

Cass County Health Department

BOARD OF HEALTH

December 29th, 2021

The Cass County Board of Health met at the Virginia office of the Cass County Health Department on December 29th 2021. President Amy Parlier called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Board of Health members present were Amy Parlier, Cathy Gibson, Mekelle Neathery, Joyce Brannan and Zach Flinn.

Health Department employees present were Teresa Armstrong, Dirk Debergh, Tiffany Angelo, Brandi Hymes, and Krystal Myers. Rob Wirth was present as a guest. Robyn McKinley was present to take minutes of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

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

Approval of financial report

Dirk Debergh, Financial Director, reported that overall all programs are doing well. Dirk noted that our checking dropped \$220,000 due to building purchase. Dirk reported that on the dashboard it shows the current assets dropped which is due to the building purchase.

Dirk noted that the Cass County Health Clinic spreadsheet did not include the purchase of the house or the building. Since these were purchased for the Health Clinic these need to be recognized as in scope services. Dirk stated that he will have a corrected report for the January meeting.

Dirk reported that all grants have been recognized. Teresa pointed out that our annual unduplicated patient number, which is set by HRSA, we have already reached 100% of our goal which has never happened before.

Administrator's Report

Teresa Armstrong, Administrator, reported that to date (12/27/21), Cass County has 3,047 positive cases of Covid-19, with 44 fatalities and 2,882 individuals recovered and 7 covid positive patients hospitalized. Teresa also noted that Cass County now has 24,738.62 cases per 100,000 people, which remains the highest county per capita average in the State of Illinois. Teresa noted that we have seen our cases per week rise substantially in the last 3 weeks as we have increased to over 50 cases per week. Cass County continues to be in the warning area with high community transmission, as is the entire State of Illinois.

Teresa reported that as of December 27, 2021 our State of Illinois numbers stand at 2,077,260 cases and 27,588 confirmed deaths and 3,159 probable deaths with over 88,000 cases in the last 7 days. Region 3 (West Central Illinois) currently has 6% ICU bed availability. Our region currently has 10.2% positivity rate with Cass County at 13.2% positivity rate.

Teresa reported we currently have one outbreak at Virginia Jr/Sr High School. We continue to work with all long term care facilities and schools to contract trace, isolate and quarantine. A-C Central currently has 19 students/staff in isolation or quarantine Virginia has 9 and Beardstown School has 37. All three school districts are now doing their own weekly testing of unvaccinated staff and all have implemented "test to stay" for those students who are exposed to Covid through a non-household member.

Teresa reported that CCHD has administered over 13,118 doses of Covid-19 vaccine to Cass County residents and others employed in the county and there have been 16,004 administered to Cass County residents as well as 2,273 booster doses have been given to residents of Cass County.

Teresa noted that to date, Cass County is 55.72% fully vaccinated. Teresa stated that the State of Illinois is at 60.29% of the population fully vaccinated. The Cass County 65 and older population is 82.40% fully vaccinated, those 18 and older are 63.27% fully vaccinated, those 12 and older are 43.43% fully vaccinated and those 5-11 are 6.40%.

Teresa provided a break down by zip code of those fully vaccinated: 62627 (Chandlerville) 38.97%; 62611 (Arenzville) 44.39%; 62612 (Ashland) 49.08%; 62618 (Beardstown) 56.39% and 62691 (Virginia) 59.30%.

Teresa reported that our Emergency Group has met again for updates and will call future meetings as needed to discuss changes. Teresa continues to attend several IDPH meetings weekly.

Teresa reported that we are working to implement Shield testing which is the saliva test. Once that is implemented we will only use Binax for those who can't use Shield. The State is experiencing a shortage of Binax tests and the State lab is overwhelmed with PCR tests which leads to delays in receiving confirmatory test results.

Teresa reported that IDPH recently announced changes to contact tracing with centralization of efforts. Last week we were told that starting 12/28/21, IDPH would be centralizing contact tracing using an automated text message to all positive cases. For those cases who click the link, an interview would be conducted and positive cases would be instructed to inform their contacts of their exposure. For those 65 and older additional outreach would be done. On the 23<sup>rd</sup> we were informed this was being delayed until January 13<sup>th</sup>. We have elected to request back all cases 60 and older as well as any known employee or resident of a long term care facility.

