

MCPHERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES  
For  
February 10, 2014

February 10, 2014

10:50 a.m.

Chairman Loomis, Commissioners Patrick & Linaweaver - Present  
Rick Witte, County Administrator/Financial Manager - Present  
Abbey Heidebrecht, Commission Secretary - Present

Chairman Loomis called the meeting to order at 10:50 a.m. Ms. Fern Hess, McPherson County Health Department Director, began the meeting by clarifying that previous Board of Health meetings, during her years as Health Department Director, have been held on an as-needed basis, as specific issues of concern or threat to community health or environment have been reported, and critical information and updated plans of action were necessary to discuss and or implement.

Ms. Hess noted that both she and Commissioner Linaweaver had recently attended a Public Health conference where it was suggested that a minimum of two official meetings of the Board of Health be held regularly each calendar year. The Board of Health includes the Local Board of County Commissioners and the Local Health Officer. Ms. Hess cited the Commission meeting of December 10, 2002 as the date that she was first appointed as the Local Health Officer.

The first agenda item for February 10, 2014 was to appoint a Local Health Officer as per Kansas Public Health Statute 65-201 to serve for the period of January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014. Commissioner Linaweaver made a motion to appoint Fern Hess as the Local Health Officer for McPherson County. Commissioner Patrick seconded. **All voted aye.** Commissioner Linaweaver then made a motion to appoint Fern Hess as Chairman of the Board of McPherson County Health. Commissioner Patrick seconded. **All voted aye.**

As Local Health Officer, Ms. Hess reviewed Essential Services and Public Health Governance Roles, specifically relating to the McPherson County Health Department (MCHD) which included: the mission and services provided by MCHD; funding sources, including federal and state contributions, private insurance, patient fees, local tax, and grants; operations data; state reportable communicable diseases; MCHD personnel task distribution/future vacancies; and administration and staff involvement in outreach/organization/education, including affiliation with the Kansas Department of Health & Environment , conferences, webinars, meetings continuing education, etc.

Ms. Hess distributed copies to Commissioners, of the 2013 Community Health Needs Assessment for McPherson County. The assessment was prepared by Ms. Hess and contributors from McPherson Hospital, Lindsborg Community Hospital, and Mercy Hospital, Moundridge. Several areas were noted and identified as serious community health care needs,

areas of the greatest health concern, as well as barriers to finding affordable health care within the County.

Ms. Hess discussed the desire of McPherson County to establish a safety net clinic for underserved community residents, by creating a satellite of a federally-funded Community Health Center, providing medical, dental, diagnostic, behavioral, enabling, and administrative support services. Copies of the Request for Proposal were distributed to Commissioners for their review.

Ms. Hess reported on her four (4) strategic priorities for continuation, and possible updating and expansion: Community Collaboration; Programs/Services/Operations Review; Service Fee Review/Revision; and Insurance Contracts.

At 11:45 a.m. Chairman Loomis adjourned the meeting of the Board of Health.

Minutes recorded by Abbey Heidebrecht

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**Ron Loomis, Chairman**

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**Duane J. Patrick, Vice Chairman**

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**Linus Linaweaver, Commissioner**

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**Abbey A. Heidebrecht, Secretary**