



Muscatine County Board of Health Minutes

April 21, 2021 | 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, Karen Harper, Brandy Olson, Brian Wright, Dr. Michael Maharry

Others Present: Eric Furnas, Christy Roby Williams, Holly Barrett, Rikki Hetzler, Julie Bacon, & Scott Sours

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. Motion made by Brandy Olson to approve minutes from the 3/17/2021 meeting and Karen Harper seconded.

I. Public Health Reports:

A. Environmental Services Update

- Furnas - Nothing to report today. Nothing that requires board action

B. COVID-19

- Response Efforts – At a recent event, 90% were Hispanic, of those 60% did not have insurance or identifications. Very successful Vaccine clinics happening. Koellner commented on it being a great example of community collaborations. Olson commented on how great Public Health is doing to help with these efforts.
- Roby Williams, from the Public Health Department, stated there is a slowdown in people seeking vaccines. It is available, but the demand has dropped significantly. The efforts are now focused around equity and gaps that we can make easier.
- Wester Drug took vaccines to West Liberty and Bill Koellner made connections to find locations and received an agreement at Sun Bay church to collaborate. The Pastor announced the event, and the church provided some volunteers. This was a great success with the church.
- Currently Roby Williams and Barrett are working through lists and partnering with Wester Drug to help reach Calvary Church groups, such as the African Church.
- Holly has been in touch with apartment managers to see if we can set up vaccines within the complexes where elderly and disabled live.
- Senior Resources and Non-Emergent Transport have helped reach the home bound with vaccines. Recipients along with their families are very thankful for this type of service for their loved ones. Pharmacies and Doctor offices have seen an influx of available appts. leading to some hesitancy to make more available due to the vaccine burn rates that are expected. They do not want to waste and know that there are state expectations, and the clinics are still offering,
- Walmart is getting their allotment from federal sources. They are not allowed to take any more than the federal agreement.
- With all that said, Public Health will continue to take the allocations until they stop giving them.
- Hy-vee has reached out and then Roby Williams reached out to the schools to have them promote to the younger age group due to Pfizer. Burlington schools are also doing clinics at their schools. Roby Williams also reached out to Hy-Vee regarding the schools.

- Koellner questioned the number for younger people, but at this time we do not have those statistics available. Harper states that while immunizing teenagers, it is very important to reiterate how it will help going back to where we were.
- Koellner - MCSA – have we been there? Roby Williams stated that yes, we did take 25 doses to MCSA and then took 40 more to MCSA from Wester. We are working on Jesus Mission next. Have also contacted CHC and talked with them regarding going to the South End of town to set up an event.
- The migrant camp in Conesville also received vaccines.
- Dr. Maharry – University is also having trouble getting people to get vaccinated. We are seeing levels dropping substantially. There are people that we cannot convince. It seems like a nationwide issue.
- Need some strategies to get these done. Possibly incentives will work.
- Dr. Maharry – some people don't like any vaccines and some feel there is not enough study to back the vaccines. It becomes a political discussion and pushing does not work.

C. Letter of Support – Olson

- The Community Foundation and Unity Point received fairly short notice from Rep. Miller-Meeks that funds might be available at the federal level for the Clinic project. Letters of support were needed from community stakeholders. Due to the short turnaround time needed, Olson and Koellner worked on the letter and provided it to the Community Foundation.
- We would like to move forward with approving the letter that was provided.
 - Motion by Harper to approve Letter of Support.
 - Seconded by Olson, All in Favor, Motion passed.

D. Fiscal Update Rikki

- Local public health Grants – Healthy Aging has expended all but \$55.69. Will need supplementing of other funds.
- Through emergency preparedness in the state, they added additional funds. \$118,997 – \$98,997 for salaries
- Have already spent 66% of grant and have \$40,000 left to claim
- 1st few weeks of April were very busy but has now slowed down tremendously.
- Koellner – in the overall how many funds are available for all grants?
- Hetzler - We have been reviewing the grants and do have money to cover salaries, but when we work the Covid Response, we cannot pull from those other grants. We do need more money for our Covid Response.
- We are also working on getting exit plans for the Covid Response to ease back to the new norm. There have been multiple conversations regarding how we do that. Allowing us to look at health equity, it is sustainable, but the burn rate required for vaccine clinics is high.
- Koellner– are we going to be doing an additional booster shot in the future and would that mean the whole population again.
 - Dr. Maharry – so far, it will most likely turn out to be a booster yearly.
 - Harper - the pharmacies will most likely be taking care of boosters if that is the case.
- Koellner – will we be able to carry the money over to the next year.
 - Roby Williams – some have extended the contracts and some we have requested to have them reallocated to other areas other than wages,
- New Business – Strategies beyond PR .
 - Roby Williams – our focus is on the smaller pockets of individuals who have yet to be reached.
- Using Facebook, ads in Discover magazine. Getting in print, getting virtually, emails. Etc....
- Countywide Covid collaborative call on Thursday afternoon. Will be discussing how to get to the groups that are not wanting a vaccine. Small bites.
- Koellner – In working with Spanish community, undocumented individuals were questioning whether they would be able to get the vaccine. Those of us in the health care business do not care where anyone is from.

II. Citizens Speak.

No One present.

- III. Next Board Meeting: May 19, 2021 at 12:00pm
Possibly in person for the next meeting?
Dr. Maharry motioned to adjourn and Olson 2nd.
- IV. Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

William Koellner, Chairman | Karen Harper, Secretary