFF PRESENT: Zana Sijan, Steve Geis, Greg Pils

GUESTS PRESENT: Dr. Ian Pray, Dr. Kevin Laughlin

Chair Dr. Robert Corliss called the meeting to order at 1:00 P.M.

Item 1. ROLL CALL

Chair Dr. Robert Corliss initiated the roll call of the Board. All Board Member seats or their designated representatives were present except Barry Irmen.

Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approve the minutes of the June 18, 2019 Board Meeting as submitted. **Dr. Richard Moss** made a motion to approve the minutes. **Jeffery Kindrai** seconded the motion. The voice vote approving the corrected minutes was unanimous.

Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA

There was no reorganization of the agenda.

Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

There were no public appearances.

Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS

Jeffery Kindrai addressed two board member matters. The first was with regards to DHS and the XRS used for lead poisoning cases. Ms. Klawitter replied that the equipment is at the WSLH, but it is used in coordination with DHS. Mr. Kindrai inquired about borrowing the equipment. Ms. Klawitter advised Mr. Kindrai to contact DHS. Mr. Kindrai also noted that the Grant County Social Services Director has concerns about cases involving the use of methamphetamines in homes and possible exposure to meth residue while removing and transporting children. Charles Warzecha noted that DHS has some guidance and we should connect with them. Steve Strelbel, WSLH, mentioned that there are wipe-test kits available for surfaces, but general testing is limited.

Item 6. SCIENTIFIC UPDATE: SEVERE PULMONARY DISEASE ASSOCIATED WITH VAPING

■ Dr. Ian Pray, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Dr. Ian Pray, WI DHS epidemiologist, introduced himself and his colleague, Dr. Kevin Laughlin to the Board. We received word of these severe pulmonary disease cases earlier this summer. The findings were unique and the WI DHS was notified. The cases were varied, but they were all linked to vaping. An alert went out to providers around the state to monitor for these cases. Once there were notifications from other states, and support from the CDC began, a nationwide response was triggered. We have 40 confirmed cases in Wisconsin, and 75 possible cases. Nationwide, we are up to 300 cases. There have been six deaths linked to this condition. Extensive review has been performed from non-specific imaging results, along with thorough examination of medical records and questionnaires to link this to vaping. A high percentage of users have also reported using THC products in e-cigarettes. There has been a significant laboratory component to this investigation. We are requesting product samples to be sent to the WSLH and then to the FDA for testing. Dr. Pray discussed some of the variations in the product and how that has complicated the laboratory testing process. Ultimately, we need to figure out how to get a hold of these illegal substances, which by nature of being illegal, are difficult to regulate and control. Dr. Schauer noted that Noel Stanton from the WSLH is our lead in chemical emergency response. We have begun some analysis at the WSLH, although sending samples to the FDA has been prudent considering their knowledge base. Vitamin E acetate was discussed as a thickening agent used in these products that has been found to be key in causing this disease. Dr. Pray fielded questions from the Board about THC use and sources. Vitamin E acetate is something that is not used in reputable products, and as such it has been challenging to analyze. The Board discussed the sending of samples to the WSLH and the proper procedures for coordinating with the Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene's Chemical Emergency Response Team and local law enforcement. Mr. Warzecha, DHS, noted that the lack of regulation has been a large problem and we are learning how to best deal with these issues.

Item 7. FINANCIAL REPORT

■ Kevin Karbowski, Chief Financial Officer, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

Mr. Karbowski provided the budget report for the period of July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019. We have experienced some increases in support and revenue. Increases of note are due to some increase in activities with SMPH, increased activities in cytogenetics, and a change in recording methods of budget. Some of the areas in support and revenue that are under budget were due to grants turning out to be less than expected. Mr. Karbowski noted that our year-to-date total support and revenue is \$51, 069, 994, which is \$1, 512, 524 greater than budgeted. Total expenses are \$50, 148, 250, which is \$942, 300 greater than budgeted. Overall, our net operating income was \$921, 744, which is \$570, 224 greater than budgeted.

For working capital, we lost money due to our infrastructure investment exceeding the amount we earned. We had projected this, and over time, we expect these investments to allow for more revenue. Overall, our available working capital is \$9, 375, 314, which is \$294, 366 less than anticipated. Much of our reserves are intended for planned building renovation.

Item 8. HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

■ Cynda DeMontigny, Human Resources Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

Cynda DeMontigny, WSLH HR Director, provided the Human Resources update to the Board. For the period of June 8 to August 30, 2019 we had twenty-three recruitments including seven in DPD, eight in EHD, one in LID, three in CDD, two in Administration, and two in the OHD. As far as staff turnaround for the same time period, we had one retirement in DPD and one in EHD, one resignation in EHD, one in DPD, one in CDD and Admin, and none in LID or OHD. For hires, we had four in DPD in OHD, none in Admin, two in CDD, five in EHD, and none in LID.

