



City of Columbia, Missouri

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Board of Health



Thursday, October 12, 2023
5:30 PM

Regular

Department of Public
Health and Human
Services Health
Training Room 1, 1005
W. Worley St

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: 6 - Harry Feirman, Elizabeth Hussey, Mahree Skala, Kathleen McKinney, R. Wade Schuette and Sonita Simelus

Excused: 3 - Michael Szewczyk, Rosann Geiser and Jacqueline Fernald

Absent: 1 - Jonathan Heidt

a. Skala called the meeting to order at 5:38 pm.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

a. Hussey moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Feirman. Motion passed unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Feirman moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Hussey, Motion passed unanimously.

Attachments: [BOH Draft Minutes 8-10-23](#)

IV. OLD BUSINESS

a. None

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. Director, Crisis Services, Central Region Carisa Kessler (Burrell Behavioral Health)

Carisa Kessler introduced herself to the Board and provided information about the 988 crisis hotline. Each state has their own certified 988 answering service. The crisis hotline helps with a litany of issues not just people who are suicidal. There are many options that callers can choose such as responders from the Veterans Administration, LGBTQ responders, and Spanish speaking representatives. The call is routed to the nearest call center based upon area code and prefix. Crisis Services is working on getting people directed to call centers based on geographic location. Kessler discussed the frequency of calls and which months have the highest number of calls. The most calls come in the spring, where people are more likely to commit suicide. Central Region Crisis Services will send a representative to someone's location, if it has been determined to be safe. 988 will discuss the specific crisis, dispatchers will try to keep them talking and try to get those callers from harming themselves or committing suicide. Texting is available and is often used by teenagers. 988 dispatchers are working to take calls that would have been handled by 911 based services, such as domestic disputes. A physical location has been added on Walnut Street. The first location works with anyone 18 and up to help with mental behaviors. Central Regional Crisis Services are working on opening a second location. Kessler answered questions about staffing and what training people would need to work at the Central Region Crisis Center. Kessler stated that they both need a range of qualifications from bachelor's degree and Master's degrees. Although, the Crisis Center is fully staffed when it comes to dispatchers. The 988 phone number is now listed on the back of Columbia Public Schools Student IDs. Kessler asked the Board and spread any information about the Crisis Center to their respective networks.

VI. REPORTS

a. Director's Report - Rebecca Roesslet

Assistant Director Roesslet gave a brief overview of the state of Columbia PHHS. PHHS is still waiting for the updated COVID boosters to arrive and a press release will be sent out when they are available. PHHS is still holding Flu and RSV vaccine clinics for schools and for the general public. PHHS will be holding comfort clinics for those with sensory issues and those who have an aversion to needles. PHHS will have a count of positive COVID and positive flu cases. Roesslet has said she personally knows quite a few people who have tested positive for COVID in recent weeks. PHHS will only count lab tested positive cases and not tests from at-home testing kits. RSV is not reportable and there is not a way to count RSV cases.

The mobile shower trailer did a trial run for unhoused individuals. The people who have used the trailer had very positive experiences. One of the showers is ADA accessible. The trailer will not be in use during the winter months and will re-open in the spring. The trailer will most likely remain at the Ashley Street location.

City employees are working on contracts for the ARPA funds for the. Planners are working on re-accreditation for the National Accreditation Board and the yearly community health assessment.

VII. GENERAL COMMENTS BY PUBLIC, MEMBERS AND STAFF

The Board will not meet in December. After the January meeting, the Board of Health Meeting will be held bi-monthly. Members discussed potential issues and topics that they would like to work on in future meetings. Members stated that they would like to discuss poverty and pet vaccinations in Boone County.

VIII. NEXT MEETING DATE

January 11, 2024

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Members of the public may attend any open meeting. For requests for accommodations related to disability, please call 573-874-CITY (573-874-2489) or email CITY@CoMo.gov. In order to assist staff in making the appropriate arrangements for your accommodation, please make your request as far in advance of the posted meeting date as possible.

USB DRIVES PROHIBITED: Due to cybersecurity concerns, flash drives and other media devices are no longer permitted for delivering files or presentation materials. A speaker who desires to display a presentation must upload the presentation, in advance, to the city network using an upload portal. To upload your files and learn more, visit [CoMo.gov/upload](https://www.cocomo.gov/upload). (Effective Jan. 1, 2023)