

Cass County Health Department

BOARD OF HEALTH

Regular Meeting

April 22, 2020

The Cass County Board of Health met via conference call on April 22, 2020. President Amy Parlier called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

Board of Health members present were Amy Parlier, Joyce Brannan, Ron Aggertt, Hollie Reid, Mekelle Neathery, and Jennifer Allen.

Health department employees present were Teresa Armstrong, Dirk Debergh, Shelly Taylor, Lisa Clement and Linda Debergh. Nicole Roegge was present to take the minutes of the meeting.

Teresa Armstrong, Administrator, welcomed new Board of Health member Jennifer Allen to her first meeting.

President Amy Parlier thanked all staff for their continued hard work during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also asked that if there was anything that the Board of Health could do to help to please reach out and let her know.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Hollie Reid and seconded by Ron Aggertt to approve the minutes of the March meeting as presented. The motion carried with all in favor.

Approval of Financial Report

Dirk Debergh, Financial Officer, reported that the end of March financial numbers look good. The health department is still doing ok and is in a good financial position. The accounts receivable side is down slightly for dental as the dental clinic started seeing emergency only appointments around March 20th. This will continue through April as well. Health clinic revenue has dropped slightly but not significantly. This is due to providers continuing to see patients through telehealth virtual visits. Home Health and Hospice are currently \$20,000 in the hole as some outstanding charges have been billed since the March meeting. The Maternal Child Health program continues to operate and is in their normal financial position.

Teresa Armstrong, Administrator, reported that HRSA has given the health clinic an additional \$500,000 in funding to help keep staff capacity. Another \$60,000 came via an ACH deposit listed as Medicare Fee for Service. Teresa believes this money is slated for the Home Health program but she is still investigating as there was not much information given. Teresa reminded the Board members that the month of April will look significantly different financially as the impact of COVID-19 started during the third week of March.

Teresa also explained that there is a \$35,000 grant through IDPH that Andrew is working on and can be used to help pay staff who are completing contact tracing. Many clinic employees have been asked to help with contact tracing when they are available and that is working well. She expressed frustration at the lack of funding that is available for public health departments who are doing the brunt of the work during this pandemic. Ron Aggertt reported that during the Finance Committee meeting he asked that Teresa come up with some talking points when

the current situation dies down that could be used to talk with our elected officials (both state and federal) about the importance of increased funding for public health in rural areas.

A motion was made by Mekelle Neathery and seconded by Joyce Brannan to approve the financial report as presented. The motion carried with all in favor.

### Administrator's Report

Teresa Armstrong, Administrator, reported that late last week the health department was notified of a positive case who worked within the county but was not a Cass County resident. The very next day the first positive case of a Cass County resident was received. The positive case count for Cass County now stands at 7 with one of those cases being hospitalized. Public health staff as well as several other health department staff members have been very busy contacting and interviewing positive patients as well as their contacts. Many of these contacts have been French, Spanish or Burmese.

Teresa explained that both sites of the Cass County Health Clinic are currently offering drive up testing. An additional testing facility has been started at Taylor Clinic through Memorial that is able to test patients as well. Tests being sent to the Illinois Department of Public Health labs are coming back within 24 hours. Tests sent to private labs are taking a bit longer.

Teresa continues to meet with all first responders, JBS and Taylor Clinic weekly to collaborate and assist each other as needed. Jen Bell has been working with Cass County ESDA Coordinator Roger Lauder to come up with an alternate housing plan in case individuals are not able to isolate or quarantine at their home.

Teresa reported that the health department Facebook and Twitter pages remain active with various posts regarding the current COVID-19 situation as well as census messages. The website also remains active and updated daily providing a lot of good information for Cass County residents.

Teresa reported that funding received from the Pandemic Community Advisory Group and Prairieland United Way to assist Cass County residents with food or rent due to the financial strain from COVID-19. As of the meeting date 5 people have been assisted through this program with an additional 4 applications out to other individuals.

