

**Item 24-0722: Policy Review: N204 Tuberculosis Screening**

**Item 24-0412: Table of Organization Changes**

Board of Health

Wed, Jun 12, 2024 7:00AM

**Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 06:18**

All right. 24-0722 Policy Review N204 tuberculosis screening. Can I have [...] floor?

**Deborah Werth (Board of Health) 06:33**

So move.

**Aldersperson Vaya Jones (District 10) 06:33**

Second.

**Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 06:34**

Okay. Discussion. Dr. Sepers.

**Health Officer Charles Sepers 06:37**

And I'm gonna go ahead and have Deputy Director Jensen walk us through this policy.

**Deputy Director Sonja Jensen (Health Department) 06:45**

Okay. Thank you. So, this is actually a revision of a policy that we've had for a number of years. You can see the creation date is 10 of 2003. We have—as you know, we've been making some changes and revisions to all of our policies to make them PHAB compliant and bring them up to those standards.

**Deputy Director Sonja Jensen (Health Department) 07:09**

Some things to notice on here. Let me see here. So, this policy is about the actual TB screening. And so, for us, that's mainly TB skin testing, because that's what we have the capacity to do, but it also includes us being able to refer people as appropriate to other providers for blood testing, as well.

**Deputy Director Sonja Jensen (Health Department) 07:35**

So, the purpose is to eliminate the spread of active TB disease by early identification and testing. So, this is something that we offer. So, any residents that have an identified exposure to TB, this would be offered free of charge through us, but we also have instituted—this year, we're doing a one-year pilot project of TB skin testing fee for service. This was identified as a need by the nurses for people calling in looking for somewhere to go to get a TB screening and TB skin test. And so, we've been doing this. We started, I think it was actually the last week of December, and it's been successful so far. And we're doing it through the end of the year. So, this policy also addresses that. Because it's a fee for service. We don't have the residency requirements for that portion of it, but we do for the contacts.

**Deputy Director Sonja Jensen (Health Department) 08:32**

Some of the attachments that we include—we have to have a medical authorization for TB skin test administration. That has to be signed by Dr. Vogel and also by Dr. Sepers. The unsigned attachment is the one that's on there just for your purview. But we keep a signed one that we renew every year.

**Deputy Director Sonja Jensen (Health Department) 08:49**

We have clinical recommendations for the testing and treatment of latent TB infection in the United States. And then we also have the clinical practice guidelines because a decision to like screen would also be a decision like to—like if there's a positive, we have to have the steps in there for the referral to a provider to follow up for. you know, subsequent follow up in education. So, it's not just the TB skin testing itself, but it's all the education surrounding it and the other screening and the information and referral.

**Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 09:29**

Okay, are there any questions?

**Mayor Jake Woodford 09:35**

Chair, I'd just like to say I appreciate the ongoing efforts of our health department leaders in looking for ways to meet needs in the community and also—so identifying gaps in services—and also identifying ways to sustain the programs of the health department through opportunities like fees for service that that serve not only Appleton residents but those in surrounding communities. So, I just want to applaud the Dr. Sepers and Deputy Director Jensen and their team for identifying another opportunity to provide a service and also sustain the work of the Health Department.

**Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 10:18**

All in favor say aye. Aye. Opposed? Passes.

**Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 10:25**

24-04112 table organizational. Dr. Sepers.

**Health Officer Charles Sepers 10:31**

I'll go ahead and introduce this one, but Deputy Director Jensen may have some, some adds to this. But the increase in the nursing TO from a 4.0 to a 4.1 would be a budget neutral proposed move that would increase our capacity to provide our PNCC or our prenatal care coordination program, and as well as position us to take on the increasing LT—the LTBI numbers that that we're seeing.

**Health Officer Charles Sepers 11:16**

Within the next four to five months, we are expecting to see between 400 and 500 newcomers within the Fox Cities region. So, as we, as we know, newcomers from endemic areas of TB typically require LTBI follow up. So, this move would not only take care of the growing needs that we have in the LTBI space but also that prenatal care coordination, and position us to better ensure that we're able to meet the needs that we're expecting within the next four to five months and ongoing. That's what I would say about. Anything to add.

**Deputy Director Sonja Jensen (Health Department) 12:09**

I don't think I have anything else to add. I think the memo addresses everything thoroughly. Yeah, we, like Dr. Sepers said, we have seen a marked increase, not just us, but some of the other local health departments in latent TB infection. And also, we've had an increase in referrals for prenatal care coordination, that program, which is great, because it's a wonderful program, and we're really glad that people are being referred, but we really need to increase our capacity so that we can serve everybody in these areas.

**Cathy Spears (Board Chair) 12:37**

[...] number of refugees coming in, are we [...] is the number of employees really going to be able to address all [...] and is it something that you're thinking of [...] eventually for the budget?

**Health Officer Charles Sepers** 12:59

Well. So, so I don't want to get too far out in front of our skis on this, but one of the mitigating factors that comes to treating LTBI is the shortage in in the pharmacological agents that that we use, right? So, if we were able to have all of the treatment options, you know, open to us, if we had logistic change—logistics chains in place—the level of drugs manufacturer that that would meet this need perfectly, I we absolutely would. That being said, that's a that's a mitigating factor in this case.

**Cathy Spears (Board Chair)** 13:47

Okay. Just want to make sure.

**Health Officer Charles Sepers** 13:50

Great question.

**Cathy Spears (Board Chair)** 13:51

All right. Any other comments?