

**KNOX COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MINUTES
OF MONTHLY MEETING**

December 9, 2021, via Teleconference
6:30 p.m.

Knox County Health Department
1361 W. Fremont St.
Galesburg, IL 61401

The Knox County Board of Health meeting was held via Teleconference on December 9, 2021. President Dan Harris called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Present were Dan Harris, Kevin Satsky, MD, Doug Gibb, DuRae Fletcher, Sr, Robert Bondi, Stephanie Grimes, Bruce Bobofchak DDS, Susan Vinson, and Lorraine Garland, MD. Also, present were Michele Gabriel, Public Health Administrator; Wil Hayes, Assistant Public Health Administrator; Jerome Townsell, Director of Finance and Facilities Management; Mary Guenseth, Director of Family Case Management, and Tina Jockisch, Administrative Clerk.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda. A motion to approve to the agenda was made by Robert Bondi and seconded by Lorraine Garland. Roll Call vote was unanimous: Kevin Satsky-yes; Doug Gibb-yes; DuRae Fletcher, Sr.-yes; Robert Bondi-yes; Stephanie Grimes-yes; Bruce Bobofchak-yes; Susan Vinson-yes; Lorraine Garland-yes; and Dan Harris-yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public.

PRESIDENT'S BUSINESS

The only item on the agenda under President's Business, Elect FY22 Board of Health Officers, President Harris stated the slate of Board officers would remain the same for 2022 with President-Dan Harris; Vice President-Kevin Satsky; Treasurer-Doug Gibb; and Secretary-DuRae Fletcher, Sr. A motion to approve the slate of Board of Health 2022 Officers as presented was made by Bruce Bobofchak and seconded by Stephanie Grimes. Roll Call vote was unanimous: Kevin Satsky-yes; Doug Gibb-yes; DuRae Fletcher, Sr.-yes; Robert Bondi-yes; Stephanie Grimes-yes; Bruce Bobofchak-yes; Susan Vinson-yes; Lorraine Garland-yes; and Dan Harris-yes.

BUSINESS MEETING

Approval of Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 10,2021 meeting as circulated was made by DuRae Fletcher, Sr. and seconded by Lorraine Garland. Roll Call vote was unanimous: Kevin Satsky-yes; Doug Gibb-yes; DuRae Fletcher, Sr.-yes; Robert Bondi-yes; Stephanie Grimes-yes; Bruce Bobofchak-yes; Susan Vinson-yes; Lorraine Garland-yes; and Dan Harris-yes.

A motion to approve the minutes of the November 18,2021 special meeting as circulated was made by Stephanie Grimes and seconded by Doug Gibb. Roll Call vote was unanimous: Kevin Satsky-yes; Doug Gibb-yes; DuRae Fletcher, Sr.-yes; Robert Bondi-yes; Stephanie Grimes-yes; Bruce Bobofchak-yes; Susan Vinson-yes; Lorraine Garland-yes; and Dan Harris-yes.

Treasurer's Report

The first item under the Business Meeting, Jerome Townsell, reported on revised expenses for the month of December 2021 totaling \$517,532.41. He went on to note that additional expenses since the mailing of the agenda included: LIHEAP \$469,288.99, Supplies \$2,645.08, Waste Removal \$2,026.78, Scale Calibration \$860.00, Background Checks Services \$511.40,

Building Maintenance \$308.50, Utilities \$198.62, Training/Travel \$156.24, Client Services \$116.74, and Ads \$100.00 totaling \$476,212.35. A motion was made by Robert Bondi to approve payment of the December 2021 bills as presented; was seconded by Lorraine Garland. Roll Call vote was unanimous: Kevin Satsky-yes; Doug Gibb-yes; DuRae Fletcher, Sr.-yes; Robert Bondi-yes; Stephanie Grimes-yes; Bruce Bobofchak-yes; Susan Vinson-yes; Lorraine Garland-yes; and Dan Harris-yes.

The final item under the Business Meeting, Jerome Townsell, presented the Financial Statements for the period ending November 30, 2021 stating the Health Department is \$533,970.14 Net Revenue Over Expenditures for the month and \$121,694.94 Net Revenue Over Expenditures for the year. In closing, Jerome noted LIHEAP spent \$1,211,986.13 for client utilities, there were many Knox County residents helped this year.

PUBLIC HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

The first item under the Administrator's Report, Michele Gabriel updated Board on progress in the creation of the COVID-19 Testing/Vaccine Division stating the Health Department had hired a Director, Melissa Henson for the Division and is attempting to staff that division with LPN's, Medical Assistants, and clerks; however, the Health Department is experiencing the same hiring concerns experienced by other agencies, particularly health care agencies. Michele went on to state that the COVID testing is a Health Center program the Department is working with HRSA the granting agency to extend the temporary status of the Bergner's building to try and move testing inside the building for the winter; if it is not approved however, the building will not be considered within the scope of the Community Health Center and will not be able to be used for testing. Michele stated the Health Department continues to test Monday, Wednesday and Friday and offer vaccines at clinics on Tuesday's 1:30pm-3:30pm and Thursday's 8:30am-10:30am, there have also been walk-in Booster Vaccine Clinics, and Pediatric/Adolescent Vaccine Clinics made available for ages 5-18 by appointment. Michele stated Knox County COVID cases are increasing in family settings, the ICU numbers are staying below the 20% being used as a benchmark for the State. Michele stated IDPH is talking about demobilization at the State level, they are asking the Health Department not to treat COVID as an emergency but treat it as something we are doing in our normal services and begin a shift from COVID being a priority, to figure out how you will provide for it on a long-term basis. Michele closed stating the Health Department is making every effort to figure out how to create this balance within the Health Department and provide COVID services as well as program services that are in place for the community. Michele closed stating that the amount of testing and vaccine services will, at some point in time, become directly correlated to the number of staff the Health Department can hire who are qualified to do the program; COVID tests and vaccine are services that are available via other means within the community.

