

## Item 23-0815: Changes to the Table of Organization for Health and Community and Economic Development

### Board of Health

Wed, Jul 12, 2023, 7:00PM

#### **Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 01:38**

All right. There are no public hearings. We're going on to action item 23-0815 changes to the table of organization for Health and Community and Economic Development. I'll make a motion to put this on the table. Do I have a second?

#### **Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 01:55**

Second

#### **Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 01:56**

Second by Vered Meltzer. Is there...?

#### **Aldersperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 02:00**

By Alder Jones.

#### **Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 02:01**

Okay, we'll do it. Alder Jones. Thank you. That's all right. I'm--it's the first person I heard. So.

#### **Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 02:12**

All right. So Dr. Sepers, would you like to lead us in this discussion?

#### **Health Officer Charles Sepers 02:28**

Sorry, District [...]

#### **Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 02:29**

Thank you. Sorry. I got it right--oh, there. Oh, okay. Gotcha. Thank you Mayor.

#### **Health Officer Charles Sepers 02:41**

So, the function of community health is one that is vital to local governmental public health. It includes the collection of data as it relates to public health issues, our population health understanding, and it ensures the, you know, the community health assessment, the community health improvement planning processes. Those are some primary functions.

#### **Health Officer Charles Sepers 03:12**

It also includes any activity related to health promotion. So those things that are not taken up by communicable disease prevention, you know, foodborne illness, those kinds of things. And that is one of the things that we've noted within the Appleton health department that if we do not have formal infrastructure surrounding. So, we do perform a community health function as it is outlined as needed by the DHS 140 statute, but we don't have a formalized structure to ensure that that it takes place. What we do do is we call on staff that have full time jobs to pull in bits and bobs if you will, of opportunity to sort of meet those needs.

**Health Officer Charles Sepers 04:14**

That being said, we have not conducted a community health assessment since 2015. The process for doing that was part of a larger effort. It was known as the Fox Valley CHIC, the Fox Valley Community Health Improvement Coalition, which consisted of the five health jurisdictions within the Tri County area and our four local hospitals. That being said, the data collection was pretty minimal. It was one of a behavioral risk survey methodology. We look back to that 2015 survey. 147 people owning landlines were the ones that were surveyed for understanding the needs of the Appleton community. Probably not sufficient in in modern day. So, we start to see the sort of gaps in the in the data collection, could it? Could it be a more representative framework to collect those community health concerns of a broader set of constituents? Right. So those are, those are the sorts of gaps that we see in that in that data collection.

**Health Officer Charles Sepers 05:37**

Not having the infrastructure around the data collection was something that was identified in a recent DHS 140 audit. So having data to be able to inform and to articulate the health inequities within the city of Appleton is something that we're not able to do, because we don't have that data collection mechanism. So that that's a major function of the Community Health Unit. Another sort of major function is, as it relates to the DHS 140, is the way that we address the specific community health concerns that that we see, not only those that make it into the community health improvement planning process. But there are federal monies that that do arise that allow for the alignment of the State Health Improvement Plan, the National Health Improvement framework, which is the Healthy People 2030 framework. By statute, DHS, the DHS 140 statute, does require the alignment between local health departments and state health departments in these efforts. These federal monies allow for that alignment to actually occur.

**Health Officer Charles Sepers 07:00**

This year, we there were several, I would characterize them as health promotion grants that we were not able to go for because we do not have the staff to pursue those federal monies. So that's about--just in the opportunities that that we were deeply considering is about \$300 to \$400,000 that we were not able to pursue because of the lack of infrastructure around pursuing those federal funds. That's one side of this change.

**Health Officer Charles Sepers 07:33**

The other side of this change is moving the coordinated entry position from a community and an economic development framing to a social determinants frame. We all know that those factors that we determine as social determinants--safe housing, economic stability, those sorts of things, by the by the data are more important than individual health behaviors. If you live in a safe home that will provide a greater likelihood of positive health outcomes than other factors. Right? So, moving the Coordinated Entry specialist position from community and economic development into a community health unit is the other side of what these TO these TO changes are.

**Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 08:33**

Okay, thank you. Are there any questions? Emma, do you have any questions? Can't see it.

**[It sounded like something may have been said off microphone.]**

**Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 08:48**

Oh, thank you. Emma, do you have any questions?

**Emma Kane (Board Member) 08:52**

I'm all good right now. Thank you.

**Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 08:54**

Okay. Just wanted to make sure you felt like you're part of the group here. Thank you.

**Emma Kane (Board Member) 09:00**

I appreciate that. Thank you.

**Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 09:02**

And we appreciate your time. Okay, anyone else any questions? Comments? Alderperson Meltzer. Okay, you told me that too. Got it.

**Alderperson Vered Meltzer (District 2) 09:20**

Yeah, I just want to comment that I think this is a really wonderful synergy. I was really, you know, excited to see that coordinated entry position as it evolved, but I always felt that it was it just it didn't make sense to me where it was, and with kind of the new directors that we have and stuff like that I'm just I'm really excited for the synergies that this brings and how much more effective it's gonna make it for us to be--for the city to be able to get their work done.

**Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 09:54**

Thank you. Anyone else? I just like to say congratulations on developing this. Getting to a proactive type positioning within health and bringing all of our partners along with that is huge for this area because medicine and health have always been reactive reactionary instead of proactive. So, I feel like this is going to give us a good handle on where do we need to ask for money and where do we need to put the resources of the whole community and to improve the health of our community? So, congratulations, and thank you. And what's your number? Mayor. Okay, it is Thank you, Mayor Woodford.

**Mayor Jake Woodford 10:38**

Thank you. I'd just like to take the opportunity to recognize our staff, and as Alder Meltzer, pointed out our director team, that's really working together across departments to think about what makes sense for the community and the people that we serve. And this is just another example among other recent examples of departments sharing resources or even moving FTE across departments because it makes sense for the people we serve, not in the interests of one particular department or another but because of the work that we do as a city and the mission that we have as a city to serve people. And so, I'm deeply appreciative of the hard work that our leadership team has put into this. Dr. Sepers, Chief Olson, and Director Homan, among others who have been a part of making this happen. Also, our colleagues in the Human Resources Department for helping navigate, you know, how do we how do we make these moves happen? How do we make this work? But again, it comes down to putting the resources where they make sense for the people we serve. And so, I'm really pleased to see this coming through, and I'm proud to support it. Thank you.

**Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 11:54**

Okay, so are we ready? Oh, Alderperson Jones, you're number two, correct?

**Alderperson Vaya Jones (District 10) 12:05**

I echo everything that's already been said. However, this is what I do for a living. I remove barriers to healthcare like housing, transportation, food insecurity. So, to see the work that's being done to integrate it into the appropriate department to be more efficient and more effective is very exciting from my other professional hat. I do work for the healthcare system that has partnered to do these community assessments and to see the city

of Appleton being a part of it. And really serving our communities makes me excited from both as an alderperson and as a professional. So, thank you.

**Cathy Spears (Board Chair)** 12:41

Thank you very much. Are we ready to vote? All in favor say aye. Opposed? Let the record show that was a unanimous vote.