

## **COLES COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT BOARD OF PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR'S MEETING**

A regular meeting for the Public Health Board of Directors of the Coles County Health Department (CCHD) was held on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021 via Web-ex / call-in and in Conference Room 4 at the Coles County Health Department's Charleston location, 825 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Charleston, Illinois. The meeting was called to order at 5:17pm by Dr. Huffman.

### **Present:**

Board members in remote attendance: Dr. Philip Kepp, Dr. Bernie Rancho, Dr. Michael Gillespie, Dave Cole, Mike Murray, and Jeremy Doughty. Board members present: Dr. Stan Huffman. Staff present: Diana Stenger, Gloria Spear, Lisa Sorensen, and Paul Howarth

### **Roll Call:**

Mrs. Mary Wetzel was not able to attend the meeting remotely. County Board members Stan Metzger and Mike Watts also attended the meeting remotely. At 5:18pm a motion was made by Dr. Huffman and seconded by Dr. Kepp to begin the meeting.

### **Minutes Approved:**

At 5:19pm, a motion was made by Dr. Kepp and seconded by Dr. Rancho to approve the minutes of the February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 regular board meeting. Motion carried by unanimous decision.

### **Board Member Terms of Renewal:**

A discussion was led by Mr. Doughty regarding renewal of terms for the Coles County Public Health Board who explained that, per the by-laws and state statutes, letters of consideration must be submitted to the County Board Chairman. The final approval of term renewals and new board members are made by the County Board Chairman and County Board vote. Dr. Huffman questioned whether this was a change from the previous process of renewing and appointing board members to new terms based on the County Health Board recommendations and why this needed to change. Dr. Kepp and Michael Murray questioned whether or not the County Board had any concerns with how the County Health Board operated in the past, if they are now wanting to make changes. Mr. Metzger said there were no issues with the County Health Board's conduct and reiterated what Mr. Doughty had stated regarding the need to follow the by-laws for term-renewal and appointment of new board members.

CCHD board members further discussed the renewal of CCHD board members and nomination of potential members for appointment of new CCHD board members. Mrs. Stenger noted that she has never directed the Coles County Health Board to appoint any past or current board member. The renewal of Coles County Health board members or new appointments have been completed by the Coles County Health Department board members. The Coles County Health Department board members have directed Mrs. Stenger to reach out to current members for renewal or ask for the potential board member to submit a resume. The resume would then be submitted to the Coles County Board Secretary, which they would in turn present to the Coles County Board chair and board for a vote. Mrs. Stenger states she has never appointed a Coles County Health Department board member.

Mr. Metzger started a discussion about dealing with complaint calls regarding Health Department activities. Mr. Cole advised that a process for review complaints with the Health Department was needed and a discussion was had regarding this issue. Mr. Metzger then spoke about the need for more publicity regarding changes in COVID-19 restrictions for local business. Mrs. Stenger welcomed the suggestions regarding additional ways to communicate these changes.

## **Financial Reports: January, February, March 2021**

Mrs. Stenger presented to the board the most recent three months of financial statements provided by the Coles County Treasurer, and spoke on the following items; One reconciliation had to be made because the County contribution for FY20 had been received in FY21; The significant amount of grant funding received in March was a \$240,000 lump sum payment for the COVID vaccination grant; Contact tracing had been extended until December 2021 and the current grant funds would be sufficient to cover grant expenses until then, although low vaccination rates and the reopening of businesses presents a risk of increased cases; Contact Tracing grant funds had been used for contractual reimbursement for the assistance from other County departments, including the Treasurer's office, Sheriff's Department and IT / Regional Planning; Currently CCHD has two CD's, but the low interest rates and the need to borrow CCHD funds to cover costs of contact tracing while awaiting grant reimbursement has led to a conservative approach to the CD's.

The board members present had no questions on the financials.

## **Nursing Report by Lisa Sorensen:**

The Nursing Report was reviewed by the board and Mrs. Sorensen led the discussion.

