

Attendees:

Members (marked box indicates Present):

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| ☒ Ann Bajari (Remote) | ☒ Dr. Jennifer Ray-Mader |
| ☒ Ann Gonderinger | ☒ Dr. Kim Tjaden (Remote) |
| ☒ Bonita Bryant (Vice Chair) | ☒ Linda Carlson |
| ☒ David Nelson | ☐ Mark Daleiden (Excused) |
| ☐ Emmanuel Ngabire (Unexcused) | ☐ Marlene Kittock (Unexcused) |
| ☒ Jacquelyn Bergo (Remote) | ☒ Melissa Pribyl |
| ☒ Jamie Stang (Remote) | ☒ Mona Volden |
| ☐ Jeanne Holland (Excused) | ☒ Toni Seroshek (Chair) |

HHS Staff Attendees:

Anna Eason	Megan Coleman
Chastity Jacobson	Patty Larson
Joel Torkelson	Patty Malecek
Jon Young	Rachel Nelson
Laura Walter	Sarah Grosshuesch

Guests/Other:

Christalee Braegger (Remote)	Megan Utsch (Remote)
Gavin Gapinski (Remote)	

1. Call to Order—The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair, Toni Seroshek
2. Introductions were made.
3. Approval of the Agenda and the August minutes
 - a. Addition to the agenda, under #4. b. (a.) add “Cannabis Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) PowerPoint”—*Anna Eason*.
 - b. Motion to approve Agenda with addition, and October minutes by Mona Volden, second by Dave Nelson.
 - c. Vote-All members approve of Agenda and October minutes.
4. Presentation and Discussion Items
 - a. Dental Coordinator – *Megan Coleman*
 - After we had had our county budget meeting where the budget is closed, which means we cannot add to any tax levy, only reduce it, we were approached by Blue Cross/Blue Shields with some funds for another year but not the full amount so, it wouldn’t cover the whole cost of the program. We talked with Administration, what would they like us to do. It is a regional program so how would that impact things? Would this be an opportunity for another region to head this program? We reached out to Blue Cross/Blue Shield, and we recommended they reach out to Benton County, which they did, and Benton County will accept those funds. We are excited that the region will still have a Dental Coordinator.

- Over the course of a year, we have done a lot of dental initiatives. The community events that have been done are those Community Connect/Project Connect, as well as the county fair. Any kind of community event we always try to give some sort of dental supply as a handout. We did varnishing at the Big Lake Community Connect. I was also able to talk with the parents about oral health and oral health services. This past October we had the annual Bertram Boo-tacular at Bertram Park where there were 2,500 people attended and the Dental Innovation Coordinator grant was able to purchase 400 Kangaroo toothbrushes and giraffe flossers to hand out as prizes during this event. These were a huge hit since it wasn't just candy. The Project Connect event was in St. Cloud, which is out of county but did get a chance to speak with a few Wright County residents and did 7 fluoride varnish applications and 5 dental service referrals.
 - I attended the Oral Health Conference and was invited by the Executive Director of the Minnesota Oral Health Coalition board, Nancy Frank-Wilson to facilitate one of the 8 breakout sessions on the topic of Dental Infrastructure. I facilitated three groups, and we discussed how the dental infrastructure relates to data collection, health needs assessment, surveillance, and community engagement. Over 40 oral health related professionals were in attendance and the conference was a huge success. At the conference I was able to meet with State Oral Health Director, Pradia Khanal, to discuss this GIS Dental Survey Project and we plan to transfer domains to the state come winter 2025.
 - Our AmeriCorps Volunteer, Grace Koski, has been working with the Minnesota School Sealant Program to expand their reduced rate services to the public schools in Wright County. Dr. Chris Dens was at the Minnesota Oral Health Conference last week and we were able to connect to formulate a plan for the spring of 2025 semester, more to come.
 - February 2025 Brushing Competition planning has already started. Our Public Health Intern, Anna Eason, will share some exciting statistics about the number of schools and students already committed to participate. 871 students already signed up.
 - Community Dental Care also received funds to hire a Dental Health Educator.
- b. Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grant – *Rachel Nelson*
- MEADA has five presentations that we use, Alcohol, Tobacco, Tobacco Vaping, Cannabis, Hidden in Plain Site. We give these presentations at schools around the county. We have built a platform on the MEADA website so if you are interested in having us do a presentation you can sign up online and choose which topic you would like.
 - We were awarded the Drug Free Communities grant in 2019, we are currently in year 5. We just applied for year 5 and we need to put in an application for the second cycle, which is years 6-10.
 - We do attend quite a few events throughout the year. The biggest and most successful has to be the Drug Takeback Day. We have one in the spring and one in the fall. In October we had two locations, Montrose and Albertville, and we collected 168 lbs of unused, unwanted or expired medications. We also attended Street Party of Hope. Rachel also does alcohol sales training to alcohol establishments throughout the county and this year completed over 10 trainings. There are two more scheduled for this year and one scheduled for the beginning of 2025. We are now hiring temporary compliance workers throughout the county. They can go to the county website and apply through there. One other important initiative that we worked on is the Positive Community Norms Campaign, which is a strategy that aims to improve community health by actively promoting positive behaviors and correcting misperceptions about what is considered “normal” within a group, often by

