

Polk County Advisory Board of Health Minutes

November 18, 2022

Members present: Reylon Meeks, Thomas Newton, Anne Bacon,

Members Absent: Simon Geletta, Jennifer Olson

Agenda Items	Summary
<u>Approval of Minutes</u>	October minutes approved
<u>Director Update</u> <i>By Helen Eddy</i>	- Introduction of Madisun VanGundy, Public Health Communications Officer - Working to add Polk County Behavior Health to agenda for 2023, hopefully May, June or July.
<u>Deputy Director Update</u> <i>By Mandy Penning</i>	Completed 2nd quarter budget
<u>WesleyLife</u> <i>By Porshia Taylor</i>	<u>Program Overview</u> - The Public Health program provide services such as nursing (medication setup, catheter changes and INR checks), homemaking (light housekeeping to include laundry, cleaning the kitchen, bathroom and bedroom) and personal care assistance (bathing). We also provide Public Health Case Management services that includes personalized care plan, scheduling assistance, referrals for other services when needed, annual or as needed in person visits for those without county service coordinators/care coordinators and more. Our main focus/goal with our clients is to prevent falls and evictions while maintaining the client's independence in their home as long as possible. <u>Qualifications</u> - The Public Health department at WesleyLife is the funder of last resort. We are grant funded. In order for clients to qualify they cannot be eligible to receive any other services that Medicaid or Medicare will pay for that duplicate what Public Health provides. The client has to have a physical and or mental health disability/diagnosis that prevents them from being able to provide their own cares. Live alone or with someone who also cannot perform the tasks based on their own physical or mental health diagnosis in Polk County and be over the age 18 years old. There is no time frame as to how long a client qualifies. Clients are recertified on a yearly basis. Clients qualify as long as they are independent and safe to remain in their home and do not qualify for other state funded programs. <u>Cost</u> - Services are provided on a sliding fee scale based on a client's monthly income. Aide visits start at \$2 an hour and go up to \$51.89 an hour. Funds received from Polk County Public Health pay the difference. Based on a client's monthly income they may be able to contribute \$2 an hour towards there care so the funds PCPH provides pay the remaining \$49.89 an hour. Nursing visits start at \$5 and go up to \$121.99 a visit. <u>Referral</u> - Referrals are received from other Wesleylife programs as well as Doctor offices and Senior housing coordinators. We also have individuals that call themselves directly into the office as they have heard from family and or friends sometimes even neighbors about our program. What need are we trying to address? Nursing and homecare aide assistance to individuals so they can live independent and safe in their home as long as possible. At any given time 15% of clients on services receive homecare aide assistance for personal cares, homemaking and nursing services. Currently we are facing a staffing and funding shortage. What is our plan? We are actively recruiting homecare aides. We are also looking into other funding sources such as grants and assistance from the WesleyLife's philanthropy team. What is the impact in the community? We are able to provide cares for our most vulnerable residents that live in Polk County. Current cense 139 clients. These residents due to the absence of a caregiver or due to incapacity/ limitations are not able to meet their own needs. Our services help prevent falls, hospitalizations, depression and many times even eviction and homelessness. In 2021, 93% of our client were able to maintain independence in their home without seeking higher level

	of care. Realizing that with the level of care that the clients served require, transition into a hospital or senior living care is inevitable, the goal is to limit this percentage as much as possible. We track this by keeping a lot of which clients are transferred to the hospital for falls and or to higher level of care facilities. We also keep track of client we are able to assist with food insecurities through our WesleyLife MOW program that receive homecare aide services and meals. Currently 21% of PH clients receive both services which allow them to maintain their independence in their own home. More than 70% of clients are over 60 years old. 53% of clients are low income and live below the poverty line and receive services free of charge. WesleyLife core values guide our program to provide quality care to marginalized people, especially older adults. This is a group that is easily forgotten when they find themselves out of sight, out of mind in essential needs programming. Our program works actively to increase awareness and reduce stigma, serving clients with compassion and with the goal of preserving independence and dignity. 4. Success/Challenges? Successes Clients allowing our team members to come back into their home and provide cares. Due to Covid we had a lot of clients canceling services as they were afraid of having people coming in and out of their home with the uncertainty in the beginning. PCPH also placed services on hold. Now with the vaccines being ready available and PCPH allowing us to resume all services our waitlist is growing with more individuals accepting and needing assistance. Challenges Staffing continues to be a struggle. We have applicants applying however they do not follow through with the phone screens or in-person interviews. Early this year WesleyLife did market adjustments to bring up wages to be able to compete with other organizations in the area however we are still seeing a shortage of qualified applicants and individuals willing to work during this time. 5. What's new or on the horizon? Work on Spring cleanup for clients. Helping hoarders declutter their homes. The services we provide for homemaking is basic housekeeping to help maintain the client's home environment however we do have some clients that are hoarders that need more of a deep clean. Our team is going to pick one client each Spring and go out and deep clean their home.
<u>Program Updates</u> <u>Disease Prevention</u> <i>By Mandy Penning</i>	• Ebola – Continue to monitor travelers, 2 have been placed as medium risk travelers. • Continue to attend the highly infectious disease meetings for updates.
<u>Committee Member</u> <u>Comments</u>	• None
<u>Public Comments</u>	• None
<u>Adjournment</u>	8:45 a.m.

Next Meeting December 16, 2022 at 8:30am

Others present:

Helen Eddy, PCHD

Mandy Penning, PCHD

Heather Flaherty, PCHD

Madisun VanGundy, PCHD

Andrea Petrovich, County Attorney

Heather Bombei, Iowa Department of Health & Human Services

Porshia Taylor, WesleyLife