

Cass County Health Department

BOARD OF HEALTH

January 26th, 2022

The Cass County Board of Health met at the Virginia office of the Cass County Health Department on January 26th, 2022. President Amy Parlier called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

Board of Health members present were Amy Parlier, Cathy Gibson, Jennifer Allen, Joyce Brannan, Kim Hance and Zach Flinn.

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

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Joyce Brannan and seconded by Cathy Gibson to approve the minutes of the December meeting as presented. The motion carried with all in favor.

Approval of financial report

Dirk Debergh, Financial Director, reported that on the revised final statement for November, he included expenses for home health and physical therapy that had recently been received.

Dirk reported that on the December statement all programs are in the black. Public Health is in the red some but Dirk is confident this will pick back up soon. Dirk noted that Public Health is the program that receives the most tax levy support, which has not yet been received.

Dirk reported that the money market two account which has \$62,000 in it has not had any activity in a while so Dirk suggested we deposit a small amount into it so it does not become an abandoned account. Amy suggested that we combine the two accounts. Teresa noted that was something we could look into but would need board approval to do so.

Administrator's Report

Teresa Armstrong, Administrator, reported that to date (01/20/22), Cass County has 4,202 positive cases of Covid-19, with 48 fatalities and 3,772 individuals recovered and 9 covid positive patients hospitalized. Teresa also noted that Cass County now has 34,074.26 cases per 100,000 people, which remains the highest county per capita average in the State of Illinois. Teresa noted that we have seen our cases per week rise substantially in the last few weeks as we have increased to over 300 and 400 cases per week. Many days we have had over 100 new positive cases a day. The Omicron variant is spreading rapidly and all of our positives that have been tested for variants have been Omicron since 12/25/21. Cass County continues to be in the warning area, with high community transmission, as is the entire State of Illinois.

Teresa reported that as of January 20, 2022 our State of Illinois numbers stand at 2,732,720 cases and 29,708 confirmed deaths and 3,570 probable deaths with over 172,719 cases and 762 deaths in the last 7 days. Region 3 (West Central Illinois) currently has 7% ICU bed availability. Our region currently has 20% positivity rate with Cass County at 24.3% positivity rate. Teresa noted that cases are significantly coming down. Currently there are 7 hospitalized with 3 in the ICU.

Teresa reported we currently have outbreaks at Heritage Health, Walker Nursing Home and Evergreen Supportive Living. All of the area schools are struggling with students and staff out for isolation or quarantine,

but all have remained open. A-C Central currently has 29 students/staff in isolation or quarantine, Virginia School has 24 and Beardstown Schools have 231.

Teresa reported that we are working to implement Shield testing which is the saliva test. Once that is implemented we will only use Binax for those who can't use Shield. The State is experiencing a shortage of Binax tests and the State lab is overwhelmed with PCR tests which leads to delays in receiving confirmatory test results. We did receive another shipment of Binax tests this week, so we are transitioning back to using more Binax tests for quicker results and only sending in PCR testing if they are past 7 days symptomatic or a known contact of a positive case and test negative on the Binax test.

Teresa reported in other news, we have been struggling with employees who are either positive for Covid or close household contacts of a positive case. We are working under the CDC contingency guidelines for healthcare workers. These guidelines allow for those who are infected with Covid-19 to return to work after 5 days if asymptomatic. For those who are exposed to Covid-19, if vaccinated and boosted, no work restriction is needed. For those who are vaccinated or unvaccinated, it allows for no work restriction with negative tests on day 1, 2, 3 and another test between days 5-7.

Teresa has been working closely with our Project Manager who has offered two different revised options that would allow for what space we needed without having an addition to the building. Two different construction companies have been on-site and are working on their estimate of costs.

Teresa reported that she, Tiffany and Dirk have been working on our annual Uniform Data System report. This report is due from every funded health center by February 15th every year.

See handout

Clinic Report

Tiffany Angelo, Clinic Director, reported we have hired a full time Medical Assistant to take Maryia's place. Jennifer Montoya started January 18th and has hit the ground rounding. She is currently on week two of training. Jennifer is bilingual so that will help tremendously in our Beardstown office. Dr. Curry has returned to seeing patients but is currently doing minimal visits from home using telehealth as he continues to heal. Tiffany noted that Merritt Hawkins continues to do recruitment efforts for us for another full time physician for when Dr. Curry retires.

Tiffany reported that there have been some changes with JBS. Sarah Seely will be going on Thursdays and doing a full day instead of a half day. This change opens up Nora's schedule to see more patients in office.

Tiffany reported that testing is still being offered 5 days a week in Virginia and the Beardstown office. We are currently rotating back and forth between locations and adjusting for weather as needed. To date we have completed 6,399 tests in Beardstown with 1,492 positives and 4,266 tests in Virginia with 853 positives.

Tiffany reported that the outreach team was very busy with events in the month of December. During the month our team completed over 56 resource requests and 21 community based referrals. These continue to be focused around food assistance, household items, cleaning supplies and CCHD's covid kits. For outreach the team attended multiple food pantries and/or food pop-up distributions in Cass County as well as helped with all of the Covid vaccine clinics.

Tiffany reported that for the month of December we reported on 11 measures. Of those 11 measures we exceeded our goal or increased from last reporting period on all 11 measures.

Behavioral health reported on two measures: Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and other drug dependence treatment (14 days) and Initiation and Engagement of Alcohol and other drug dependence treatment (30 days). Both measures were 100% compliant.

Dental reported on two measures: Sealant Retention and Sealant to First Molars. Sealant retention was 100% compliant while sealant to first molars was 86% compliant. The patient's charts were noted as to why the three patients were not compliant.

See handout.

Home Services

Shelly Taylor, Home Services Director, reported that our Medicare home health unduplicated census count at the end of November was 155 compared to last year at 128. Our total unduplicated census for all payer sources at the end of November was 360 compared to last year at 351.

Shelly reported that in October we had 34 admissions, 26 in November and 31 in December. Of those 92 admissions in the last 3 months, 22 were Medicare, 9 were Medicaid, 56 were private insurance and 5 were private pay.

Shelly reported that we had 10 hospice referrals in October with 8 admissions, 11 referrals in November with 7 admissions and 12 referrals in December with 11 admissions. The 7 non-admissions: 3 patients died before admission, 1 patient was not ready and three patients refused. One of the patients that refused went on hospice a few weeks later and the one who was not ready went on home health.

Shelly reported that our hospice appeals letter went out in December and as of the end of December we have received \$16,119.

See handout.

Human Resources

Nicole Roegge, Human Resource Specialist, reported that we are looking for a full time nurse practitioner for the Beardstown office. Tiffany had spoken with a potential candidate who has decided to stay at her current employer. Other open positions currently are an additional full time dentist.

Nicole reported she currently has two active FMLA cases. No closes were closed during the previous period.

Nicole reported we will announce our 4th "Employee of the Quarter" at the January All Staff meeting later this week.

See handout.

Quality Assurance Report

Teresa Armstrong, Administrator, reported that there was a revision made to home health policies and procedures and home health forms.

See handout.

New Business

A motion was made by Cathy Gibson and seconded by Zach Flinn to approve home health policies and procedures. The motion carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Joyce Brannan and seconded by Kim Hance to approve hospice policies and procedures. The motion carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Cathy Gibson and seconded by Zach Flinn to approve home services emergency operations plan. The motion carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Joyce Brannan and seconded by Kim Hance to approve home services quality management plan. The motion carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Jennifer Allen and seconded by Joyce Brannan to approve Cass County Health Department annual report. The motion carried with all in favor.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Jennifer Allen and seconded by Cathy Gibson 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.