



**Public Health**  
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**Grand Forks Public Health**

**GRAND FORKS BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**Thursday, April 11, 2019 @ 4:15 p.m.**  
**Grand Forks Health Department, Conference Room 2**  
**151 South 4th Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor**

**AGENDA**

Board Members: Dr. Sally Pyle (Chair), Ms. Cynthia Pic, Dr. Grant Korsmo,  
Dr. Joel Walz, Ms. Jeannie Mock

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes of Meeting held January 10, 2019
- III. Old Business:
  - A. Joint Powers Agreement Between Grand Forks City and Grand Forks County Finalized and Signed – Debbie Swanson
  - B. Public Health Accreditation Update – Theresa Knox
  - C. Quality Improvement Update on Current Projects – Kate Goldade
  - D. 2019 Legislative Session Update on Public Health Priorities – Debbie Swanson
  - E. [NALBOH Annual Conference](#) – August 14-16, Denver, CO Presentation on Board of Health Resolutions – Haley Thorson and Sally Pyle
  - F. Other Old Business
- IV. New Business:
  - A. 2019 Community Health Assessment – Debbie Swanson
  - B. National Public Health Week Activity Report – Sarah Odegard
  - C. Brief Overview of Grand Forks County Health Rankings – Debbie Swanson
  - D. Citizen Request on Health Care Resolution – Brian Schill
  - E. Election of Officers and Appointments to Terms
  - F. Other New Business
- V. Director's Report
- VI. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: July 11, 2019, 4:15 p.m.
- VII. Adjournment

Attachments: Issue Statements, Director's Report, Branch Activities Reports

Any individual requiring special accommodations to allow access or participation at a City meeting is asked to notify the ADA Coordinator at (701) 746-2665 of his/her needs.

**BOARD OF HEALTH ISSUE STATEMENTS**  
**April 2019**

Topic: 2019 Community Health Assessment

Contact: Debbie Swanson, 701-787-8101, [dswanson@grandforksgov.com](mailto:dswanson@grandforksgov.com)

Background: The Grand Forks Public Health partnered with Altru Health System in 2016 to produce a community health assessment for Grand Forks and Polk County. Altru is required to complete an assessment every three years with involvement of public health agencies, and Public Health Accreditation requires a completed one every five years. We will collaborate with Altru in 2019 to provide leadership on the process of completing a new community health assessment. The first meeting of the advisory was held on March 21, 2019. Board of Health members Jeannie Mock and Cynthia Pic are members of the advisory committee along with several Grand Forks Public Health Department staff members.

Action: For information only.

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Topic: Report on National Public Health Week Activities

Contact: Sarah Odegard, 701-787-8140, [sodegard@grandforksgov.com](mailto:sodegard@grandforksgov.com)

Background: During the first full week of April each year, APHA along with communities across the United States come together to observe National Public Health Week. Each year, APHA develops a national campaign to educate the public, policymakers, and practitioners about issues related to each year's theme. This year's theme is: "Creating the Healthiest Nation: For Science. For Action. For Health." Grand Forks Public Health celebrated the contributions of public health from April 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> by highlighting issues that are important to our nation and community. Please see provided handout for the list of the week's events.

Action: For information only.

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Topic: Health Care Resolution

Contact: Sally Pyle, Debbie Swanson

Background: Brian Schill contacted the Health Department about a draft resolution to present to the City Council of Grand Forks, ND, urging the North Dakota Legislative Assembly and the state's Congressional Delegation to support legislation that will provide equitable, comprehensive, affordable, high quality, publicly funded health care coverage for all residents of North Dakota. Brian requested time to present this idea to the Grand Forks Board of Health on strategies for advancing this resolution. This concept is part of a larger grassroots advocacy effort by [Health Care – Now!](#)

Action: At discretion of the members of the Board of Health.

