



Jefferson County Health Department

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JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 21, 2021

Zoom Meeting or Room 205 at Jefferson County Courthouse

Board Members

Kirk Lund, Chair; Dick Schultz, Vice-Chair; Maria Dabel, Secretary; Samantha LaMuro, R.T.; Don Williams, M.D.

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Lund at 1:00 p.m.
2. **Roll Call (establish a quorum):**
Board of Health Members Present: Kirk Lund, Chair (via Zoom); Dick Schultz, Vice-Chair; Maria Dabel, Secretary; Samantha LaMuro (via Zoom); Dr. Donald Williams (via Zoom)
Others Present: Gail Scott Director; Elizabeth Chilsen, Public Health Program Manager (via Zoom); Sandee Schunk, Recorder; Samroz Jakvani, Epidemiologist; Tyler Kubicek, Environmental Health Specialist (via Zoom); Ben Wehmeier, County Administrator; Pam Streich, COVID Vaccine Clinic Volunteer Coordinator (via Zoom); Supervisor Anita Martin
3. **Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law:** Scott certified compliance with the Open Meetings Law.
4. **Approval of the Agenda:** No changes to the agenda requested.
5. **Approval of the Board of Health Minutes for October 21, 2020 Meeting:** *Motion by Williams/Dabel to approve the Board of Health minutes from October 21, 2020 as printed.* Motion passed 5-0.
6. **Communications:** None
7. **Public Comment:** Anita Martin spoke regarding concerns of drinking/ground water safety as Manganese was reported as higher than expected > 300 mg/L per 2017 DNR reporting. Elevated levels can reportedly cause Parkinson Disease in the elderly and decreased motor skills in youth. This is a natural occurring metal in the soil and is more prevalent in Dane County and some northern counties with reported levels of 306 – 310 by the U.W. Stevens Point lab. Dr. Williams asked that a water testing report be requested from municipalities to find out if testing for Manganese is done. Scott will request the reports for the next committee meeting and have this item listed on the meeting agenda.
8. **Review of Health Department Financial Report:** Schunk reviewed the following reports included in the meeting packet: 2020 Summary of Revenue & Expenses; February 2021 Statement of Revenue & Expenses; 2020 – 2021 Grant Summary Report. No questions followed.
9. **Review and Possible Action on 2021-2023 State Biennial Budget:** Scott reviewed the handouts included in the meeting packet provided by Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA), Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) and the “Badger Bounce Back” summary of Governor Evers’ 2021-23 Biennial Budget. Scott reviewed highlights: Medicaid Expansion; Funding for Communicable Disease Response; Investments in State Public Health; Protecting Kids; Community Health; Healthy Women, Health Babies; Health Equity and Minority Health Grants; Improving Access to Behavioral Health Services; Supporting Caregivers and Long Term Care Providers.
Motion by Williams/Dabel for the Jefferson County Board of Health to make a recommendation to the Executive Committee to support Governor Evers proposed 2021-2023 State Biennial Budget for Public Health funding including Medicaid Expansion, funding for Public Health, as well as programs that address climate change that may affect air and water quality. Motion passed 5 – 0.
10. **Update on COVID-19 Pandemic:**
 - a. **Statistics:** Scott introduced Samroz Jakvani, contracted Epidemiologist, and reported he is tracking statistics, handling Public Information Officer duties, press releases and contacting media with COVID updates. Samroz reviewed a handout that is included in the meeting packet regarding COVID-19 statistics ranging from number of cases, number of tests performed, cases by location and age groups, vaccine administration data and disease investigation information. Jakvani reported that the statistics are updated on the Health Department’s Dashboard on the website. Compliments have been received on how smoothly the COVID vaccine clinics run with staff and a large pool of volunteers. Some clinics at the County Fair Park provided 1,100 vaccinations on some days and average 600+ a day at the clinic site now

set up at the Johnson Creek Outlet Mall. Jefferson County COVID related deaths = 112 as of this date. Jakvani stated that there may be a challenge in the next few months to get folks vaccinated and it needs to be promoted as much as possible. All confirmed COVID positive results are reached within 24 hours by contact tracing staff. There will be a “walk-in clinic” held on Saturday, May 8th at the Johnson Creek Outlet Mall clinic site.

