



## **MINUTES OF BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**September 2, 2020**

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chair Peer at 6:00 p.m.

Board of Health Members Present: Chair Peer, Supervisor Rynes, Supervisor Williams, Supervisor Wilde, Dr. Meyers, Dr. Winter, Mr. Gresens, Dr. Somaraju and Ms. Kolste.

Board of Health Members Absent:

Staff Members Present: Noel Sandoval – Director; Michelle Bailey – Assistant Director; Rick Wietersen – Environmental Health Director; Matt Wesson – Environmental Health Supervisor; Kelsey Cordova – Community Health Education Coordinator;; Nick Zupan – Epidemiologist; Jessica Turner – Communications Specialist; Lori Soderberg – Public Health Supervisor; and Melissa DeWitt – Public Health Support Specialist.

Others Present: Josh Smith – County Administrator; Terri Carlson – Corporation Counsel, Risk Manager, Sheila Williams – Citizen; Tom Nelson – Citizen; Scott Iversen – Citizen, Wendy Lynn – Citizen; Sheryl Hengeveld – Citizen; Supervisor Kara Purviance – Rock County Board of Supervisors; Tana Fauske – Citizen.

### **Adopt Agenda**

Dr. Winter made a motion to adopt the agenda. Supervisor Rynes seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

### **Approval of Minutes – 6/24/2020 & 8/5/2020**

Supervisor Rynes made a motion to approve the minutes of the 6/24/2020 and 8/5/2020 Board of Health meetings. Supervisor Wilde seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

### **Roll Call**

Chair Peer asked for the roll call. At roll call Chair Peer, Supervisor Rynes, Supervisor Williams, Dr. Meyers, Dr. Winter, Mr. Gresens, Ms. Kolste, Dr. Somaraju and Supervisor Wilde were present. 9 PRESENT. 0 ABSENT.

### **Citizen Participation**

Citizen Tom Nelson asked if we could get back to regular in-person meetings. He also asked why we are still in Phase 2.

Citizen Sheryl Hengeveld also requested that we return to in-person meetings. Ms. Hengeveld is questioning the dashboard and the isolation facility.

Dr. Winter & Debra Kolste questioned the number of deaths relating to COVID causes.

Citizen Sheila Williams asked about what guidance this particular committee follows. Dr. Somaraju commented that our committee and her hospital stick to the CDC guidelines. Supervisor Wilde said that he follows both the WHO and the CDC, however, sometimes they contradict. The Rock County Public Health Department also follows the state Department of Public Health.

### **New Business**

#### **Administrative Division**

##### **Transfer of Funds Over \$5,000**

No transfer of funds over \$5,000

##### **Review of Payments**

Supervisor Rynes asked what the \$1,820.75 charge was for Commercial Air for Freight. Ms. Sandoval will get back to the committee.

#### **Health Department Report**

##### **In the News**

Ms. Sandoval reported that UW Hospital began enrollment into a vaccine study this week. Expected to enroll 1,600 participants. 2/3 will receive vaccine, 1/3 will not. It is a gold standard method to approving vaccines. Will monitor participants for 2 years.

Ms. Sandoval reported that the FDA authorized a rapid antigen test. Will start by using them on students and then long-term care facilities in the future.

Mr. Zupan provided the Board members with the current COVID-19 data.

Supervisor Williams asked if there is a definitive definition of the term “recovered” regarding to COVID-19. Mr. Zupan and Dr. Somaraju responded accordingly.

Supervisor Wilde asked if there was a percent positive test rate that noted trends. Supervisor Wilde also asked why we are using this specific measure as a standard and why those numbers are chosen. Mr. Zupan and Dr. Somaraju answered. Ms. Sandoval added that we want to be data informed but behaviors of the community and many other factors are also included.

Deb Kolste asked about the level and number of COVID-19 tests being done.

Board Members discussed general COVID-19 testing in regards to turn-around time for results.

##### **Surveillance**

Nothing to report.

##### **Community Events/Outreach**



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Ms. Turner mentioned that the Rock County Public Health Department has slowly been making improvements to the website. The Health Department also releases a Q & A Video every one to two weeks. They are continuing to release Public Health news via social media.

Ms. Bailey reported that Ms. Soderberg and Ms. Cordova have been doing a great job with taking on new workloads. Ms. Bailey reported that the Health Department has started their Immunization Clinics back up. Ms. Bailey reported that Ms. Faber has been amping up work related to self-care of our staff. The Health Department will be releasing info soon on flu vaccines.

Mr. Wietersen reported a positive rabies case on a bat recently, which serves as a good reminder to always be aware. Mr. Wietersen reported that the permit refund process has started for the 2019-2020 year. The Nitrate Work Group included 15 local farmers that are applying for local grants. The Health Department has seen a large uptick in septic permits. Mr. Wesson reported that we have had several complaints regarding the mask mandate at local businesses. With a little education, most businesses are happy to comply.

Back to School:

Mr. Wietersen mentioned that they have been working diligently with local schools (23 school districts and 3 university systems). Each district has a Public Health Nurse liaison so they can have a direct contact. Mr. Wietersen mentioned they distributed flow charts to each district to follow regarding COVID-19 related protocols. Ms. Soderberg reported about the meeting the Health Department had with all local school districts on Friday, 8/28. They walked through all scenarios if there were to be a positive case. Beloit College will be testing on-campus students every 2 weeks. Ms. Sandoval mentioned that each district's cases and issues will be addressed on a case by case basis. Chair Peer asked if any of those documents released to schools could be released to the board. Ms. Turner will release what she can. Ms. Kolste asked about what the logistics look like in the event there is a positive case. Ms. Soderberg walked through what that would look like.

Supervisor Wilde questioned whether or not Section 252 could be used. He also questioned the probability of social distancing in a class of 20-25 students. Mr. Wietersen mentioned that we don't want to base things on one metric alone because all school scenarios are different. Ms. Sandoval mentioned taking it one day at a time and making big decisions as needed.

### **Budget**

Ms. Sandoval reported on the budget review for the 2021 proposed budget. Overall, the Rock County Public Health Department is holding its own very well, given the current state of COVID-19. The State will be distributing an unknown amount of funding.

### **Personnel**

Ms. Bailey reported that we interviewed and offered a position to a Public Health Nurse. Alicia McLellan recently resigned her Public Health Nurse position. Interviews are tentatively scheduled for the Public Health Supervisor and the Administrative Services Supervisor positions.

The Health Department currently has 7 Contact Tracers, with 5 of them working full time. They will be offered night and weekend hours in order to be able to reach more contacts.

Ms. Cordova reported about posting more available positions for Contact Tracers. Interviews are scheduled for this coming Friday, 8/7/2020.

Supervisor Wilde asked what the weekend schedules look like for the Public Health Nurse positions. Ms. Cordova reported that the on-call nurse works one full 8 hour shift and then periodically checks the database throughout the other hours. Ms. Sandoval reported that we try to keep the nurses schedules to 80 hours in a two-week pay period.

Chair Peer thanked everyone for all of their hard work.

### **Committee Approvals**

Request for Approval to Purchase Masks for Community Distribution

Request for Approval to Purchase Thermometers for Community Distribution

Supervisor Wilde made a motion to approve these requests. Supervisor Rynes seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED.

### **Communications and Announcements**

None at this time.

### **Adjournment**

Supervisor Rynes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Meyers seconded the motion. MOTION APPROVED. Meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa DeWitt, Recorder

Not Official Until Approved by the Board of Health