

BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES

TAMA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH & HOME CARE

Monday March 22, 2021 – 12:00 P.M.
Meeting held via Zoom - Tama Co. Annex Building

Due to heightened potential public health risks related to the COVID-19 virus, all Tama County Board of Health meetings will be held electronically through ZOOM or by phone conference until further notice.

Present: Micki Ferris –via Zoom Shannon Zoffka Jolynn Harger
Lori Johnson Bill Faircloth – via Zoom Sherry Parks, PA-C –via Zoom
Phyllis Dunlap – via Zoom Duane Backen – via Zoom Warren Dukes, AmeriGroup – via Zoom
Heather Bombei –via Zoom

Absent: Dr. Polly Hineman Todd Apfel

Amerigroup Presentation: Warren Dukes, Community Relations Rep with Amerigroup gave a presentation about what he does. Warren works with providers to get word out to members about the benefits of Amerigroup. There are 410,000 members in the State of Iowa. There has been a mobile app released for members that can link them to community resources and to providers for services that the member might need. Members are also given a free cell phone, and can be enrolled in a Health Incentive Program.

The meeting was called to order by Sherry Parks, Chair, at 12:20 p.m.

Micki Ferris moved to accept the Revised Agenda as presented. Phyllis Dunlap seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Micki Ferris moved to accept the minutes of the February 22, 2021 meeting, Duane Backen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Reports:

Environmental Report: Todd submitted a report on open projects.

Director's Report – Shannon Zoffka

Quality Assurance/Performance Improvement (QAPI): An electronic meeting was initiated with staff.

Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA): No new news.

Supporting Kids in Prevention (SKIP): Jenny Hulme, who is a member of SKIP, will be working on the Child Abuse Prevention campaign this year.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP): Monthly Public Health meetings continue and extra information sharing meetings as well. Statewide Exercise COVID-19 Vaccine Point of Distribution (POD) After Action Report (AAR) and Improvement Plan (IPP) is due March 31st. There are many documents to review and provide feedback on: Preparedness Plan – Pediatric Annex, Infectious Disease Annex, Infectious Disease AAR/IP.

Human Resources: All staff were informed that work from home due to COVID is no longer an option. Shannon checked with Tama County HR and no other departments currently had staff working from home. The County Emergency Plan is not in effect, most staff are vaccinated, and the CARES Act is over.

Todd Apfel turned in his resignation on Friday, effective immediately at noon on that day. Shannon has received a complaint from a property owner regarding a septic issue.

Communicable Disease: There was one communicable disease case in February, and six animal bites – one of which required rabies shots.

COVID:

No LTC are in outbreak status in Tama County or in the State.

We continue to work closely with the school administration and COVID contacts on quarantined staff and kids.

Current case count: 2222 (at the last meeting we were at 2164) – it is an average of 14 a week. Today we have a 2.5% 14 day positivity rate, which is quite low for us. Tama County has had 68 total deaths per the State count, but we are aware of 73. We are only able to do a few case investigations a week due to vaccine clinics and planning. On March 21st we were at our 1 year anniversary of the first case of COVID in Tama County.

Vaccine: Clinics continue, we utilized 32 volunteers throughout February. There were EMS, RN's, LPN's, PA, NP's and non-medical volunteers. All together there were 420.75 volunteer hours in February, which is equivalent to approximately \$12,000 if their hours were paid.

We are still working to get through our list of elderly, which was over 2000 people and is now down to about 400. Last week we only had boost clinics and will primarily have boost clinics this week. We did not receive an increase in doses from the State with the change in priority groups. We have not been able to have a large clinic of prime doses that focuses on the 64 and under group. There is a possibility that we could be called by the Governor's Office today in regards to only giving boost shots last week. Due to inconsistent ship dates and boost provided not matching prime doses, we have continuously had to use prime as boost and boost as prime. Having one week in February where we received no shipments and then having our delivery dates changed, has caused a lot of issues with scheduled clinics. Instead of rescheduling the elderly who are largely transported to clinics by family and friends, Shannon chose to provide boost doses as scheduled and make sure people are fully vaccinated vs trying to catch up for weeks.

