

The Mitchell County Board of Health met April 7 at 12:00 noon in the conference room of the County Services Building in Osage. Members present were David Bechtum, Roberta Howard, Bob Marreel, and Dr. Kelly Ross; also present were Lavonne Wolf, RN, interim administrator, Laura Huisman and Ben Ross. President Roberta Howard called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

AGENDA: additions to the agenda were a letter from Mitchell County attorney Mark Walk and a letter from the Mitchell County Substance Abuse Coalition. A motion was made by Bob Marrell and seconded by Roberta Howard to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

Laura Huisman presented the letter from the Mitchell County Substance Abuse Coalition(SAC). The letter was in regard to the tobacco grant being under the SAC coalition. The letter was critical of the lack of attendance of Laura Huisman, tobacco grant representative, at SAC meetings and expressed a concern that the grant may be audited and found out of compliance. Laura responded that she was unable to attend the meetings due to scheduling conflicts that could not be rectified; to remedy the issue Laura had been writing a report that former administrator, Deb Freeman, presented at the SAC meetings. Laura further stated that the main concern of SAC was alcohol abuse, leading her to initiate efforts to form a new coalition of the tobacco grant with JEL(Just Eliminate Lies). Laura stated she had informed Deb Freeman of this in August ,2010 and requested that Deb Freeman report this to SAC. Laura also stated that the county tobacco grant had been audited in October,2010 and was found to be in compliance. The state community health coordinator that Laura works with was also aware of the proposed change and was in agreement. Laura will write a letter to SAC explaining the new direction of the tobacco grant; a copy will also be sent to state health coordinator.

Roberta Howard presented a letter from Mitchell County Attorney Mark Walk explaining the request by Deb Freeman and Nancy Millbrandt to obtain unemployment compensation. Mark Walk asked if the board wanted to contest the grant of unemployment compensation. At this time the board will not contest the issue.

Lavonne Wolf, interim administrator, was interviewed for the vacant administrator of MCHHC/PH position. Roberta explained to Lavonne that she could not be hired until she completes a bachelor of science degree in nursing and that applications will continue to be accepted. Issues discussed with Lavonne included: how she would improve office communications, her plans to stay in the area, delegation of duties, staff hiring procedure, the need to repeat a background check, grants, and areas Lavonne believed could be improved. Lavonne believes there needs to be some restructuring of office duties, she would like to expand some programs and she presented a plan for hiring/ interviewing new applicants which would include input from staff RNs, an office staff member and a board of health member. She also presented board members with a standardized questionnaire for job applicants.

The board reviewed the RN applications. Six applications have been received. Lavonne will interview applicants and select three for further interviews by the board.

The next meeting will be April 28 at the County Services Building, Osage, Iowa.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:00PM.