highlighting data that shows the majority of people are engaging in healthy choices, thereby influencing others to do the same. They had school students create a message/poster with MEADA data. There were 300 entries, and the winner had their message/poster made into a banner and is displayed in their school.

(a) Cannabis Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) PowerPoint

- ◆ Anna Eason, Public Health Intern, was tasked with a project to create a Cannabis FAQ sheet for the Cannabis Workgroup members. It contains general information like the legalization cannabis and the regulations in Minnesota. It will also have definitions that we might see in the Wright County ordinance that is being created right now. This would be a good resource somebody that is looking for some general information on this subject.

c. Point in Time (PIT) Count – *Joel Torkelson*

- January will be when our annual Point in Time count occurs, which is a way to identify the number of people who are homeless, unsheltered, doubling up, in emergency shelter or transitional housing. It happens the fourth Wednesday in January. Anybody can participate in this and if you happen to know someone that fits in one of these categories there are forms you can fill out online. Schools have been an important part of getting the word out about this. Last year letters were sent out and we got more engagement, and we will be sending them out again this year. Social Services staff have really been taking the lead on this. There is a subcommittee that has been meeting to think of ways to help promote the PIT count. Just for some context in 2024 for Wright County it was 78, that includes people that were in emergency shelters, transitional housing, unsheltered and/or doubled up. In 2023 it was 115. In 2022 it was 8. Our Housing Workgroup identified three goals, one is to create a housing coordinator position and get that approved by the board, which has been done. That position will be posted at the end of December and hopefully be filled by the first quarter of 2025. The group also identified the PIT count be a goal, which will continue to be done yearly. And finally have a resource person at the county, it was initially framed as how can we help people get things off their record so they can get into housing easier and address those barriers. There is a resource called Project Connect/Community Connect that is already taking place, so we joined efforts with them. The event was in Big Lake. People came needing coats. In 2023 they gave out 120 coats, this year they gave out 455 coats and ran out. Last year there was 183 attendees and this year there was 960. They gave out almost 500 pairs of shoes. Almost 100 tokens for laundry given out.

5. New Business

a. PHTF Election of Officers

- Motion to approve to continue Toni Seroshek as Chair and Bonita Bryant as Vice Chair for another term by Melissa Pribyl, second by Ann Bajari.
- Vote-All members approve of Toni and Bonita serving another term as Chair and Vice Chair.

6. Old Business

a. Water Testing Accreditation – *Laura Walter*

- Resources were shared.
- We are now accredited for drinking water so we can test for total coliform, e coli and nitrate. We can now complete compliance testing, which is used for Foster Care Licensing as well as real estate transactions and then we have a few orchards that must test their well if they use it for irrigation. Additional wastewater accreditation will happen next summer. So,

we will continue to do some e coli monitoring of the lakes in Wright County. They are \$30 per test, and you can pick up a kit at the front desk of Health & Human Services here on the 2nd floor. You can pick up a kit Monday-Friday and we run tests on Mondays and Tuesdays.

7. Other

a. Honoring Dr. Ray-Mader.

- She is retiring from the PHTF after being our medical consultant and then a community member for 28 years.

8. Agenda Items for the next meeting, January 13, 2025

9. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn by Mona Volden, second by Bonita Bryant.
- b. Adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

pl/sg