

**November 8, 2017 Board of Health Meeting  
County Courthouse, Room G-302**

The Board of Health convened in open session at 5:16pm

The meeting was called to order by Mery Price

**Board Members Present  
Quorum is reached**

Blair Johnson  
Mery Price  
Kathy Mitchell  
Donald Bodeau  
Jennifer Eddy  
Gerald Wilkie  
Joan Berlin

**Board Members  
Absent:**

Liz Spencer

**Staff Members Present:**

Lieske Giese  
  
Gina Holt (recorder)

**Public:**

Sandy Xiong-UWEC  
Kiara Escaffi-UWEC

**Order of Agenda Request to pull items from Consent Agenda**

- None

**Public Comment:**

- None

**Intro and overview of Work Session-Health Equity as a Board of Health issue: Mery Price, President**

- In September the board discussed health equity and disparities. Based on that conversation it was clear that everyone had some working knowledge about the subject and that board members had a vested interest in health equity
- Goals for the work session
  - Increase the boards' knowledge and feel more informed about health equity and disparities in Eau Claire. Looking at opportunities in Eau Claire where there are areas for improvement
  - Identifying and prioritizing board of health roles and responsibilities
  - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation defining Health Equity for Different Audiences was discussed (see below)-Different BOH felt different definitions were more meaningful to them

**Defining Health Equity for Different Audiences**

**A 30-second definition for general audiences:**

Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care.

**A 15-second definition for technical audiences:** For the purposes of measurement, health equity means reducing and ultimately eliminating disparities in health and its determinants that adversely affect excluded or marginalized groups.

**A 20-second definition for audiences who ask about the**

**difference between equity and disparities:** Health equity is the ethical and human rights principle that motivates us to eliminate health disparities; health disparities—worse health in excluded or marginalized groups—are how we measure progress toward health equity.

**An 8-second version for general audiences (health equity**

**as a goal or outcome):** Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible.

**Another 8-second version for general audiences (health**

**equity as a process):** Health equity means removing economic and social obstacles to health such as poverty and discrimination.

### **General data for Eau Claire Count was described: Lieske Giese**

- Examples: population, health care, poverty
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> worst ranking for the state when it comes to income inequality compared to other communities
  - 52% of the county are housing burdened. They have a difficult time paying for housing (>30% income)
  - 47% of households in Eau Claire County are asset limited income (ALICE)constrained and struggle to afford basic needs
- Policy maps is one tool to start looking at local data and mapping it (available via Invest Health Project)
- Gaps in data
  - Small numbers related to race and ethnicity
  - Network of care has very little data that specifically calls out equity issues
  - Rural vs urban data is challenging
  - Strategic plan has priority to look at equity data

### **Overview of current Health Department health equity efforts: Lieske Giese**

- Strategic Plan-a number of action items related to equity
- Health Impact Assessment work-focused on community engagement and equality
- Eau Claire Health Communities-specific look in Community Health Assessment data
- Invest Health-foundation of work is equity and place
- Clear Vision Poverty Summit
- JONAH relationship/partnership-focus on community
- Housing Code and Rental Registration-prioritized rental properties to assure safe and healthy community
- BARHII assessment grant application-Health department internal assessment

### **Board of Health member discussion**

- Documents from the BOH packet reviewed
  - NALBOH Governance Function
  - NACCHO Policy Recommendations Health Equity and Social justice
  - 2017 UW Healthiest State Summit
- Next steps brainstormed by Board members:
  - Data:**
    - Better understanding data-what is the data and what does it mean for Eau Claire County
    - Data comparison-compare best with worse rather than average
    - Clear definitions and sources of data
    - Granularity of data
    - Job and wage profile for the county

**Community:**

- Identifying and Understanding the groups that aren't clearly identified in data "listening sessions", "stigma"/scan environment
- Sponsor a round table with special populations to understand issues
- Including stories- Engage populations and allies to better understand data/issues (i.e. Kristin Gundy, Dr. Mark Gideonsen, and Tammy Raeder)

**Specific Board of Health Steps:**

- Evaluate BOH decisions thru Equity Lens-add to Fact Sheet as one option
- Shared definition/understanding for BOH (see Robert Wood Johnson Foundation definition)—talking points/message map
- Consider health equity policies and resolutions-general and/or specific

**Plan (Strategy, Outcomes):**

- Health outcomes and measurement: impact by sub-populations
- Be part of discussion about removing obstacles
- Discuss continued use of Health Impact Assessment as a strategy-look at equity and engage those involved or impacted
- Engage with Health Department as they do assessment/strategic plan activities –awareness and support
- Participate in continued learning for BOH and HD –Culture and race

**Challenges:**

- Overwhelming
- What influence do we have
- Rural Issues

**Next steps:**

- Get the list of "next steps" and then make time during the December meeting agenda to discuss what action would be next (prioritize)

*11/13/17-Lieske told board members at the meeting that she would share the information from the UW Madison Healthiest State meeting. See link below-(this link will also be added to the policy/advocacy section of the December BOH meeting)*

<https://wipha.site-ym.com/BlankCustom.asp?page=2017HSmaterials>

**Requests from Board members for future agenda items to be given consideration**

Next scheduled BOH meeting is December 13, 2017 at 5:15 p.m.

Merey Price adjourned the meeting at 6:56p.m.