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF GRAND FORKS, NORTH DAKOTA, URGING THE NORTH DAKOTA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND/OR THE STATE'S WASHINGTON DELEGATION TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT WILL PROVIDE EQUITABLE, COMPREHENSIVE, AFFORDABLE, HIGH QUALITY, PUBLICLY FUNDED HEALTH CARE COVERAGE FOR ALL LONG-TERM RESIDENTS OF NORTH DAKOTA.**

WHEREAS, our Founders' vision of the right to "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness" is hampered for individuals who cannot access quality health care to prevent and treat disease or injury; and

WHEREAS, individuals and families are negatively affected when their health concerns impact their ability to work, endangering their economic stability and increasing their risk for bankruptcy or homelessness; and

WHEREAS, medical debt remains among the top reasons that Americans declare bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS, the rising cost of health insurance is pricing many individuals and families out of the market; and

WHEREAS, the percentage of Americans getting their health insurance through their employer is declining; and

WHEREAS, the United States is the only industrialized, free-market democracy on earth that does not offer any form of universal health care coverage for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, universal health care coverage can be achieved while preserving an individual's right to choose his or her health care provider and exercise control over health care decisions; and

WHEREAS, multiple reports have confirmed that universal health programs are achievable and not only improve population health generally but reduce health costs for citizens, businesses, and governments by reducing multiple insurance and billing structures and administrative expenses and increasing governing agencies' power to negotiate with suppliers; and

WHEREAS a majority of Americans support some type of national, single-payer health insurance program; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Dakota has already established goals meant to achieve improved health care at lower cost for its citizens, evidenced by its expansion of Medicaid in 2013 and the passage of bills such as HB 1028 (re: North Dakota's self-insurance plan for health benefits coverage) in 2019; and

WHEREAS, nearly 10 percent of North Dakotans still lack health insurance; and

WHEREAS, helping North Dakota businesses, farmers, and entrepreneurs reduce health care expenditures will free them to invest in themselves, raise wages, expand operations, and recruit and retain workers; and

WHEREAS, honorary North Dakotan and Republican President Teddy Roosevelt was among the first American politicians to advocate for a national health care program over a century ago; and

WHEREAS, the state of North Dakota has the unique opportunity to: 1) be the first state to pass legislation ensuring that all legal residents are protected through universal health coverage; and 2) finance such a program through the North Dakota Legacy Fund.

Therefore, be it Resolved that the City Council of the City of Grand Forks urges the North Dakota Legislative Assembly and/or North Dakota's Washington delegation to support and help develop legislation that will provide equitable, comprehensive, affordable, high quality, publicly funded health care coverage to all legal and long-term residents of North Dakota, in a manner that is transparent, accountable, and involves meaningful public participation.

Introduced and adopted by the City Council on **DATE**. This resolution is effective immediately...



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## Director's Report January – March 2019

- Two staff members have achieved milestones in the employment with the City of Grand Forks this quarter: Marcus Lee – 5 years in public health emergency preparedness and Eric Nelson – 15 years in the mosquito control program.
- Theresa Knox and I attended an orientation at the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) offices in Alexandria, VA, February 12 - 13. We were able to learn more about the process and had an opportunity to meet our assigned accreditation specialist and public health colleagues from across the U.S. who are also seeking public health accreditation.
- I attended Public Health Day at the Legislature on February 6 and Grand Forks Day at the Capitol February 28 – March 1. Both visits to Bismarck provided opportunities to visit with Grand Forks area legislators and state agency leaders to discuss our public health priorities. Governor Burgum was complimentary of our behavioral health initiatives and the partnerships that have led to progress in the community.
- The Grand Forks Withdrawal Management (Social Detox) Center achieved licensure from the ND Department of Human Services to provide American Society of Addiction Medicine ([ASAM](#)) Level 1 care such as outpatient assessments and evaluations. This will allow the Center to bill Medicaid for services.
- The Grand Forks Public Health Department was inducted in the Immunization Action Coalition's Honor Roll for organizations that have a mandatory flu vaccination policy. A news release was sent to local media announcing this achievement.
- I attended the Altru Leadership Development Institute on March 20 to learn about their efforts to improve quality and safety in the health system. The focus on quality improvement translates well to our public health accreditation process and there were ample opportunities to network with leaders at Altru.
- The Community Health Assessment process, a collaboration between Altru and Grand Forks Public Health Department, has been initiated for 2019 and will continue throughout 2019. Twenty eight participants attended the first meeting on March 21. The UND MPH program will assist with research for the assessment, conducting secondary data analysis, focus groups and a survey.
- Ashlee Nelson joined our department as a Public Health Intern working in the opioid response program and also providing technical assistance on the creation of a workforce development survey.
- Public Health Intern Abbie Bachman presented her posters on Substance Use in Grand Forks County and Systems Dynamic Model in Opioid Use Disorder at the ND State Capitol on March 25.