Item 9. CONTRACTS REPORT

■ Christine Gunter, Financial Program Supervisor, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

For September 2019, we have received \$2, 922, 342 in contracts broken down by division as follows: \$32, 000 in CDD, \$252, 492 in DPD, \$80, 000 in EHD, \$1,817,850 for NADP, and \$750,000 for WOHL. Broken down by contractor, these figures are \$274, 492 from WHDS, \$80,000 from WDNR, \$1, 217, 483.50 from federal sources, with \$1, 350, 366.50 from various sources.

Item 10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

■ Dr. James Schauer, Director, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene

Dr. Schauer mentioned succession planning to the Board. We are working to ensure we have appropriate staffing for Associate Director and Communicable Disease Division Director Dr. Peter Shult and CAP Director and Disease Prevention Division Director Dr. Daniel Kurtycz who will likely be retiring within the next two years. Due to the high level nature of the positions, particularly with regards to CAP and biosafety, we need to begin a search and developing PVLs as needed, to guarantee we have enough overlap and coverage. The new position will be the Associate Director for Clinical Testing. We also plan to be getting a new position in opioid response that has been budgeted.

Dr. Schauer had Dave Webb provide the water boil notice. During the period of June 10 through September 1, 2019, we had four boil notices for Door County, two boil notices for Jefferson County, and one boil notice in Pierce County.

Dr. Schauer asked Public Relations Director, Ms. Jan Klawitter, to present the Public or Environmental Health Incidents of Educational Interest to the Board. Ms. Klawitter reviewed some of the key topics such as the public health workgroups involved in the planning of the Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee. Several WSLH personnel attended and presented at the APHL annual meeting. Forensic Toxicology Director Amy Miles met with law enforcement and legislators regarding the language in SB-188, providing information on THC testing in forensic labs versus workplace drug testing. The UW Cytotechnology Certificate Program Coordinator Dr. Kaitlin Sundling, and WSLH Cytology Supervisor Josh Faulkes worked with Jim Hermanson in WSLH Office of Information Systems to create a recruitment video for the program. Also, for the second year in a row, kids and their grandparents were able to "major" in genetics and newborn screening at the WSLH as part of UW-Madison's Grandparents University. The WSLH also hosted visiting faculty from Jimma University in Ethiopia, in which the visitor's primary goal was to receive training in particulate matter collection and Dithiothreitol analysis of PM samples. Ms. Klawitter also mentioned that Dr. Rima Khabbaz, director of the CDC's National Center for Emerging Zoonotic and Infectious Diseases, along with four CDC staffers, visited the WSLH Communicable Disease Division and the WI Division of Public Health for our 5-year-annual Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity grant site visit. Ms. Klawitter had the Board refer to the Board Packet for more incident items and details.

Dr. Schauer next asked WSLH Environmental Health Division Director, David Webb, to update the Board on a request from WI DHS in regards to providing information on a Speaker's Task Force on Water Quality. We have been working with DHS and DNR on supporting some of the Task Force's recommendations that involve lab testing. The main areas are PFAS and other emerging contaminants, along with serving state testing needs. We are planning for what we would need to increase capacity. Chuck Warzecha noted the positive impact of attention being drawn to water quality in the state and is excited for good things to come of this task force.

Chair Dr. Robert Corliss made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:00 P.M. **James Morrison** accepted the motion and **Dr. Richard Moss** seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Dr. Schauer transitioned the meeting to Dr. Richard Moss to present on Research in the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. Dr. Moss gave a brief history of the UW SMPH buildings and the background of funding the facilities. The UW SMPH is a statewide enterprise that exists on a continuum of basic, clinical, translational, and public health research. We are committed to health, healthcare, and health equity. This is particularly significant for how we collaborate with the WSLH. The UW SMPH has a broad funding base including the NIH, DOD, DOE, PCORI, CMS, CDC, and various foundations and philanthropic efforts. The growth in SMPH funding from the NIH has increased from \$123M to \$210M from 2008 to 2018.

Dr. Moss reviewed some new initiatives that cut across departments. Examples of these are in precision medicine, cell-based therapies, data science, social determinants of health, and artificial intelligence/machine learning applications in research and medicine. Dr. Moss next reviewed the building resources including the Academic Medical Center which is known for its proximity of research to clinical care, housing robust research cores, and the adjacencies of multiple research and clinical disciplines. Another facility, which the Board toured at the conclusion of the presentation, is the WIMR West Wedge and Center for Human Genomics and Precision Medicine.

Dr. Moss presented on collaborative research such as multi-investigator grants, collaborative R01's, P-series and U-series grants, which are grants that provide core services to faculty within a particular area. We also have thematic research centers such as the UW Carbone Cancer Center, COAST and ICAC for asthma, and ADRC and WAI for the Initiative to End Alzheimer's. Dr. Moss gave an example of research collaboration between the UW-SMPH and UW-CALS in antibiotic discovery.

Dr. Moss next discussed support for researchers including some internal grants programs that are available to faculty. Dr. Moss explained the process of preparing a grant application, including medRAMP, which puts together multi-investigator grants.

At this time, Dr. Moss had the Board commence their tour of the facility.

Respectfully submitted by:



James J. Schauer, PhD, P.E., M.B.A.
Secretary, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene Board of Directors

