

Cass County Health Department

BOARD OF HEALTH

April 28th, 2021

The Cass County Board of Health met via conference call on April 28th, 2021. President Amy Parlier called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

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

Health Department employees present were Teresa Armstrong, Tiffany Angelo, Dirk Debergh, Shelly Taylor, Nicole Roegge and Krystal Myers. Robyn McKinley was present to take minutes of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

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

Approval of Financial Report

Dirk Debergh, Financial Director, reported that on the revenue expense report, home health and hospice is showing as (\$67,031.62). Dirk stated he is unsure if this is correct. Dirk and Teresa have meetings scheduled to figure out how to fix this issue with the new software since none of the reports are matching up. Teresa added that home health has changed the way they are paying now. Before they were paying in 60 day episodes and now they are paying in 30 day episodes and home health is not getting paid the rap. Dirk and Teresa are hopeful that after the scheduled meeting for the new software they will have a better understanding.

Dirk reported that to date we have received around \$26,000 in hospice appeals. This time last year we were around \$18,000.

Teresa reported that we will be receiving \$1.2 Million in HRSA funding and we have 2 years to spend this funding. Teresa noted she has ideas on where the money will be spent but a budget has not been written up at this time. Teresa added that she received word on Tuesday that we would be receiving an additional \$550,000 in HRSA funding to be used for capital improvements. Teresa reported that she would like to see that money go towards the Beardstown office so she will be reaching out to local realtors to look for buildings or property for sale.

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 1,962 positive cases of Covid-19, with 33 fatalities and 1,923 individuals recovered. Teresa also noted that Cass County

now has 16,078.04 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 the entire State remains in Phase 4, which allows for gatherings of up to 50 people.

Teresa reported that as of April 26th, 2021 our State of Illinois numbers stand at 1,323,170 cases and 21,836 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 8,224 doses of Covid-19 vaccine, to those who live or work in Cass County. Teresa noted that we now have over 32% of our population fully vaccinated which is the 8th highest county in the State. Teresa stated that the State of Illinois is at 29.75% of the population fully vaccinated. Teresa noted that to date we have not had to waste any doses of vaccine.

As of April 12th, all persons age 16 and older in Illinois were eligible to receive the covid-19 vaccine. Teresa noted that we continue to have openings in our scheduled mass vaccination clinics and we have recently started having “pop-up” clinics which require no appointments. To date we have completed one “pop-up” clinic in Chandlerville and have Arenzville and Ashland scheduled later this week. Teresa added that we will also be doing “pop-up” clinics in Beardstown at the Catholic Hall on May 16th to coincide with mass offered in all 3 languages..

Teresa reported that we have been on-site to JBS three times to do vaccinations. JBS is now sending any other employees who are interested to our existing vaccine clinics. Teresa noted that we continue to utilize St. Luke’s and St. Alexius Halls, as well as St. Johns for our vaccine clinics, and the Virginia Methodist Church and Beardstown Christian Academy for testing. Teresa added that BCA has requested that we no longer do testing at their location so we will begin to test at our Beardstown office with a tent set up as we did before. Testing continues to be Monday through Friday, and are currently offering that on alternating days in Virginia and Beardstown.

Teresa reported that according to the most recent data, the State has met the vaccine required metrics to move into “the Bridge”. However, we continue to have rising hospital admissions and hospitalized patients with Covid so until we start to see those two metrics decreasing we will remain in Phase 4.

In other news, there have been neighbors who have called their City Council and attended a City Council meeting as they are upset with our use of the house on Front Street being used for business space. Teresa noted she would like to discuss our options further in Executive Session.

See handout.

Human Resource Report

Nicole Roegge, Human Resource Specialist, reported there have been several staff changes from January-March 2021. There have been several new hires along with some departures. Nicole noted that Maria Rodriguez has moved in the role of phlebotomist while still performing CMA duties for the clinic. Krystal Myers, LPN, has taken over the Quality Assurance/Privacy Officer duties since Linda's retirement.