## **Board of Health Branch Activities Highlights**

### **January, February, and March 2019**

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE**

- Alyssa Barclay was reassigned to the Public Health Administrative Coordinator Position.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH**

- Shannon Ng attended the Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualty Incidents course at the Center for Domestic Preparedness in February.
- Marcus Lee and Shannon Ng attended the NACCHO Preparedness Summit in St. Louis in March.
- Javin Bedard & Ana Ebbert attended the House Agriculture Committee on SB 2269 regarding cottage foods on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. Javin provided testimony in favor of the bill.
- The Environmental Health Section is in the progress of hiring a summer intern to assist in responding to grass nuisance complaints.
- Javin Bedard presented information about radon to employees of Northern Plains Rail Services in Fordville, and First Care Health Center in Park River in conjunction with Walsh County Public Health.
- Established MOU's for septic work with Pembina and Walsh Counties. Walsh County updated their septic code to the model code this spring.
- Richard Klockmann finished the certified training standards recommended by the FDA for food inspections. All EHS staff doing food inspections have now finished this training and initial standardization.

#### **MOSQUITO CONTROL**

- Completed evaluation of the 2018 program, reviewed equipment needs, and addressed issues that affect the daily operations of mosquito control.

#### **NURSING & NUTRITION**

- Haley Bruhn moved from the Health Services Team Leader Position to the Disease Prevention Team Leader role when Carrie Kaltenberg retired after 17 years of working for the Health Dept. Kate Goldade was promoted in January to the open Health Services Team Leader role in January.
- Terri Keehr retired from her role at the TB Program Manager in January, after working for the Health Department for 26 years and Ashley Krone now fulfills that role.
- Theresa Knox attended the Public Health Accreditation Board Training in Alexandria, Va., February 12-13, 2019.
- Betty Otteson worked closely with the Grand Forks School District to pass Administrative Guidelines for breastfeeding employees and students in February.
- Chantel Vasquez began working as a Public Health Nurse on the Health Services Team performing Office Nurse Duties and Adult Home Visits, on March 25.
- Mary Barrett conducted Certified Medication Technician 1 and 2 Training for 12 Correctional Center Officers at the Grand Forks Correctional Center in February.
- Haley Bruhn, Immunization Program Manager, met with the state visitor to complete the Vaccine for Children (VFC) site visit in February. The site visit went well.

## **WITHDRAWAL MANAGEMENT CENTER & OPIOID RESPONSE**

- The Grand Forks Withdrawal Management (Social Detox) Center was licensed to provide ASAM Level 1 services including screenings and assessments.
- Agassiz Associates began offering addiction counseling services at no cost to inmates eligible for the North Dakota SUD Voucher at the Grand Forks County Correctional Center.
- Ashlee Nelson was hired as an Opioid Response Intern through the City's Internship program. She is a first year MPH student at UND.
- The F5 Project opened their first house in Grand Forks, to provide housing and support for males leaving the criminal justice system. The Opioid STR grant provided seed funding for their expansion to Grand Forks.
- Face It TOGETHER has established a new office in Grand Forks in the River's Edge Building. They promoted Kal Datz, a volunteer recovery coach to a part time care coordinator through the Free Through Recovery program. Face It TOGETHER's expansion to Grand Forks has been made possible through the Opioid STR grant.
- Opioid overdoses, as reported by Altru, decreased by 43% in 2018 compared to 2017.