Teresa reported that the Omicron variant is spreading rapidly and has been found in all 50 states. The monoclonal antibody treatments of Bam/ete and Regencov are not effective against Omicron. Sotrovimab remains effective and Illinois has received 3,288 courses until January 3, 2022.

Teresa reported the FDA has approved several new oral anti-viral medications for Covid-19. The first, Paxlovid, is 3 pills taken twice a day for five days. The regimen must be started within 5 days of symptom onset, and is restricted for those at high-risk for complications with Covid-19. Illinois is receiving an allocation of 2040 courses of Paxlovid initially. The second drug, Molnupiravir, is for those who are high-risk and whom alternative therapeutic options are not available. This drug is restricted to those 18 and older, and is not for those who are pregnant or lactating. Illinois will receive 9540 courses initially.

Teresa reported in other news we closed on the Beardstown property on November 23. Teresa has had several meetings with the Project Manager to review plans and make revisions.

See handout.

### Clinic Report

Tiffany Angelo, Clinic Director, reported that she and Trish had an interview for a medical assistant yesterday. Tiffany stated she had a phone interview with a Nurse Practitioner and plans to have a face to face interview after the new year. We are looking to add another Nurse Practitioner to our Beardstown team. Tiffany stated we have also recruiting for Dr. Curry's replacement as he has been battling health issues this month and has a long road of recovery.

Tiffany reported that Nora continues to provide counseling services in JBS weekly. We have almost made it through all their new patients who have completed paperwork at this time. Tiffany noted that we continue to meet with them as needed to discuss obstacles and ways to improve the program.

Tiffany reported that testing is still being offered 5 days a week in Virginia and the Beardstown office. We are currently rotating back and forth between locations and adjusting for weather as needed. To date we have completed 6,014 tests in Beardstown with 1,311 positives and 3,784 tests in Virginia with 684 positives.

Tiffany reported that the outreach team was very busy with events in the month of November. During the month our team completed over 38 resource requests and 17 community based referrals. These continue to be focused around food assistance and covid kits. For outreach, the team attended multiple food pantries and/or food pop-up distributions in Cass and Brown Counties as well as helped with all of the community flu clinics. Three of our team members are also assisting the community with insurance either as Navigators or Certified Application Counselors.

Tiffany reported that for the month of November we reported on 6 measures. Of those 6 measures we exceeded our goal or increased from last reporting period on 5 measures. The one measure that was not met was Bright Futures. Alerts will continue to be placed on the patients charts and staff talked to about the importance of getting these measures completed.

Behavioral health reported on one measure Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR) Assessment for Patient Placement and it was 100% compliant.

See handout.

#### Public Health Services

Brandi Hymes, Public Health Services Director, reported we continue to offer our regularly scheduled vaccine clinics on Wednesdays in Beardstown and Thursdays in Virginia. We are also offering pop up clinics in the communities, we have been to all 3 county schools this month on 2 different occasions and are planned to go back the last week of December. Our staff is working extremely hard during this time to offer boosters, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> doses.

See handout.

#### Quality Assurance

Krystal Myers, Quality Assurance Nurse, reported no changes at this time.

See handout.

#### New Business

A motion was made by Cathy Gibson and seconded by Zach Flinn to approve privileging and credentialing of Nora Bishop. The motion carried with all in favor.

Mr. Rob Wirth, project manager, presented proposed building plans to the group. The plans that were presented has an estimated cost of \$4.5 million. The group reviewed the plans in length and discussed several different options. The group discussed and agreed upon revisions that would not include an addition. Rob was going to reach out to several construction companies to get cost estimates based off the revised plans. Rob Wirth agreed to make revisions to the plans and have cost estimates based off the revised plan before the next board meeting.

#### Adjournment

A motion was made by Cathy Gibson and seconded by Mekelle Neathery to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all in favor. President Amy Parlier adjourned the meeting at 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robyn McKinley, Admin. Asst.