There have been lots of internal changes for staff of the health department. All Home Services nurses are seeing patients and charting from home with only limited trips into the office to pick up supplies. WIC is doing phone visits only with clients and are doing curbside pick-up for the EBT cards which replaces the coupons. Teen Reach continues to connect with their students via ZOOM meetings which is working out well. Medical, Behavioral Health and Dental are all using telehealth for visits with patients who do not need to be seen in the office.

Teresa reported that the Cass County Board did approve the Cass County Food Ordinance at their April meeting.

Hollie Reid asked if personal protective equipment (PPE) items were well stocked for health department employees. Teresa explained that the health department's stock is in good shape currently as they have been able to utilize several different companies to order things as well as some items have been received from the state stock pile. Staff have been checking with area nursing homes as well as the DD homes in the county to make sure they are stocked with PPE as well.

Teresa explained that two staff members were furloughed from the Home Services department due to low patient numbers.

See handout.

### Clinic Report

Tiffany Angelo, Clinic Director, reported that she has 4 staff members in quarantine due to possible COVID-19 exposure. All employees are currently working from home and have been tested. None of the employees are symptomatic and will continue to be monitored for symptoms. Emily is currently working Monday-Friday in the Beardstown office from 8:30-4:30.

Tiffany reported that testing for patients and anyone who is symptomatic has begun. Anyone wanting testing should call for an appointment. Providers can also assess patients as needed. Today there are 11 patients scheduled to be tested in Beardstown and 3 in Virginia. Results are coming back within 24 hours so far.

Tiffany reported that behavioral health staff are holding calls with health department staff three times per week to discuss any issues they may be having related to COVID-19. There have been a few staff members who have taken advantage of the calls and Tiffany hopes more will take advantage in the coming weeks.

Tiffany reported that the medical clinic had 10 quality measures to report on this month of which 7 exceeded goal or improved from the last reporting period. The measures which were below goal were screening for depression and follow up plan, depression remission at 12 months, hypertension and African diabetics. Tiffany believes that some of the quality assurance numbers have declined due to clinic visits moving to telehealth visits.

The dental clinic reported on two measures this month. Sealants to first molars increased from the last reporting period but was still 1% below goal. Dental sealant retention was at goal for this reporting period.

See handouts.

### Home Services Report

Shelly Taylor, Home Services Director, reported that census is down slightly for her programs. Referrals seem to be coming in in spurts with a lot for a day or two and then hardly any. Her nursing staff members continue to see patients and complete charting from home. They are wearing proper PPE when entering patient homes and are asking the appropriate COVID-19 screening questions on each visit.

Shelly reported that the annual hospice benefit has been postponed. The volunteers will try and put together another event later this year.

Shelly also reported that RCD continues to go well.

See handout.

### Quality Assurance Report

Linda Debergh, Quality Assurance Nurse, reported that goals were needed to be set for all home health and hospice quality measures. The Board of Health agreed to the following goals:

- Improvement in Management of Oral Medications – 70%
- Improvement in Ambulation – 63%
- Improvement in Bathing – 80%
- Improvement in Dyspnea – 75%
- CAHPS Survey Question: Training for Restlessness/Agitation – 81%
- Patients Treated With an Opioid Who Are Given A Bowel Regimen – 100%
- Hospice Visits When Death Is Imminent: Last 3 Days of Life – 100%
- Hospice Visits When Death Is Imminent: Last 7 Days of Life – 95%
- Help For Pain And Symptoms – 82%

Linda reported that she has discussed the negative comment on the hospice survey with Shelly. She included a note of her findings for the Board to review.

See handout.

### Old Business

There was no Old Business to report.

### New Business

Teresa Armstrong, Administrator, expressed some concern with the new Environmental Health fees that were approved at the last meeting. She is concerned that food establishments have been hit very hard with the new restrictions due to COVID-19 and suggested that the Board of Health move to waive the annual fees for Category I, Category II and Category III establishments this year. A motion was made by Ron Aggertt and seconded by Hollie Reid to approve the waiving of annual food establishment fees for Category I, Category II and Category III establishments for 2020. The motion carried with all in favor.

### Adjournment

A motion as made by Hollie Reid and seconded by Mekelle Neathery to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all in favor. President Amy Parlier adjourned the meeting at 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Roegge, Admin. Asst.