To date we have received 3000 prime doses of Moderna and 2100 boost doses. Our allocation remains 300 prime and 300 boost each week. We are hoping to get all of our boost doses given and are planning around the next shipment dates. Shannon has contacted the State in regards to all of this, and has been told that she needs to remain flexible.

We have had complaints of people still being on a waiting list, which we explain that we only receive 300 doses each week, half go to the elderly and half go to tiered groups. We work our way down the list in order of when they called. At days end, when we have doses left we try to work off of the list, but if people do not answer or are too far away we keep moving down the list or pull from tiers as we will not waste a dose.

We were contacted in February in regards to if we would take 500 doses of Johnson & Johnson to use specifically on factory/industrial agriculture. This would count in our burn rate. Two hundred forty doses were directed to Iowa Premium Beef, and we distributed the rest of the doses in our already planned clinics. We met the burn rate.

There is much confusion in the general public, as it was announced that under 64 is eligible now, we do not have the resources to provide vaccination and still have several hundred people on the waiting list. We do tell people to check with pharmacies as well. We are not going to have a waiting list for under 65, as we do not have the man power to handle that call volume and under 64 is more computer savvy than over 65. Our plan is that we will announce on Facebook when we have appointments available for that age group and provide a phone number to call and schedule. When those appointments are full we will post that there are no more appointments available. We understand that not everyone has Facebook, but this is the most immediate platform available to provide information. This then helps have some control and organization over the calls, we will use a cell phone for them to call for scheduling purposes. It was announced last week that the State may open up vaccine to all in April.

Maternal Health Program: We have 13 visits that will be billed to the Local Public Health Grant. St. Paul's in Traer gave the Nest donations of diapers and wipes. We are planning a supply drive for July.

Home Health: There was a slight increase in admissions last month. Numbers continued to be monitored.

Waiver: February: Six patients were served under the Frail and Elderly Waiver. There were 13 Maternal Health Home visits in February.

Financial Report:

Lori shared the Financial Reports with the Board. Admissions were up. Skilled Nursing visits increased from the previous month. Home Health Aide visits and hours were down from the previous month. Revenue increased from the previous month.

Phyllis Dunlap moved to approve the Financial Report as presented. Duane Backen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

New Business

A. Duane Backen moved to Approve & Authorize CEO/Executive Director to sign Medicare Advantage Facility Services Agreement with Wellmark. Micki Ferris seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Micki Ferris moved to Approve & Authorize CEO/Executive Director to sign Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program BP3 Concurrence Letter. Phyllis Dunlap seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

C. Shannon was contacted by Human Resources and the Board of Supervisors about the Environmental Health position moving to its own department. This is the second time that Shannon has been contacted about this. The last time Shannon contacted Heather Bombei and was given information that was presented to the Board of Supervisors, and they decided not to go through with changing the department. It has now come up again. This time with the idea of combining EMA and the Environmental Health position. Shannon's intent is to make the Board aware, since it has come up twice in a year and had not been discussed with Shannon or the Board of Health beforehand. Shannon feels the Board needs to make a statement as to why that position belongs under the BOH.

In regards to Todd resigning, there was no reason given in his letter of resignation.

Duane Backen commented that he wished Todd was present to explain his resignation.

Motion by Phyllis Dunlap to accept Todd's resignation. Duane Backen seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Discussion was held about whether the Board should contract or hire an Environmental Health Officer. We have been given information from the State about an interim EHO that we can use, until we get a new person hired. Lori is going to contact her this week to see if she would be available to help out. Duane Backen mentioned that it would be nice to know the cost breakdown for contracting vs hiring.

Duane Backen moved to contract with whatever County that was available to help us in the interim. Phyllis Dunlap seconded.

Motion by Duane Backen to advertise for a part-time and hire an Environmental Health Officer. Phyllis Dunlap seconded.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: Duane Backen wanted to know if we had plans to starting meeting back in the office for Board meetings. Shannon said that the office conference room does not have enough space for people to sit six feet apart.

Future Meeting Dates: The next Board of Health meeting will be held on Monday, April 26, 2021 at Noon.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jolynn Harger, Executive/Financial Assistant