

Cass County Health Department

BOARD OF HEALTH

March 24th, 2021

The Cass County Board of Health met via conference call on March 24th, 2021. President Amy Parlier called the meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

Board of Health members present were Amy Parlier, Mekelle Neathery, Ron Aggertt, Jennifer Allen, Hollie Reid, Kim Hance and Ann Chelette.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Hollie Reid and seconded by Jennifer Allen to approve the minutes of the special board meeting held on March 2nd, 2021. The motion carried with all in favor.

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

Approval of Financial Report

Dirk Debergh, Financial Director, reported that the 2 CD's were done on March 2nd so they are not showing on the monthly fund balance for February, but will show on next month's.

Dirk reported that all programs are in good standing including Teen Reach as they received 2 private donations. Dirk noted that private insurance income is higher than Medicare and that is due to the vaccination clinics that were done at JBS. Teresa stated that Medicare Advantage plans are not paying so billing is having to go back through and resubmit to straight Medicare for the administrative fee.

A motion was made by Hollie Reid and seconded by Jennifer Allen to approve the minutes of the financial report as presented. The motion carried with all in favor.

Administrator's Report

Teresa Armstrong, Administrator, reported that to date, Cass County has 1,912 positive cases of Covid-19, with 33 fatalities and 1,870 individuals recovered. Teresa also noted that Cass County now has 15,649.95 cases per 100,000 people, which remains the highest county per capita average in the State of Illinois. Cass County remains "in the blue" on the state map, with all metrics meeting goal. Teresa added that our region remains in Phase 4, which allows for gatherings of up to 50 people.

Teresa reported that as of March 23rd, 2021 our State of Illinois numbers stand at 1,224,915 cases and 21,116 deaths, with a 98% recovery rate.

Teresa reported that she continues to meet with Cass County emergency services personnel weekly, which consists of fire/ambulance/police/911/ESDA/County Board Chair, attend County Board meetings, and attend numerous meetings each week with IDPH.

Teresa reported that CCHD has administered 6,415 doses of Covid-19 vaccine, to those who live or work in Cass County. Teresa noted that we now have over 21% of our population fully vaccinated which is the 5th highest county in the State. Teresa stated that the State of Illinois is at 14.09% of the population fully vaccinated. Teresa noted that to date we have not had to waste any doses of vaccine.

Teresa reported that we are still working to vaccinate people in Phase 1B-II, which is anyone age 16-64 with chronic health conditions including: Obesity, Diabetes, Pulmonary Diseases, Smoking, Heart Conditions, Chronic Kidney Disease, Cancer, Immunocompromised State from a Solid Organ Transplant, Sickle Cell Disease, Pregnancy, and Persons with Disability. Teresa noted that on March 22nd, those working in higher education, media, and government employees are also eligible for the vaccine. On March 29th, religious leaders, restaurant workers, and tradespersons become eligible to receive the vaccine. Teresa added that on April 12th, all person 16 and older in Illinois are eligible to receive the vaccine.

Teresa reported that we have been utilizing the Catholic Halls in Virginia and Beardstown as well as St. John's Lutheran Church for our vaccine clinics. Teresa noted that we have returned to JBS for another 300 employees who wanted vaccinated. Staff will return to JBS on April 9th for their 2nd doses. Teresa reported that we continue to do testing Monday through Friday and are currently offering that on alternating days in Virginia and Beardstown.

Teresa reported in other news that we took possession of our new property at 431 South Front Street on March 23rd. Teresa noted that we are currently interviewing for the Community Health Worker positions that are funded by the Pandemic Navigator Grant. One person has been hired and will start on March 31st and are currently checking references on two other individuals that we have interviewed. Krystal Myers has taken on Linda's role as QA nurse and has begun training.

Teresa reported that we have completed our lease with Enterprise and were able to purchase each car for around \$150 a piece. Teresa noted that we traded those cars towards the purchase of two new vehicles for Home Health and Hospice to use.

Teresa reported we have hired Fernanda Lopez as our new Breastfeeding Peer Counselor and Britney Davis as our new Public Health nurse.

See handout.

Tiffany Angelo

Tiffany Angelo, Clinic Director, reported that there have been some staff changes this month. We are starting to bill our own labs to help save patients money on the cost of lab tests. Tiffany

noted that Maria Rodriguez will be moving into the role of MA/Phlebotomist and will work out of both offices doing all lab draws and helping fill in as needed. Tiffany added that we have started interviewing for open positions and are hopeful to have those positions filled during the next week.

Tiffany reported that Angie continues to work with Care Optimize to get the information correct and in Nextgen. Angie is currently working on data validation and noting that reports are pulling patients they should not be, such as dental only patients and those who do not meet the criteria of the report. Tiffany noted that at this time they have not agreed to a meeting with our team to discuss.

Tiffany reported that for the month of February we reported on 5 QA measures. Those measures include Adolescent Tobacco Use Assessment and Intervention; Immunizations; Child BMI; Bright Futures; Anticipatory Guidance. Tiffany noted that of those 5 measures we met or exceeded the goal with the exception of Immunizations.

Tiffany reported that we continue to offer Covid testing in both offices. Testing has decreased based on the number of tests we have been doing. Tiffany noted that to date we have completed 4,735 tests in Beardstown with 1,118 positives and 1,655 in Virginia with 282 positives.

Tiffany reported that she and Erin Coats have been attending a work group every two weeks to discuss and plan for the new behavioral health upgrade. Tiffany noted they are planning to go live in August but this will depend on how testing/upgrade goes throughout.

Tiffany reported that Delaney and Elsy continue to be busy with food distributions and continuing to distribute Covid care packages to those in need. Tiffany noted that they have also been working with distribution and tracking of free FIT kits for colorectal cancer awareness.

See handout.

Brandi Hymes

Brandi Hymes, Public Health Services Director, reported that Britney Davis has been hired as our new public health nurse with her first day of employment of March 22nd.

Brandi reported that with the vaccinations at JBS it makes Cass County the first county in the United States to do a big meat processing plant. JBS nurses are now going around the country to assist other plants with their vaccine roll out and administration.

See handout.

Krystal Myers

Krystal Myers, Quality Assurance Nurse, reported that the MCH policies and procedures are still under review. Brandi and Krystal will be meeting next week to go over this and this will be moved to April's Board of Health meeting.

Krystal reported that the patient surveys showed no significant negative findings.

See handout.

Old Business

No old business to report at this time.

New Business

A motion was made by Hollie Reid and seconded by Jennifer Allen to approve the CCHC Sliding Fee Discount Scale and updated clinic charges. A motion was carried with all in favor.

Executive Session

Executive session was not needed at this time.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mekelle Neathery and seconded by Kim Hance to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all in favor. President Amy Parlier adjourned the meeting at 12:38 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robyn McKinley, Admin. Asst.