

APPROVED MINUTES
Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene
Board of Directors Meeting
June 21, 2022
1:00pm – 4:00pm

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Greg Pils, Dr. Jon Meiman, Dr. Richard Moss, Dr. Christopher Strang, Ms. Jessica Blahnik, Mr. Gil Kelley, Mr. Jeff Kindrai, Dr. Jamie Schauer

WSLH STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Heather Barkholtz, Dr. Al Bateman, Ms. Amy Miles, Dr. Alana Sterkel, Mr. Allen Benson, Mr. Kevin Karbowski, Ms. Nancy McLean, Ms. Jan Klawitter, Mr. Steve Strebel, Mr. David Webb

DNR STAFF PRESENT: Mr. Steve Geis

GUESTS PRESENT: Mr. Paul Krupski, presenter
Dr. Casey Gallimore, presenter
Dr. Andrea Porter, presenter
Mr. R.T.Krueger, observer

Procedural Items

Item 1. ROLL CALL

Chairman Pils called the meeting to order.

Chairman Pils initiated and conducted the roll call of the Board members. All Board Member seats or their designated representatives were present except for excused member Dr. Robert Corliss, and excused alternates Zana Sijan, Paula Tran and Anna Benson

Item 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- March 15, 2022

[Mr. Kindrai made the motion to approve the March 15, 2002 minutes. Dr. Strang seconded the motion. The voice vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.](#)

Item 3. REORGANIZATION OF AGENDA

There was no request to reorganize the agenda

Item 4. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

None

Item 5. BOARD MEMBERS' MATTERS

Jeff Kindrai offered thanks for WSLH support regarding the new Monkeypox challenges

Introductions of new Board Member, Dr. Christopher Strang and new WSLH Human Resources Director, Nancy McLean

BUSINESS ITEMS:

Item 6. WISCONSIN'S OPIOID EPIDEMIC

- **Ms. Amy Miles**
- **Mr. Paul Krupski**

Ms. Amy Miles, Director of Forensic Toxicology, Wisconsin State Laboratory of Hygiene, led with a presentation regarding her department's involvement with opioid issues in the State of Wisconsin.

Ms. Miles advised that the WSLH's Forensic Toxicology department handles 20,000 cases per year. They are kept busy with primarily impaired driving cases, and about 15% of the workload comprised of medical examiner and coroner casework, and providing testimony in 360+ trials. Due to COVID, remote testimony has become more popular, which has been helpful with keeping the Lab staffed.

There have been data limitations; WSLH will receive a sample from a coroner and feedback isn't always provided. In 2019, the Department of Health purchased a Quadrupole Time of Flight Mass Spectrometer, which has changed the landscape of testing. The instrumentation is equal to that of Milwaukee, and they are now able to identify more opioid compounds than ever before, as well as precursors, including medical intervention vs. illicit. We're a leader in the country because of that.

Ms. Miles introduced **Mr. Paul Krupski**, Director of Opioid Initiatives, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, to provide a presentation on Trends in Opioid Overdoses and Deaths in Wisconsin to the Board.

Mr. Krupski extended his thanks for a strong partnership and relationship with WSLH, as it does take a village to help out with this work. Pre-pandemic, there was positive change and we were on the right track with positive outcomes, but the pandemic seemed to have set this problem two steps back, with opioid-related overdoses, hospitalizations and deaths having increased again. We'll need to stay aligned and reinforce prior efforts and we can return to decreases.

There were 105,000 fatal overdoses from October 2020 to October 2021. Fentanyl is now the primary opioid involved and started to skyrocket in 2016-2017 mostly due to its very low manufacturing cost. The majority of deaths are now poly-drug related.

Rates in Wisconsin mirror what is happening nationally. Best guess is there are no states moving against this trend.

DHS has data dashboard available:

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/dashboards.htm>

Item 7. POINT OF CARE TESTING

- **Dr. Casey Gallimore**
- **Dr. Andrea Porter**

Pharmacies are the 2nd largest provider of CLIA-waived tests by total number of locations

Pharmacies exhibited largest growth both in number and percent of CLIA-waived facilities between 2015 and 2020

States vary in percentage of pharmacies with a CLIA-waiver, (range of 2.92%–56.52%)

17% of Wisconsin pharmacies offer POCT, and almost 50% expect to continue or expand.

Barriers include issues in staffing, physical resources, patient interest and financial hurdles for the pharmacies.

A detailed description of the UW's Pharmacy program with about 120 students per class was part of the presentation including the program's POCT instruction.

The Equitable Community Access to Pharmacist Services Act was introduced in the House of Representatives in March, 2022. If passed, this will help Medicare recipients to receive POCT from pharmacies.

Item 8. FINANCIAL REPORT

- **Mr. Kevin Karbowski**

Income statement for 10 months ending April 30th –

Actual performance/budget/calculations of variances

Lost \$1.1M – There are two big things going on –

Clinical revenue is \$1M under budget – Almost all of that is on cost reimbursement or grant contacts – What this means is that while revenue is down because work is done slower, an equal amount is also down

Consulting services were higher than anticipated. In Jun, July and August, corresponding -

WOHL is taking longer to come back from the pandemic than expected. It is coming back, but slower and Mr. Karbowski also noted that the division has made excellent progress in keeping their expenses down.

The loss is going to be absorbed by reserves per Dr. Schauer.

Reflected in this income statement is also a \$1.6 M loss on Newborn Screening (NBS), which is **huge**.

Statute requires we inform of contracts we enter into – 7 contracts – Revenue that we will experience over DHS, 6 months for training.

Item 9. APPROVAL OF FY23 BUDGET

- **Mr. Kevin Karbowski**

There is a shortfall of over \$1M which will be covered by existing reserves, half of which are restricted and cannot be used for this purpose. Without an increase in the cost for NBS cards, the NBS program is presently unsustainable.

WSLH is working with State/UW liaisons, so there is legislative awareness of the issue. At September and December board meetings, we will be looking for the board to discuss and provide guidance.

No discussion - Mr. Kindrai moves to approve and Mr. Pils seconds. Unanimous verbal agreement, motion carried.

Item 10. CONTRACTS REPORT

- **Mr. Karbowski**

WSLH has executed \$2.5M in contracts since March 2022. The vast majority is tied to WDHS.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Item 11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr James Schauer, Director, WSLH

- **Strategic Plan Update**
 - **Kevin Karbowski**

- **Water Boil Notice Report**
 - **Dave Webb**

- 3 in Door County – relationship between bedrock and surface water.

- **Space Update**
 - **Dave Webb**
 - Options include expansion at Ag Drive, existing Hill Farms site and DATCP bldg. Stovall is a 1950's structure.

- **Monkeypox Testing**
 - **Dr. Alana Sterkel**
 - As of September 8, 2022, 63 cases of orthopoxvirus, presumed to be monkeypox, have been confirmed in Wisconsin.
 - As of September 7, 2022, there have been 21,274 confirmed cases of monkeypox and orthopoxvirus in the United States.
 - 2022 not associated with animal contact – Seen more as an STD,
 - Considered a less virulent strain – Not a select agent.
 - Current capacity 24/day routine 100/ day surge. This could likely be expanded by 5x to 10x as was Covid19 testing.
 - With recent CDC release of protocols, clinical and commercial labs could come online soon.

- **Public Relations Report**
 - **Jan Klawitter**
 - Ms. Klawitter referred Board Members to the packet which provides details and further information about more employee activities and accomplishments.

Dr. Strang move to adjourn, Mr. Kindrai seconded and the meeting was concluded.