

Cass County Health Department

BOARD OF HEALTH

September 22, 2021

The Cass County Board of Health met at the Virginia office of the Cass County Health Department on September 22nd, 2021. President Amy Parlier called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m.

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

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Jennifer Allen and seconded by Ann Chelette to approve the minutes of the August 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 all grant contracts are in except for Hep B so all of those have been recognized as revenue.

Teresa reported that there are some revisions that need to be made to the Women's Health Grant so she is anticipating we will be receiving that grant soon. Teresa also noted that she will be presenting a revised budget at October's meeting or November's.

Dirk went over the monthly graphs with the group.

Administrator's Report

Teresa Armstrong, Administrator, reported that to date (09/15/21), Cass County has 2,453 positive cases of Covid-19, with 39 fatalities and 2,319 individuals recovered and 4 covid positive patients hospitalized. Teresa also noted that Cass County now has 20,054.33 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 60 cases per week in the past two weeks. Our test positivity 7-day rolling average is currently 10.2%, with the region at 5.9%. Teresa noted that our local hospitals are at peak census, which is one step away from diversion. Teresa noted that one patient currently in the hospital has been in the emergency department since September 13, and still waiting on a bed.

Teresa reported that as of September 15, 2021 our State of Illinois numbers stand at 1,578,198 cases and 24,407 confirmed deaths and 2,601 probable deaths.

Teresa reported that we currently have three outbreaks open: Walker Nursing Home, A-C Central School and Mt. Olive Baptist Church. A-C Central currently has 35 students/staff out on isolation or quarantine; Virginia School has 13 and Beardstown School has 87.

Teresa reported that CCHD has administered over 12,140 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 48.85% of our population fully vaccinated. Teresa stated that the State of Illinois is at 54.05% of the population fully vaccinated. The Cass County 65 and older population is 80.80% fully vaccinated, those 18 and older are 60.47% fully vaccinated, and those 12 and older are 43.63% fully vaccinated.

Teresa provided a break down by zip code of those fully vaccinated: 62627 (Chandlerville) 34.21%; 62611 (Arenzville) 39.46%; 62612 (Ashland) 44.97%; 62618 (Beardstown) 47.89% and 62691 (Virginia) 52.93%.

Teresa noted that based on this data, we need to do more outreach and messaging to Arenzville, Chandlerville and Ashland. Teresa noted that we were at both Arenzville and Chadlerville Burgoos and at Ashland School.

Teresa reported that since our last meeting, the federal government announced a new vaccine mandate for all healthcare workers, including those staff who are ancillary to direct patient care. This mandate does not allow for a “testing-out” option, but does allow for medical and religious exemptions.

Teresa reported we continue to work closely with all of our school districts. Teresa noted there have been several court cases across the State where the judge has sided with the parents and ordered the children back to school. In those instances, the school was quarantining students with no input from the local health department. As the local health department, we have the authority to issue a voluntary 14 day quarantine and a mandatory 48 hour quarantine. Teresa added we continue to work with IDPH and our school districts on this issue. We have not had that issue come up in Cass County. We are currently assisting our school districts with testing of their unvaccinated staff. This will be on a short-term basis until they get their own testing program set up through SHIELD. Teresa noted that the EMS calls are now back to weekly and Teresa continues to attend numerous IDPH meetings.

Teresa reported that in other news we have hired one contact tracer and one community health worker. We are still needing to hire one more for each position, and currently are working on setting up interviews with three potential applicants. We are also looking to fill a MA or LPN position for the clinic as well as a dental assistant and front desk receptionist.

See handout.

Clinic Report

Tiffany Angelo, Clinic Director, reported that we are currently looking for a full time Medical Assistant to take Vanessa’s place in the Beardstown office. Maryia has gone to part time as she continues to take nursing classes and will continue to adjust her hours based on her school schedule.

Tiffany reported that Teegan is doing well in the schools again this year. Teegan is spending a day a week in each of the following schools: Virginia, Ashland, Chandlerville and half a day a week in the Beardstown Middle School/High School.

Tiffany reported that testing is still being offered 5 days a week in Virginia. As the weather cools down, we will be moving testing back to Beardstown a couple days a week as well. Tiffany reported that for the month of July we tested a total of 78 patients in Beardstown and 63 in Virginia. For the month of August we tested 178 in Beardstown and 295 in Virginia. To date we have completed 5,462 tests in Beardstown with 1,230 positives and 2,821 tests in Virginia with 498 positives.

Tiffany reported that our Nextgen hosting migration went very well. There are still a few items that are not working but we continue to meet weekly to discuss the progress on these items. Testing has begun of our data within Nextgen population health. Due to the Nextgen migration, population health go live has been pushed to the middle of October.

Tiffany reported that the outreach team was very busy with events in the month of August. During the month our team developed or attended 18 outreach events and 7 pop-up vaccine clinics. August was also a busy month with resource requests, as we completed over 50 resource requests and 29 community referrals.

Tiffany reported for the month of August we reported on 5 quality measures. Of those 5 measures we stayed the same or exceeded our goal on 4 measures. The 1 measure that was not met was Bright Futures. Alerts will continue to be placed on the patients charts.

Behavioral Health reported on 1 measure, Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR) Assessment for Patient Placement and we were 100% compliance.

See handout.

Public Health Services Report

Brandi Hymes, Public Health Services Director, reported that she and her staff has been very busy with vaccine clinics and pop-up clinics as well. Staff has started testing at Virginia and Beardstown Schools for their unvaccinated staff. Virginia has approximately 12 staff members and Beardstown currently has 75, many of which are in the process of getting vaccinated.

See handout.

Quality Assurance Report

Krystal Myers, Quality Assurance Nurse, reported some changes to the public health policies and procedures, lead policies and procedures and immunization policies and procedures. There were no changes to the TB policies and procedures or the HIPAA policies and procedures.

See handout.

New Business

A motion was made by Jennifer Allen and seconded by Kim Hance to approve the HIPAA Policies and Procedures. The motion carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Jennifer Allen and seconded by Joyce Brannan to approve the Public Health Policies and Procedures. The motion carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Ann Chelette and seconded by Jennifer Allen to approve the Mandatory Covid-19 Vaccination Policy. The motion carried with all in favor.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Cathy Gibson and seconded by Ann Chelette to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried with all in favor. President Amy Parlier adjourned the meeting at 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robyn McKinley, Admin. Asst.

