

Cass County Health Department

BOARD OF HEALTH

August 25, 2021

The Cass County Board of Health met at the Virginia office of the Cass County Health Department on August 25th, 2021. President Amy Parlier called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

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

Health Department employees present were Teresa Armstrong, Dirk Debergh, Tiffany Angelo, 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 Zach Flinn and seconded by Mekelle Neathery to approve the minutes of the July meeting as presented. The motion carried with all in favor.

Approval of Financial Report

Dirk Debergh, Financial Director, reported that overall, all programs are in good standing. All programs are currently in the black.

Dirk reported that there was a decrease in the Petefish, Skiles and Company checking account due to having 3 pay periods in the month of July.

Dirk reported that on the management letter from the annual audit, they stressed the importance of having multiple individuals who are capable of handling all the tasks involved in the financial reporting of federal awards. Dirk noted that he has been training Sarah Fanning.

Dirk went over the monthly reports with the group.

Administrator's Report

Teresa Armstrong, Administrator, reported that to date (08/18), Cass County has 2,225 positive cases of Covid-19, with 37 fatalities and 2,156 individuals recovered. Teresa also noted that Cass County now has 18,243.19 cases per 100,000 people, which remains the highest county per capita average in the State of Illinois. Cass County has continued to experience increases in cases over the past few weeks, with over 40 cases per week in the past two weeks. Our test positivity 7-day rolling average is currently 9.2%, with the region at 7.6%. Teresa noted that our local hospitals are at peak census, which is one step away from diversion. Passavant has converted their PACU (surgical recovery area) into another ICU. Passavant has also cancelled any surgery that could require an overnight stay, as there are very few beds available.

Teresa reported that as of August 18, 2021 our State of Illinois numbers stand at 1,474,285 cases and 23,685 deaths.

Teresa reported that CCHD has administered over 10,700 doses of Covid-19 vaccine, to Cass County residents and others employed in the county and surrounding area. Teresa noted that we now have over 46.14% of our population fully vaccinated. Teresa stated that the State of Illinois is at 52.14% of the population fully vaccinated. The Cass County 65 and older population is 80.35% fully vaccinated, those 18 and older are 56.54% fully vaccinated, and those 12 and older are 38.82% fully vaccinated.

Teresa provided a break down by zip code of those fully vaccinated: 62627 (Chandlerville) 32.75%; 62611 (Arenzville) 37.49%; 62612 (Ashland) 43.25%; 62618 (Beardstown) 45.66% and 62691 (Virginia) 51.72%.

Teresa noted that based on this data, we need to do more outreach and messaging to Arenzville, Chandlerville and Ashland.

Teresa reported that the FDA has now approved a 3rd dose shot for the immunocompromised for both Pfizer and Moderna. The FDA is expected to approve a booster shot for those that are not immunocompromised 8 months after receiving the first doses for both Pfizer and Moderna. Teresa noted we are working on updating our Standing Orders from Dr. Royeen and will begin offering those 3rd doses and boosters when approved.

Teresa reported that since our last meeting, Governor Pritzker issued an Executive Order requiring masks in school districts for all students, staff and visitors. We continue to work closely with our school districts as they start the new school year, and are now starting bi-weekly zoom meetings with all three districts. Teresa noted that the EMS calls are now back to weekly and Teresa continues to attend numerous IDPH meetings.

Teresa reported that on August 16 she was contacted by the State Epidemiologist to discuss a substantial increase in the amount of Sars-CoV-19 found in the waste water from Beardstown. Beardstown waste water has been a part of a pilot project, which will soon be going State-wide. The project is looking to determine if virus detected in waste water is an early indicator of rising virus in a community. Teresa noted this is the first time during the pilot project that they have seen a substantial increase.

Teresa reported in other news that we are currently hiring two new contact tracers and also looking for a full time dentist and part time hygienist. Dr. Watson will be leaving in February and Jen Plunk will be going down to one day a week starting in September.

Teresa reported that she has signed a contract to provide on-site behavioral health counseling at JBS. This should start mid to late September.

Teresa reported we continue to be busy preparing for our move from Itentive to NextGen for hosting, as well as working towards go-live with NextGen population health. Once these changes are made we will be working on a dental upgrade and then an update for behavioral health.

Nora Bishop, our newest LCPC, is taking on Hospice Chaplain duties. Nora has a Counseling Ministry Master's Degree from Lincoln Christian University.

