

**KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
OF SPECIAL MEETING
November 18, 2021, via Teleconference at 6:30 p.m.
Knox County Health Department
1361 W. Fremont St.
Galesburg, IL 61401**

The Knox County Special Board of Health meeting was held via Teleconference on November 18, 2021. President Dan Harris called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Present were Dan Harris, Doug Gibb, Lorraine Garland, MD, Stephanie Grimes, and Kevin Satsky, MD. Also, present were Michele Gabriel, Public Health Administrator; and Tina Jockisch, Administrative Clerk. Absent: Bruce Bobofchak DDS, DuRae Fletcher, Sr, Robert Bondi, and Susan Vinson.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

A motion was made by Doug Gibb to approve the agenda as presented and was seconded by Lorraine Garland. Roll Call vote was unanimous: Doug Gibb-yes; Lorraine Garland-yes; Stephanie Grimes-yes; Kevin Satsky-yes; and Dan Harris-yes. Absent: Bruce Bobofchak, DuRae Fletcher, Sr., Robert Bondi, and Susan Vinson.

OLD BUSINESS

The only item on agenda under Old Business, Michele Gabriel presented to the Board of Health the Policies and Procedures to comply with Medicare and Medicaid Programs Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination. Michele went on to report that the vaccine mandate for health care workers was put in place by CMS by adding it to the rules required for the Knox County Health Department to be a certified Medicare provider, and that the rules had been published in the Federal Register on November 5, 2021. The rules are set up in two phases of compliance. The phase one deadline is December 6, 2021 and requires any unvaccinated staff to have either received their first COVID 19 vaccine (or only vaccine if they receive the Janssen (Johnson & Johnson) or to have requested a medical or religious exemption. According to the presented Health Department Policies and Procedures, staff not taking any of these actions at that time will be put on unpaid leave. The phase two deadline is January 4, 2022 and requires all staff to either be fully vaccinated for COVID 19 or have an approved medical or religious exemption on file. According to the presented Health Department Policies and Procedures, staff not meeting the requirements at that time will be considered unwilling to comply with policies and procedures required to work for the Health Department and will be considered to have resigned. The Policies and Procedures are also effective for any new staff, and, at this time, CMS is stating that the rules will not be removed even after the public health emergency declaration for COVID 19 is removed. A motion was made by Kevin Satsky to approve the Procedures to comply with Medicare and Medicaid Programs Omnibus COVID-19 Health Care Staff Vaccination was seconded by Stephanie Grimes. Roll Call vote was unanimous: Doug Gibb-yes; Lorraine Garland-yes; Stephanie Grimes-yes; Kevin Satsky-yes; and Dan Harris-yes. Absent: Bruce Bobofchak, DuRae Fletcher, Sr., Robert Bondi, and Susan Vinson.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Doug Gibb to adjourn the November 18,2021 Special Board of Health meeting at 6:41pm; the motion was seconded by Kevin Satsky. Roll Call vote was unanimous: Doug Gibb-yes; Lorraine Garland-yes; Stephanie Grimes-yes; Kevin Satsky-yes; and Dan Harris-yes. Absent: Bruce Bobofchak, DuRae Fletcher, Sr., Robert Bondi, and Susan Vinson.