Interviews are taking place for the open CD Nurse, RN position. Despite the limitations from COVID restrictions the WIC Program has reached 75% of the target caseload and thus received an increase in funding. The HealthWorks program has seen case numbers fall from 39 to 36. Communication with HealthWorks clients has been through telephone. COVID-19 outbreaks have occurred recently and are typically in congregate settings such as schools and nursing homes. Outbreak response includes sending children home from school and providing rapid testing to congregate settings.

The Lead program had less testing and screenings due to remote services being provided by the WIC Program but monitoring has continued and eight screenings have been conducted. Two of those tests came back with high lead levels so follow up interviews by phone have been conducted to work with reducing lead exposure in the household.

No assistance with medical cannabis applications had been conducted in 2021.

## **Environmental Health Report by Gloria Spear:**

The board members present reviewed the Environmental Health Report and Mrs. Spear led the discussion.

The Environmental Health Department had been short one staff member in February and March. One vacancy still remains unfilled. Applicants are required to have a four-year degree with 30 hours of math and science. Staff have been familiarizing themselves with the changes that have come from the Illinois Department of Commerce. A small number of temporary food permits have been issued for drive-thru events so far this year. The Mosquito control program will have Joe Beadles return as the seasonal mosquito control technician for another year.

## **Old Business:**

- A. Mrs. Stenger Spoke about the COVID vaccination clinics and contact tracing continuing, with a Johnson & Johnson clinic coming up on Saturday at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. There had been a dip in interest over vaccinations and the Health Department had been reaching out to schools regarding Pfizer vaccinations for school-age children who are 12 years and older. The County is not currently anywhere near herd immunity. There are currently no vaccination mandates and no longer mask mandates for those vaccinated. The Health Department continues to follow IDPH guidelines on these issues. Compliments were given to the contact tracing team is currently ranked in the top 5% in Illinois for response times with confirmed cases and their contacts. The Health Department had been shorthanded at times and Gloria, Lisa and Paul were thanked for their continued efforts through this stretch.

B. Remaining 2021 Board meeting dates were reviewed by the board members: September 16<sup>th</sup>, November 9<sup>th</sup>

**New Business:**

- A. Mrs. Spear discussed the idea of introducing a professional food permit. This would be similar to a temporary food permit but would allow a professional vendor the ability to obtain one food permit that would cover 5 or more events that the vendor planned on attending. There are a small number of food vendors that attend numerous events in the County and this new permit would be beneficial for that type of vendor. Dr. Kepp asked if a copy of the plan could be sent to the members of the Coles County Health Board and this could be passed on to the County Board for approval, pending the review of the Health Board.

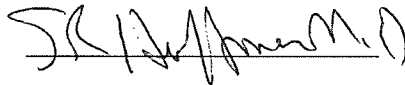
**Miscellaneous:**

Michael Murray told the board members and Health Department staff present that it had been a pleasure working with them and the board members responded by thanking Mr. Murray for his time on the board, wishing him well.

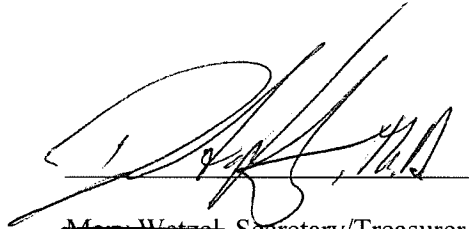
Mr. Mike Watts, Coles County Board member, asked if vaccination metrics could be included on daily press releases. Mrs. Stenger stated that there is vaccine hesitation with people who are waiting and watching for vaccine studies. Mrs. Stenger also said that she had been putting the County vaccination metrics on the press releases on occasion and would make sure to continue with that going forward.

**No further business:**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dr. Kepp and seconded by Mr. Cole. Meeting adjourned at 6:28pm



Dr. Stan Huffman, President



Mary Wetzel, Secretary/Treasurer