See handout

Clinic Report

Tiffany Angelo, Clinic Director, reported that Nora Bishop, LCPC has joined our team. Nora has completed her training and her schedule has been opened up to start seeing patients. Nora will also be on site half a day a week starting mid-September for JBS employees to see her during working hours. Tiffany noted we will also be expanding our behavioral health services in the schools this year with Teegan. Teegan will be spending a day a week in each of the following schools: Virginia, Ashland and Chandlerville. At this time we are still waiting to hear back from Beardstown on how we can coordinate with them also to provide services on site for their students.

Tiffany reported that we went to all three school districts again this year to offer school physicals during registration. At Virginia we saw 3 patients (1 new patient); Ashland we saw 9 patients (5 new patients); at Gard we saw 23 patients (12 new patients); and at Beardstown Middle School/High School we saw 31 patients (10 new patients).

Tiffany reported that we continue to offer Covid testing in both offices on alternating days. Starting Friday the 27th testing will be moved to Virginia United Methodist Church. This move is due to the extreme heat we have been dealing with. Testing is scheduled for an hour a day but we have been expanding this time almost daily as

the need for testing has drastically increased. We have also started testing on Fridays again due to the need in the community. Tiffany noted that for the month of July we tested a total of 78 patients in Beardstown and 63 in Virginia. For the first two weeks in August we had already tested 81 in Beardstown and 113 in Virginia. To date we have completed 5,330 tests in Beardstown with 1,205 positives and 2,301 in Virginia with 393 positives.

Tiffany reported that Dr. Dobbins last day with us will be August 26th. Tiffany noted that we have taken a look at our patient load that was seeing Dr. Dobbins and spoke with her on continued plans of care for them and have decided that at this time we will not be offering Psychiatry in house and will go back to making referrals to those who need to see a Psychiatrist. Tiffany stated she met with several telehealth groups and the minimum requirement is 16 hours a week and we do not have that patient volume at this time.

Tiffany reported that in July our team focused on outreach planning with the Back to School season and National Health Center week. Our team continues to be present with community events which included the Congolese Cultural Day, numerous food distributions, Beardstown 1st Friday and family nights. The Community Health Workers also attended all pop-up clinics in the communities as well as partnered with CCHD's Welcome Center Coordinator and the Western IL Dreamers to host a two day resource fair in Beardstown.

Tiffany reported for the month of July we reported on 8 measures. Of those 8 measures we stayed the same or exceeded our goal on 6 measures. The 2 measures that were not met were Cervical Cancer Screening and Breast Cancer Screening.

Cervical Cancer Screening: Alerts continue to be placed on charts on the EHR side with a red flag.

Breast Cancer Screening: Alerts continue to be placed on the chart of patients that are needing breast cancer screening.

Dental reported on one quality measure this month: Caries Risk Assessment Completed.

Caries Risk Assessment Completed: 89% patients had an exam completed. Staff was reminded the importance of completed a caries risk assessment on all patients between the ages of 6-9.

See handout

Public Health Education

Andrew English, Public Health Educator, reported that between May 1 and July 30, Cass County had 142 cases. 94.3% of these cases were in unvaccinated individuals.

Andrew reported that grant programming is steady. We were not funded for one program related to HIV/AIDS education and outreach that we have been funded for in the past three years. Andrew stated we have replaced that with one women's health grant.

See handout

Environmental Health

Franci Sweetin, Environmental Health Director, reported we have a scheduled Tire Collection for Cass County on September 9th. Drop off location will be at the Highway Department Maintenance Shed on Route 125 outside of Virginia.

Franci reported she will be teaching food classes which will be starting next week.

See handout

Krystal Myers

Krystal Myers, Quality Assurance Nurse, reported that there were no policy revisions this month.

See handout

New Business

A motion was made by Zach Flinn and seconded by Ann Chelette to approve the Annual Audit. The motion carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Ann Chelette and seconded by Zach Flinn to approve the OSHA Policies and Procedures. The motion carried with all in favor.

Executive Session

A motion was made by Cathy Gibson and seconded by Zach Flinn to enter Executive Session at 12:52 p.m. to discuss updates on the property.

A motion was made by Zach Flinn and seconded by Mekelle Neathery to exit Executive Session at 12:56 p.m.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Joyce Brannan and seconded by Mekelle Neathery to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all in favor. President Amy Parlier adjourned the meeting at 12:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robyn McKinley, Admin. Asst.