

MINUTES

Linn County Board of Health Meeting
July 22, 2020 at 4:00 PM
Harris Building - Conference Room #234A/B
1020 6th Street SE, Cedar Rapids, IA
Contact: Kim Honn, 892-6000
*Indicates Action Items

1. Call to Order BOH meeting with a quorum – Mary Tarbox, Chair

Dr. Mary Tarbox, Board Chair, established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 4:04 PM.

Board Present: Dr. Mary Tarbox, Dr. Jim Levett, Karl Cassell, Leslie Wright, Stacey Walker (via phone), and Heidi Carmer (via phone) – Legal and Kim Honn – Recorder

LCPH Staff Present: Pramod Dwivedi – Health Director, Tricia Kitzmann, Larry Hlavacek and Jim Hodina

2. Recognize Guests – Mary Tarbox
Diana Strahan with HACAP

3. Public Comment – Limited to Three Minutes Each
None

4. Approve Agenda *
Motion made to approve agenda as presented.
****MSC Cassell/Levett**

- BOH member/s excused absences

5. Approve June 24, 2020 Minutes *
Motion made to approve June 24, 2020 minutes as presented.
****MSC Levett/Cassell**

6. BOH Committee Reports:

- A. Finance and Administrative Review – Karl Cassell, Committee Chair
1. June 2020 Finance Statements *

Motion made to approve June 2020 Finance Statements as presented.

****MSC Cassell/Wright**

- B. Policy and Government Relations Committee – Mary Tarbox, Committee Chair

1. PO-AD-013-02 Financial Hardship Billing policy *
Motion made to approve the above-mentioned policy.
****MSC Wright/Cassell**

7. Health Director's Report – Pramod Dwivedi

- **COVID-19 Update**
 - **Clinical services busy with the rising cases of COVID-19. Since mid-June the number has gone up significantly.**
 - **The demographics are changing as the pandemic moves forward.**
 - **Discussion held about CDC is not receiving data from the hospitals or states - due to Federal obstructions.**
 - **Through ASTHO (Association of State and Territorial Health Officials) and NACCHO (National Association of County and City Health Officials), which are both private organizations not governmental, y have told the White House very robustly that is this is the wrong direction and should stop. Being on the BOD for NACCHO, they go the White House annually to lobby for more funding in public health.**
 - **COVID-19 data comes from the state system called IDSS. The state gets it through the SHL and reference lab. The demographic we retrieve through contact tracing is put into a database locally in the office.**
 - **School reopening guidance was release to the public last week and much appreciated by the schools. Grant Wood Area Education requested this guidance from public health.**
 - **Discussion held about how the schools are handling opening. Agency is fielding questions/calls from schools, athletic directors regarding some sports, school nurses, parents and etc.**
 - **Agency continues to strongly encourage wearing masks, social distancing and personal hygiene. Health Director requested permission to write a letter to the Governor's office, along with his counter parts across the state, for mandatory face coverings. Also, BOS' Chair Ben Rogers wondered if Linn County could issue a Proclamation, similar to Johnson County, to make wearing face coverings mandatory in Linn County. Health Director will ask the Board to review letter prior to sending.**
 - **Motion made for Health Director to connect with other health directors to write a letter to the Governor's office requesting to make wearing face coverings mandatory with the Board's review of the letter.**
****MSC governor's Levett/Wright meetings of local partners.**
- **Last week the clinical services branched opened for business as a phased in approach by appointment only. Staff is very busy with disease investigations and working through the weekends.**
- **Reaccreditation deadline is August 18th and on track for submission.**
- **Grants-to-County dollars were spent down for FY20.**
- **Mental health crisis intervention form is being created to aid in collection of mental health crisis encounters particularly with law enforcement. Piloting with Marion PD and a couple of other law enforcement agencies.**
- **Enhancing data collection and analysis on homelessness in partnership with Marion PD.**

- **My Care Community (MCC): Catherine McCauley is now officially part of the MCC. Other organizations are being pursued.**
- **Reorganization at United Way of ECI will no longer support MCC activities. Therefore, public health hired a contractor to help with the program utilizing the MS/DS dollars, U of Iowa sponsorship as well.**
- **Data sharing amended with IDPH.**
- **Health Improvement Plan: working on three areas of safety, mental health and obesity.**
- **Departmental work is starting back up and staff getting busy.**
- **Air Quality is working with IT department to switch software.**
- **Wood Burning Appliance change out program submitted the semi-annual report to Alliant Energy. The program will continue to Feb. 2021 or until the fund is exhausted.**
- **The Position Statement on Racism as a Public Health Crisis was published, which generated a lot of good conversation.**
- **Also wrote a few op-eds in the recent months that were well received.**
- **Talked with HHS (Health & Human Service) Regional Director on COVID19 issues. The main take away was for any resources everything goes through State government agencies - not local.**
- **Spoke at the Linn County Medical Society annual board meeting focused a lot on COVID-19.**
- **Participated virtual town hall meeting with Abby Finkenauer associated with COVID-19.**
- **Also served as a panelist on Criminal Just, Public Safety and COVID-19 in Iowa.**
- **One of the 35 of state and local health officials invited by the white house for briefing of COVID-19.**
- **This is last term on NACCHO BOD meeting, which had been elected three times by peers to serve and feels it was very useful.**

8. Board of Health Attorney Report – Heidi Carmer
None

9. Next Meetings:

Board of Health Meeting – Wednesday – August 26, 2020 at 4:00 PM

- **Finance & Administrative Review committee meeting August 20, 2020 at 2:00 PM**
- **BOH Policy & Government Relations committee meeting August 20, 2020 at 3:00 PM**

10. Adjourn

With no further business. The meeting was adjourned at 5:01 PM.

**Respectfully Submitted,
 Kim S. Honn**

To adhere to social distancing requirements, Linn County employees and the public may participate in this meeting as follows:

- 1) *Conference call – telephone #1-888-904-9570 Access code 4266846#
 [*6 mute line / *7 unmute line]*

For questions about meeting accessibility or to request accommodations to attend or to participate in a meeting due to a disability, please contact Linn County Public health at 319-892-6000 or health@linncounty.org.