

# STATE HEALTH COUNCIL

May 24, 2022

A meeting of the State Health Council was called to order by State Health Council Chair, Sherry Adams at 9:45 a.m. on Tuesday, May 24, 2022 via videoconference with five of the nine members present.

Members present:

Sherry Adams, Dickinson  
Mary Gumke, Watford City  
Dr. Missy Henke, Bismarck  
Dr. Carrie Ann Ranum, Hettinger  
Dr. Mark Strand, Fargo

Members absent:

Kristin Roers, Fargo  
Darrold Bertsch, Beulah  
Daniel Churchill, Bismarck  
Kevin Dauphinais, Fort Totten

Staff members present:

Dr. Nizar Wehbi, State Health Officer  
Allyson Hicks, Attorney General's Office, General Counsel  
Jason Wahl, Medical Marijuana  
Kalee Werner, Primary Care Office  
Lawrence Hopkins, Fiscal  
Dr. Tracy Miller, State Epidemiologist  
Kelly Nagel, Systems and Performance  
Clint Fleckenstein, Emergency Preparedness Multi-Media Specialist  
Miranda Oothoudt, Recording Secretary

## Minutes

Dr. Mark Strand moved the approval of the March 12, 2022 minutes as distributed. Second by Dr. Carrie Ann Ranum and the MOTION CARRIED with no dissention.

### State Loan Repayment Program Updates

Kalee Werner, Primary Care Office Manager, updated the council on the State Loan Repayment program. She stated that there had been a total of 103 applications. Beginning with physicians, three awards were available. The applicants were scored and the top three recommended to the Council were Dr. Emily Stromquist, Dr. Shelby Dvorak and Dr. Samantha Kiedrowski. Dr. Carrie Ann Ranum moved to accept the recommended applicants for approval and Dr. Mark Strand seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED with a vote of 5 yeas and 0 nays.

Kalee Werner then presented three complete applications for the Dental Loan Repayment Program. Three awards were available. Mary Gumke entertained a motion to approve the top three scoring applications of Dr. Luke Weston, Dr. Paige Fisketjon, and Dr. Maria Meyer. Dr. Missy Henke seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the MOTION CARRIED with 5 yeas and 0 nays.

Twelve advanced practice providers applied for loan repayment and three awards were available. The applicants were scored and the top three recommended to the Council were Hannah Bailey, DNP; Kelly Glick, PA; and Brittany Bollinger, DNP. Dr. Missy Henke moved to accept the recommended applicants for approval and Dr. Carrie Ann Ranum seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED with 5 yeas and 0 nays.

Kalee Werner then presented four complete psychologist applications. Two awards were available. Dr. Mark Strand entertained a motion to approve the two recommended applications of Dr. Alyssa Weber and Dr. Alyssa Parisien, which were given the highest scores by the scoring committee. Dr. Missy Henke seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the MOTION CARRIED with 5 yeas and 0 nays.

The last category presented was behavioral health. Six slots were available, but with defaults from the past year, there was enough resources to fund 13 applicants. Mary Gumke entertained a motion to approve the top 13 scoring applications of Katie Shannon, Jennie Cornell, Peggy Burckhard, Lilisa Reese, Naomi Koch, Dawn Slag, Justin Kolden, Holly Johnson, Kristy Kiland, Nicole Myers, Morgan Turner, Jessica Bodine, Andrea Kornelis, Heather Kippen, Vanessa Diebert and Kara Gloe. Dr. Mark Strand seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the MOTION CARRIED with 5 yeas and 0 nays.

There were a number of requests for site transfers including two physicians and dentists and six behavioral health practitioners. Dr. Missy Henke made a motion to accept all of the transfers. This included transfers of Dr. Rachel Marohl, Dr. Leah Thompson, Dr. Kali Anderson, Dr. Sara Kleven, Randi Berglund, Megan Colbenson, Sarah Kelner, Chantelle Kuntz, Kelsey LaBere, and Kori Stockie. Mary Gumke seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the MOTION CARRIED with 5 yeas and 0 nays.

Nine loan repayment defaults were also presented. Dr. Mark Strand moved to accept the defaults of Ashley Brown, Rebecca Kuss, Whitney Champa, Cassandra Hovet, Christi Miller, Jamie Johnson, Delia Tucker, Sarah Mertz, and Alexa Carlson. Dr. Carrie Ann Ranum seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the MOTION CARRIED with 5 yeas and 0 nays.

The council discussed the fact there seems to be a record number of defaults and why this could be occurring. It was decided that this would be a good topic to add to the next agenda as well as adding another loan repayment category.

### **Administrative Rules**

Jason Wahl from the Division of Medical Marijuana outlined the administrative changes proposed, which relate to program fees. Dr. Mark Strand motioned to accept the administrative changes as presented. Dr. Missy Henke seconded the motion. By a roll call vote, the MOTION CARRIED with 5 yeas and 0 nays.

### **State Health Officer Update**

Dr. Wehbi provided an update on the work that the Department of Health has been doing including transitioning from a pandemic to an endemic stage, meaning that the Department of Health is winding down some of the operations related to COVID, most notably in the testing and the intensity of testing.

Testing will not be stopped, but will be slowed so that if there is a surge in cases, the Department still has testing available and will be able to maintain capability.

In the day-to-day operations, the Department has been responding to the baby formula shortage by providing help for mothers to ensure that they have access to formula. We are also dealing with the recall of potentially contaminated peanut butter and working to make sure that citizens are aware of the existence of many jars included in the recall that were sold by ND retailers. The Department of Health leadership team is also keeping a close eye on the monkey pox situation, as it spreads in the US and team members regularly have calls with the CDC to ensure that the Department has the most up-to-date information and can respond accordingly.

The last item that Dr. Wehbi discussed was the merger between the North Dakota Department of Health and the North Dakota Department of Human Services, which will be official on September 1, 2022. Many meetings have been occurring so that when the date of the merger comes, the items of highest importance have been addressed. The goal of the merger is make sure that citizens have an easier path to navigate Department of Health and Human Services programs; to increase and enhance the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of services; and the thirdly to ensure that Department team members have more opportunities to grow and develop their leadership skills and are able to advance their careers.

Mary Gumke made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Dr. Mark Strand. A vote was taken and there was no opposition.

The meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

Submitted,

Dr. Mark Strand, Secretary

A recording of the meeting can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/L1ANwPDiBwA>