

Cass County Health Department

BOARD OF HEALTH

May 26th, 2021

The Cass County Board of Health met at the Virginia office of the Cass County Health Department on May 26th, 2021. President Amy Parlier called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

Board of Health members present were Amy Parlier, Mekelle Neathery, Ron Aggertt, Jennifer Allen, Cathy Gibson and Ann Chelette.

Health Department employees present were Teresa Armstrong, Dirk Debergh, Andrew English, Franci Sweetin 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 Mekelle Neathery to approve the minutes of the April meeting as presented. The motion carried with all in favor.

Approval of Financial Report

Dirk Debergh, Financial Director, reported that home health and hospice is still in the negative but up some from last month. Dirk stated he still does not believe this is correct as there are still some billing issues that exist. Dirk noted that he will be having a meeting with Matrix to see if there are changes that need to be made on how we are billing or if there are other issues.

Dirk reported that overall the health department is in good standing financially.

A motion was made by Jennifer Allen and seconded by Ann Chelette 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 2,009 positive cases of Covid-19, with 35 fatalities and 1,962 individuals recovered. Teresa also noted that Cass County now has 16,440.27 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 is now in the Bridge phase, which allows most places to operate at 60% capacity, with outdoor events allowing 30 people/1000 square feet, and social events allowing 250 people inside and 500 outside. If metrics continue to hold steady, the State will move into Phase 5 on June 11th.

Teresa reported that as of May 20th, 2021 our State of Illinois numbers stand at 1,370,342 cases and 22,494 deaths, with a 98% recovery rate.

Teresa reported that CCHD has administered 8,960 doses of Covid-19 vaccine, to those who live or work in Cass County. Teresa noted that we now have over 36% of our population fully vaccinated. Teresa stated that the State of Illinois is at 38.74% of the population fully vaccinated.

As of May 13th, all persons age 12 and up were approved to receive the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine. We continue to have openings at our vaccine clinics and we are continuing to provide pop-up clinics which require no appointment. We have recently held pop-ups at Save-A-Lot (91 people vaccinated), around mass in all three languages in Beardstown at the Catholic Hall (over 90 people vaccinated), all three school districts for those 12 and up in the evenings, and restaurants in Chandlerville, Ashland and Arenzville.

Teresa reported that we continue to utilize St. Luke's and St. Johns for our vaccine clinics and the Virginia Methodist Church for testing. In Beardstown we are now testing in our parking lot and have ordered a carport for this purpose. Testing continues Monday through Friday and are currently offering on alternating days in Virginia and Beardstown, weather permitting.

In other news, our American Rescue Plan HRSA funding has been submitted. The application for Capital Funding is due June 24th and Teresa must submit a physical address on the grant application. Teresa has been working with a realtor in Beardstown to find a location for the Beardstown office.

Teresa reported she has also been working on our Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) application, which is what provides our medical liability coverage. This application is due June 25th.

See handout.

Clinic Report

Teresa Armstrong, Administrator, reported that we are currently in the process of moving to Nextgen Analytics for our quality measures. Teresa noted that OTECH has officially turned all the paperwork back on for patients. Front desk staff has had training and education to ensure they are educating and encouraging our patients to use OTECH for check in.

To date, we have completed 5,077 tests in Beardstown with 1,147 positives and 2,014 in Virginia with 311 positives.

Teresa reported that we have completed our SUPR assistance site visit in April with our first virtual site visit with them in July.

Delaney and Elsy are continuing to look for resources and partnerships to help our communities and strengthen food access. Our three community health workers have all completed their mandatory training and begun their community outreach for the Pandemic Health Navigator program.

With COVID cases decreasing only a few resource requests were received, prompting our team to focus on community based referrals. In April they had over 40 requests from the community for items such as food, income assistance, vaccine information and covid testing assistance.

For the month of April we reported on 9 measures. Of those 9 measures we met or exceeded our goal on 4 measures. The 5 measures that were not met were Cervical Cancer Screening; Colorectal Cancer Screening; Breast Cancer Screening; HIV Screening and Prenatal Trimester.

Teresa reported that Cervical Cancer Screening has improved from last reporting period. Teresa noted that a lot of our patients continue to go to their regular OB/GYN for screening so we have to get a copy of the results for our records in order to be compliant. Colorectal Cancer Screening has also improved since last reporting period. Teresa noted that alerts continue to be placed on the patient's charts and at home screening tests are being offered as well which makes us compliant. Breast Cancer Screening is still a relatively new measure. This measure decreased slightly from last reporting period. Teresa added that Trish Carpenter has started shadowing the nurses and MA's to make sure they are doing these screenings when rooming the patient.

Dental reported on one measure this month which carries risk assessment. There were 6 patients who did not have a caries risk assessment completed which gave the dental clinic a compliance rate of 96%.

See handout.

Environmental Health Report

Franci Sweetin, Environmental Health Director, reported that she has sent out letters to all food vendors and stated that if they are fully vaccinated they can go unmasked. These letters were done in English, Spanish and French.

See handout.

Health Education Report

Andrew English, Health Education Director, reported that with the decrease in covid cases the contact tracers have started turning their focus to educating, answering questions and assisting residents with making appointments in our vaccine clinics.

Andrew reported that we are closing out the grant year so he has been working on grants and getting them submitted. Andrew noted he currently has 5 more grants that are due to be submitted.

See handout.

Quality Assurance Report

Krystal Myers, Quality Assurance Nurse, reported on policy and procedure revisions for the health clinic which will be discussed under New Business.

See handout.

Old Business

There is no old business to discuss at this time.

New Business

A motion was made by Ann Chelette and seconded by Mekelle Neathery to approve the Dental Clinic policies and procedures. A motion was carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Cathy Gibson and seconded by Jennifer Allen to approve the Health Clinic policies and procedures. A motion was carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Jennifer Allen and seconded by Ron Aggertt to approve privileging and credentialing of Dr. Curry. A motion was carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Ron Aggertt and seconded by Ann Chelette to approve Clinic Quality Management Plan policies and procedures. A motion was carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Ann Chelette and seconded by Jennifer Allen to approve Emergency Operations Plan policies and procedures. A motion was carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Mekelle Neathery and seconded by Ann Chelette to approve MAR policies and procedures. A motion was carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Mekelle Neathery and seconded by Jennifer Allen to accept Ann Chelette and Ron Aggertt as members of the nominating committee for the Board of Health. The motion carried with all in favor.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mekelle Neathery and seconded by Ann Chelette to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all in favor. President Amy Parlier adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robyn McKinley, Admin. Asst.