- b. Funding:** Scott reviewed the Department of Health Services grant funding “Enhancing Detection – COVID” for dates 10/01/2020 – 10/31/2022 included in the meeting packet. The initial funding was in the amount of \$371,400 with the supplemental award added in the amount of \$605,200 for a total of \$976,600. The funding has been used beginning in December 2020 and continues monthly with expenses submitted to the State via the “Community Aids Reporting System” (CARS). This grant provides critical resources in support of a broad range of COVID-19 testing, epidemiologic surveillance related activities, increasing workforce capacity, vaccination, testing, laboratory capacity, infection control and contact tracing. Scott reported meetings with the State, CDC, community partners and Health Department staff are ongoing. She thanked Ben Wehmeier for his support during the COVID19 pandemic.
- c. Staffing and Organization Chart:** Scott reviewed the staffing handout included in the meeting packet. Staff highlighted in yellow signifies they were hired specifically to work on COVID related duties. Some staff was hired through Maxim Staffing Agency and some were added to County payroll as a Limited Term Employee (LTE).
- d. Disease Investigation and Contact Tracing:** Covered previously under 10a – Statistics.
- e. Vaccine and Clinics:** Covered previously under 10a – Statistics. Scott reported that every vaccination administration form needs to be entered into the Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR). The recent change to client registration for appointments via the State electronic registration system allows direct auto-entry of the COVID vaccinations into the WIR system – cutting down on the need for massive amounts of clerical data entry.
- f. Future Plans:** Scott announced her plan to retire in early 2022 and has begun succession planning with Elizabeth Chilsen, Public Health Program Manager. Committee members thanked Scott for her many years of service to Jefferson County residents and asked that she thank the entire staff on behalf of the Board of Health for their dedication during the pandemic. Scott showed a photo of a commissioned piece of artwork (red cardinals) that will be displayed at a service memorializing the pandemic and recognizing community partnerships and sacrifices made by everyone.

11. Discussion of the Public Health Program:

- a. Review of Statistics:** None available.
- b. Review of Communicable Disease Cases Reported:** Scott reviewed the handout included in the meeting packet of “Confirmed Disease Cases”. Scott reviewed the “CDC – COVID-19 Year-End Progress Report included in the meeting packet. Scott explained that the Health Department was active in all areas, participated in huddle meetings with partners in the community 2 times per week to assure a “best practice model”.
- c. Staffing Update Health Department and Jail:** Scott reported that some of the Health Department programs have continued during the COVID19 pandemic such as: Mental Health Nursing for Human Services; Lead case follow-up; car seat and pack ‘n play crib distribution and Communicable Disease follow-up. Scott reported the Health Department is no longer involved in jail nursing as it has been taken over by an outside company.

12. Operational Update of the Environmental Health Program: Kubicek reported the staff have been helping with COVID vaccine response at the Watertown Health Department, conducting DNR water testing and will begin to increase inspections in a few weeks. Kubicek reported on a few hoarding/unsafe environment cases during COVID with one home being allowed to be re-occupied after cleaning. Kubicek reported that Manganese is not included in their annual water samplings.

13. Future Agenda Items: Follow-up on information regarding water testing for Manganese; updates on the Governor’s 2021 – 2023 Biennial Budget; future plans for the Health Department to get back to “somewhat normal” including parenting programs; track changes/updates at Federal level.

14. Adjourn: *Motion by Schultz/Dabel to adjourn meeting at 2:30 p.m.* Motion carried 5 – 0.

Next Scheduled Meetings: Wednesdays – to be determined on a quarterly basis or if a special need arises.

Minutes recorded and prepared by: Sandee Schunk, Accountant II, Jefferson County Health Department and reviewed by Gail Scott, Director/Health Officer.