



Muscatine County Board of Health Minutes

December 16, 2020 | 12:00pm | Muscatine County Administration Building

Board members

William Koellner, Chairman | Brian Wright, Secretary

Karen Harper | Dr. Michael Maharry, Physician Representative | Brandy Olson

Members Present: William Koellner, Brian Wright, Karen Harper, Brandy Olson, Michael Maharry

Others Present: Eric Furnas, Christy Roby Williams, Rikki Hetzler, Holly Barrett, Scott Sauer, Felicia Toppert

Visitors Present: None

Meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM by Koellner through virtual meeting in accordance with the Iowa Governor's request. Koellner discussed the continuation of virtual meetings until further notice due to the state of extenuating circumstances with the COVID-19 Pandemic. No Quorum at this point

- I. Motion made by Harper to approve minutes from the 11/18/2020 meeting. Olson seconded. All ayes. Motion carried.
- II. Koellner requested for citizens to speak. None present at this time.
- III.
 - A. Health Equity Committee Update
 - o Work in progress. Rough draft presented by Dr. Maharry. Maharry tasked members to review the working document and the statement of the effect of racism on Public Health for approval at next month's BOH meeting. Koellner asked for comments due by the end of the first week of January to Olson and Maharry. Koellner asked this be marked as an action item for the January 2021 meeting.
 - B. Environmental Services Update
 - o Furnas reported well testing is down. He is assuming because of current state with Pandemic.
 - C. Public Health Reports
 - o Response Efforts – Current State – Roby Williams shared with BOH the DOMO system. Spoke about challenges Public Health has worked through and reports it is getting better. Contact tracing is now happening timely although we still face challenges with data interpretation and reporting of numbers from the state. Roby Williams reports number of current cases and year to date numbers for Muscatine County. Public Health continues to host weekly meetings with district schools where consultation, direct feedback is provided, and best practices can be shared. Public Health maintains close contact with long term care facilities as we see a rise in the numbers throughout the county. EMS is working closely with the hospital on ensuring that there is adequate PPE for all staff. Currently at the hospital the availability of beds is beginning to get scarce and staff is doing their best to determine between emergency and non-emergency situations. Hospital is started to see a steady incline of those being admitted to the ICU.
 - o Vaccine Efforts – Barrett gave update on Point of Dispensing (POD) Vaccine Plans. The first shipment of vaccines is expected to arrive early next week, and we currently have two scheduled dispensing days on 12/23/2020 & 12/28/2020. Barrett discussed the tiered system outlined by the State of Iowa and the CDC. Tier 1 gives priority to healthcare workers and first responders as regulated by government guidelines. Long Term Care Facility vaccines will be managed by local pharmacies.
 - o Communications – Roby Williams reports Public Health has been working diligently on providing the community with COVID-19 information through social media platforms, flyers or any other means that have

been requested. Public Health will continue with a weekly press release as things change and will communicate to the county when vaccine is anticipated to be available to the general public, prefacing that medical professionals and long term care facilities are prioritized for the first round of the vaccine. Public Health has developed an updated flyer on testing site locations which is now circulating in the community and is posted on our Trinity Muscatine Public Health Facebook page.

- Status of Public Health – Roby Williams reports to manage the health and well-being of team members, staff currently working remotely will continue to do so until after the first of the year with an anticipated return date of 1/4/2021. All staff will be expected to report back to work at this time.

D. Hospital Status

- Roby Williams reports we will need to move to next month. Patsy Willits, Safety Director, at Trinity Muscatine will join us to provide an update at that time.

E. Communicable Disease Report

- Barrett reports that Public Health has developed a collaborative approach to dispensing flu vaccine and utilizing flu vouchers. Barrett states we are working with Community Health Care (CHC) to deliver flu shots to the community (Clark House, etc.). When delivering care, the team is comprised of 1 Public Health nurse, 1 Public Health Social Worker (to screen for social determinants of health), and any additional CHC staff (nurses, etc.) as deemed necessary. Barrett will provide an updated count of vouchers utilized at the January BOH meeting.

F. Fiscal Update – Grant Spend

- CARES Grant Update – Hetzler shared with the BOH COVID-19 response expenses and spreadsheets. Explained two funding sources: FEMA and CARES ACT, and anticipated reimbursement process. Public Health has been facing some challenges when submitting expenditures to the state for reimbursement from CARES Act. Public Health is currently working with Seright and will continue to work with the county to get expenses covered for COVID-19 response.

- Budget Requests—Roby Williams reports budget for 2022 was submitted to the county last week. Public Health requested an overall 3% increase. Movement by Olson to approve budget as submitted. Seconded by Harper. All ayes. Motion carried.

IV. Next Board Meeting: January 20, 2020 at 12:00pm

V. Meeting adjourned at 1:02pm

William Koellner, Chairman

Brian Wright, Secretary