

Cass County Health Department

BOARD OF HEALTH

Regular Meeting

July 22, 2020

The Cass County Board of Health met via conference call on July 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, Tiffany Angelo, Shelly Taylor and Linda Debergh. Nicole Roegge was present to take the minutes of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Jennifer Allen and seconded by Joyce Brannan to approve the minutes of the June meeting as presented. The motion carried with all in favor.

Approval of Financial Report

Dirk Debergh, Financial Officer, reported that the health department's checking account balance was down about \$20,000 which he was expecting. The dental clinic did have \$25,000 in receipts for services in the month of June which shows that services are starting to pick back up a little.

Dirk pointed out that the public health grants category is in the red \$4,411.65 for the first time this year. He explained that contact tracing staff have been hired and have started working but the signed and executed grant to pay for the contact tracers has not yet been received so the revenue from that grant has not been recognized. He anticipates that the signed grant will be coming very soon and then the revenue will be recognized.

Dirk also reported that the MCH grants were showing in the red as well for the month of June which is not unusual for this time of year. He has received 2 county tax payments in the month of July so that revenue be reflected on next month's financial reports.

A motion was made by Ron Aggertt and seconded by Jennifer Allen to approve the financial report as presented. The motion carried with all in favor.

Administrator's Report

Teresa Armstrong, Administrator, reported that Cass County now has a total of 162 positive cases with 10 new cases coming in over the past weekend. All of these cases seem to be community spread and not tied to any specific facility or employer in the county. The health department has had one new employee test positive. Several current employees were listed as close contacts of this employee. They will all be working from home during their quarantine periods.

Teresa has been working with the local school districts on their plans to return to school in the fall. She has also been fielding questions from the general public on what they should do regarding festivals and special events that typically take place in the fall.

Teresa discussed funding the health department will receive termed the Local Cure. She explained that this money was given from the federal government to each state who then designated funds to each county and each county health department. The Cass County Health Department will receive \$75,976. These funds are to be used as expense reimbursement for COVID-19 expenses that were not covered by another grant program. She explained that this money could also be used to pay employees hazard pay for their time and effort to care for their communities during this pandemic. Teresa proposed a 5 level system for paying hazard pay based on the amount of risk and patient contact each employee has had. This item will be discussed and voted on during New Business.

Teresa reported that the billing office employees have been moved out to their new satellite office near the highway department shed. The transition went well and everything is working great. The new contact tracers are settling into the offices where the billing staff were in at the health department.

Teresa has prepared the income and expense budgets for FY 2021. They will be discussed and approved under New Business.

Teresa discussed the new plan put out by IDPH to combat a resurgence of COVID-19 in Illinois. The plan divides the state into more regions which coincide with the already developed state EMS regions. Each region will have their own metrics that will measure whether or not that particular region has to move back in phase. Metrics that could cause a region to become more restrictive include a sustained increase in 7-day rolling average in the positivity rate and one of the following: sustained 7-day increase in hospital admissions for a COVID-19 like illness, reduction in hospital capacity threatening surge capabilities (ICU capacity or medical/surgical beds under 20%) OR three consecutive dates averaging greater than or equal to 8% positivity rate. The plan also outlines what mitigation measures will be put in place if a region does need to move back.

See handouts.

Clinic Report

Tiffany Angelo, Clinic Director, reported that the medical clinic has hired a new certified medical assistant to the staff. She unfortunately found out after she started that she had been a direct contact of a positive case at her previous employer so she is now off. Rebecca Ridgway was hired as the new CADC for the MAT program and she is doing fantastic.

Tiffany pointed out that on her monthly spreadsheet report it shows that there is a large number of patients on the self-pay/slide payer mix for behavioral health. She explained that this is due to the fact that MAT patients fall under the behavioral health umbrella and many of their services are not billable as they are provided by a CADC.

Tiffany reported that the medical clinic had 10 quality measures to report on this month. Of those 10 measures the clinic met or exceed goal or raise their compliance rate on 5 of those measures. The measures which were not in compliance were adult BMI, adult tobacco use and assessment, hypertension, statin therapy and French-African diabetics. Some measures such as adult BMI and hypertension are lower as a direct correlation to the changing landscape of healthcare. Many appointments are now virtual or via car visits so patients are not getting weighed or getting their blood pressures checked. The clinic has purchased equipment such as scales, blood pressure cuffs and pulse ox machines to distribute to patients so that these vitals can be taken and recorded during virtual visits.

The dental clinic only had two measures to report on this month; sealant retention and sealant to first molars. They were at 100% compliance on both of these measures. Behavioral health also had two measures to report on; imitation and engagement of alcohol and other drug dependence treatment (14 days) and initiation and engagement of alcohol and other drug dependence treatment (30 days). They were at 100% compliance on both of their measures as well.

Teresa Armstrong mentioned that COVID-19 testing is still continuing at the Beardstown site. They are still getting several calls and appointments each day. They are primarily completing testing in the mornings due to heat.

See handouts.

Home Services Report

Shelly Taylor, Home Services Director, reported that IDPH made a visit to the health department this morning to conduct a COVID-19 audit. She and Teresa met with the auditor outside and she asked some questions about caring for COVID-19 patients and their procedures. She then requested some information that she took with her. Shelly has heard from many other agencies today that these visits are happening.

Shelly reported that United Way funding is starting to come in from various agencies. So far funds have been received from Brown and Schuyler counties along with Prairieland from Jacksonville. Beardstown does not allocate their funds until later in the year.

Shelly reported that the home services programs will be getting new software. A kick off call with the new company, BrighTree, will be held later this month.

See handouts.

Quality Assurance Report

See handouts.

Old Business

There was no Old Business to report.

New Business

Teresa Armstrong, Administrator, presented the annual expense and income budgets for FY 2021 to the Board of Health. She noted that changes have been made to the organizational chart regarding public health grants and public health services which is now reflected in the budget. A motion was made by Rob Aggertt and was seconded by Jennifer Allen to approve the Cass County Health Department FY 2021 income and expense budgets as presented. The motion carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Mekelle Neathery and seconded by Jennifer Allen to approve the use of Local Cure funds for hazard pay for all Cass County Health Department employees as discussed during the Administrator's report. The motion carried with all in favor.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Jennifer Allen and seconded by Hollie Reid to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all in favor. President Amy Parlier adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Rogge, Admin. Asst.