Nicole reported we are currently looking for PRN occupational and speech therapists for the Home Services program. Nicole added that we are still looking for one more Community Health Worker.

Nicole reported she continues to work on the Cyber Train program and is hopeful that the program will be up and running by June.

See handout.

Clinic Report

Tiffany Angelo, Clinic Director, reported that we have hired 2 full time Medical Assistants to take the place of Krystal and Maria. Tami Jeffers will be working in the Virginia office and Kimberly Westlake will be working mainly in the Beardstown office.

Tiffany reported that we continue to struggle with Care Optimize and do not have any working reports at this time. Tiffany noted that she is working on getting a call set up to figure out the next steps.

Tiffany reported we continue to offer Covid testing in both offices. Testing has moved to the mornings only due to the state lab closing earlier. To date we have completed 4,887 tests in Beardstown with 1,129 positives and 1,806 tests in Virginia with 296 positives.

Tiffany noted that for the month of March we reported on 11 QA measures. Of those 11 measures we met or exceeded the goal on 6 measures. The 5 measures that were not met were Depression Remission at 12 months; Ischemic Vascular Disease; Statin Therapy for the Prevention and Treatment of Cardiovascular Disease; Diabetes and Latino Diabetics. Alerts have been placed on patients charts and have been reviewing proper documentation with staff. We will continue to monitor these QA measures.

Tiffany reported that our behavioral health upgrade has been placed on hold for now as we are awaiting information on an upgrade of the whole system prior to taking the behavioral health upgrade.

Tiffany reported that Delaney and Elsy continue to work on food distributions and FIT outreach to patients. Tiffany noted that Elsy has taken on the role of trainer for the Spanish population for the State of Illinois through the Pandemic Health Navigator program. Tiffany added that we have hired three community health workers who will be working under the Pandemic Health Navigator program. Those staff include Romuald Kalikat who is a French speaker, Blinecia Reza Rodriguez who is a Spanish speaker and Jessica Chaney who will be starting the first part of May.

See handout.

Home Services Report

Shelly Taylor, Home Services Director, reported that we had 17 admissions in January, 23 in February and 45 in March.

Shelly reported we continue to have referrals and see patients in the home with Covid-19. We currently have just one nursing home hospice patient and they have had a couple positive employees and residents, so staff testing will go back to weekly instead of monthly.

Mindy has completed United Way applications for Prairieland, Brown County and Schuyler County. We have received our first check for \$2,594.25 from Beardstown United Way and will receive the second check later this year.

See handout.

Quality Assurance Report

Krystal Myers, Quality Assurance Nurse, reported some revisions to the WIC policies, HIPPA policies and Public Health policies.

Krystal reviewed the results from the Annual Risk Management report with the board members and reviewed patient incidents. New goals were set and those goals were approved by the board members.

See handout.

Old Business

There is no old business to discuss at this time.

New Business

A motion was made by Kim Hance and seconded by Hollie Reid to approve the MCH policies and procedures. A motion was carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Jennifer Allen and seconded by Cathy Gibson to approve HIPPA policy revisions. A motion was carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Hollie Reid and seconded by Jennifer Allen to approve privileging and credentialing of Emily Eichelberger. A motion was carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Ann Chelette and seconded by Hollie Reid to approve Public Health policy revisions. A motion was carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Ann Chelette and seconded by Hollie Reid to approve the Annual CCHC Risk Management Report. A motion was carried with all in favor.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Jennifer Allen and seconded by Cathy Gibson to enter Executive Session at 12:38 p.m. to discuss employee wages.

A motion was made by Kim Hance and seconded by Jennifer Allen to exit Executive Session at 12:55 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ann Chalette and seconded by Hollie Reid to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all in favor. President Amy Parlier adjourned the meeting at 12:59 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robyn McKinley, Admin. Asst.