

STATE HEALTH COUNCIL

March 1, 2022

A meeting of the State Health Council was called to order by State Health Officer, Dr. Nizar Wehbi at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 via videoconference. Since seven of the nine Health Council members are new, the meeting began with introductions.

Members present:

Sherry Adams, Dickinson
Darrold Bertsch, Beulah
Daniel Churchill, Bismarck
Kevin Dauphinais, Fort Totten
Mary Gumke, Watford City
Dr. Missy Henke, Bismarck
Dr. Carrie Ann Ranum, Hettinger
Dr. Mark Strand, Fargo

Members absent:

Kristin Roers, Fargo

Staff members present:

Dr. Nizar Wehbi, State Health Officer
Allyson Hicks, Attorney General's Office, General Counsel
Dirk Wilke, Chief of Staff
Darin Meschke, Vital Records
Jason Wahl, Medical Marijuana
Kirby Kruger, Disease Control & Forensic Pathology Section
Tim Wiedrich, Health Resources and Response
Kim Mertz, Healthy & Safe Communities
Kalee Werner, Primary Care Office
Nicole Brunelle, Research and Response
Beth Carlson, Department of Agriculture
Kelly Nagel, Systems and Performance
Clint Fleckenstein, Emergency Preparedness Multi Media Specialist
Dr. Christie Massen, Laboratory Services
Miranda Oothoudt, Recording Secretary

Election of Officers

In order to function as a body, the positions of Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary needed to be filled. An overview of each role was given by Allyson Hicks. Sherry Adams offered to serve in the position of Chairman or Vice Chair. Darrold Bertsch also offered to serve in any capacity. Dr. Strand seconded, Sherry's nomination as Chairperson. Darrold Bertsch motioned to cease nominations and cast a

unanimous ballot for Sherry Adams as Chairperson. Dr. Ranum seconded that motion. The MOTION CARRIED.

Sherry Adams nominated Darrold Bertsch for the position of Vice Chair. There were no other nominations and Mark Strand motioned to cease nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for Darrold Bertsch as Vice Chairperson. Dan Churchhill seconded the motion. The MOTION CARRIED.

Darrold Bertsch nominated Dr. Strand for the position of Secretary and Sherry Adams seconded the motion. There were no other nominations. Dr. Wehbi entertained a motion to cease motions and cast a unanimous ballot for Dr. Strand for the position of Secretary. Sherry Adams made the motion and Darrold Bertsch seconded it. The MOTION CARRIED.

As Chairperson of the Council, Sherry Adams then conducted the procedure and agenda of the meeting.

Minutes

Darrold Bertsch moved the approval of the May 12, 2021 minutes as distributed. Second by Dr. Strand and the MOTION CARRIED with no dissention.

Role of the State Health Council/Orientation

Allyson Hicks outlined the roles and responsibilities of the State Health Council including the structure; powers and duties; and voting issues. For future reference, the Council received Allyson's PowerPoint presentation via email as well as direction to NDCC 23-01-03, which outlines the powers and duties of the State Health Council.

Administrative Rules

Jason Wahl from the Division of Medical Marijuana outlined the administrative changes proposed which relate to flexibility in the processing of products, further defining what a minor is, signage in dispensaries, clarification of how to dispose of medical marijuana waste, where to report violations, expiration dating of cannabinoid products, labeling of products, and further defining THC. Kevin Dauphinais motioned to accept the administrative changes as presented. Daniel Churchhill seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the MOTION CARRIED with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

Darin Meschke from Vital Records presented the proposed administrative changes that relate to the duties of the State Registrar, the definition of a home birth, and the fees for birth and death records. Dr. Henke motioned to accept the administrative changes as they were presented. Dr. Strand seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the MOTION CARRIED with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

State Loan Repayment Program Updates

Deputy State Veterinarian, Dr. Beth Carlson presented four applications for the Veterinary Loan Repayment Program. Three awards were available. Dr. Strand entertained a motion to approve the top three scoring applications of McCauley Vailes, Dalton Hanson, and Matt O'Neil. Kevin Dauphinais seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the MOTION CARRIED with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

Kalee Werner, Primary Care Office Manager, presented three healthcare professionals who had previously been awarded loan repayment and were requesting transfers. Of those three, one was determined to be ineligible for the program and no longer able to continue. Darrold Bertsch made a motion to approve the

transfers of the remaining two; Dr. Rachel Marohl and Dr. Jennifer Goldade, pending the receipt of letters of community support. Second by Dr. Henke. The Chair requested a roll call vote and the MOTION CARRIED with 8 yeas and 0 nays.

State Health Officer Update

Dr. Wehbi provided an update on the work that the Department of Health has been doing, a status update of the transition to becoming the Department of Health and Human Services and an explanation of the Department's organizational redesign. He said that the focus of the Department over the past couple of years has been pandemic response, where the employees have served by coordinating efforts for education, testing, and distribution of therapeutics and vaccines. This meant administering over three million COVID-19 tests and almost 100,000 COVID-19 vaccinations. He also said that the Department's statewide cancer registry was recognized by the CDC as a "Registry of Excellence." As of September 1, 2022, the North Dakota Department of Health and the North Dakota Department of Human Services will merge to become the North Dakota Department of Health and Human Services. The goals of this integration are to deliver one streamlined path to quality and equitable programs and services; to continue to improve quality, effective and efficient health and human services; and to create career growth and development opportunities for team members and a build a new one-team culture. The hope is that combined, the two departments will leverage strengths, add more value and embrace innovation.

The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

Submitted,

Dr. Mark Strand, Secretary