The next item under the Administrator's Report, Michele Gabriel updated Board on CMS Medicare and Medicaid Staff Vaccine Mandate, stating the Health Department was informed by NACHC that on November 30, 2021, the Western District Court of Louisiana issued a nationwide preliminary injunction against the Interim Final Rule (IFR). This means currently, all CMS facilities across the nation and US territories are required to cease all implementation and enforcement of the IFR until further orders from a Court. Michele stated the Health Department is on hold with the CMS Policies and Procedures for mandatory vaccine and will stay there until we are told otherwise, this means the Health Department is back operating under the OSHA Healthcare ETS and the Governor's executive order which requires health care agencies staff are fully vaccinated or test weekly for COVID 19.

The next item under the Administrator's Report, Michele Gabriel presented to Board for informational purposes only the Medicaid Program 2022 Encounter Rates for the Community Health Center program. The encounter rates are adjusted each year by the Medicare Economic Index (MEI), and as of January 1, 2022, Medical Encounter rate \$157.13, Dental Encounter rate \$125.69 and Behavioral Encounter rate \$71.58; the Community Health Center billing will reflect those rates as of January 1, 2022.

The final item on the agenda under the Administrator's Report, Michele Gabriel discussed with Board the IDPH FY22 COVID-19 Crisis Funds, stating IDPH posted the FY2022-2023 application for the Grant period January 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023, with the Health Department having the opportunity to apply for up to \$113,107; the grant is intended to reinforce the public health workforce in Illinois, and offers options such as workforce development, trainings, bonuses or hiring/retention payments, and other measures to ensure a competent workforce should another public health emergency event occur. Michele stated they are looking at the staffing at the Health Department with regards to programming, are there areas where staffing related to disease and emergency preparedness needs to be expanded or improved, does staff need trained to stay more prepared, do we need to improve our relationships with community members to be more prepared. Michele closed by discussing with the Board of Health the option of staff bonuses or hiring/retention payments and requested consensus as to the Board of Health supporting this option being written into the grant application; noting that she supported the action, and that any further action to approve a plan or award payments would require separate and future action by the Board of Health. The Board of Health expressed consensus that the action be written into the IDPH FY22 COVID-19 Crisis Funds Grant, with the understanding that any further action after State approval of the grant application would require approval of a plan and award payments by the Board of Health at a future date.

DIVISION DIRECTOR REPORTS

The first item on the agenda under Division Director Report, Mary Guenseth, Director of Family Health/WIC, updated the Board on WIC Activities, stated the State did a study and want to increase women that breastfeed, Mary is educating the three WIC nurses and two clerks on how to do more outreach to entice the women to breastfeed, WIC is a nutrition program that is based on food consumption. Families in the program are receiving increased benefits which have cash value for food. This is the second time they received this since COVID and it runs until March 2022. Mary stated with the cash value increases in WIC the families are not using all of it like they should, so Mary is doing a lot more education with nurses and clerks to understand how to help these families. Mary stated October was Breast Cancer Awareness and January is Cervical Cancer Awareness, so there will be more advertisement on our Facebook page. Mary stated both clerks and nurses have computers and cameras. Mary stated when WIC removes COVID protocols the clients can come into the building and the infants that need to be evaluated and assessed after birth the nurses have to go to their homes, she wants to give the clients a choice whether to come in building, have the nurse come to their home to assess them, or do virtual video conferences with the nurse, which give the Health Department more credit, it is considered more of a face to face assessment instead of a phone appointment.

The next item on the agenda under Division Director Report, Wil Hayes, Assistant Public Health Administrator, updated Board on Contact Tracing Activities/Grant, stating the State put out a three month no cost extension of the Contact Tracing Grant which goes until March 31, 2022. Wil stated the State wants to get things back closer to routine activities, Contact Tracing must be changed, January through March the Health Department will be figuring out how to move Contact Tracing forward and start a transition process, and since Contact Tracing works closely

with the schools, would like them to stay on until the end of the school year.

The final item on the agenda under Division Director Report, Wil Hayes, Assistant Public Health Administrator, updated Board on 2022 Food Program Fees, stating the businesses were very appreciate of the permit fees being waived last year, the 2022 permit fee increases go into effect January 1, 2022, Category I \$240, Category II \$210, Category III \$140, Seasonal Permit \$120, Temporary Permit Late Fee \$20, Second Follow-up Inspection \$110, Third Follow-up Inspection \$225, Compliance Inspection \$250, Permit Reinstatement: Category I \$120, Category II \$105, Category III \$70, Plan Review Fee: New or Major Remodel \$60, Minor Remodel \$30 and Prepackaged Food Only \$35.

POPULATION HEALTH MANAGEMENT REPORTS

There were no items on agenda under Population Health Management Reports.

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORTS

There were no items on agenda under Performance Management Reports.

WORK SESSION

There were no items on agenda under Work Session.

OLD BUSINESS

The only item on agenda under Old Business, Michele Gabriel requested that the Board of Health take action to rescind COVID-19 Positive Staff Policy. Michele stated this policy that was put into place in 2020 to accommodate paying employees when they were off for COVID; however, it has been replaced by OSHA COVID ETS for Healthcare Workers. Michele closed stating that the policy is null and void since the OSHA policy has replaced it; however, since the approved plan included a requirement for the Board vote to rescind the policy once the COVID emergency was over, it is on the agenda this evening for that purpose. A motion was made by Bruce Bobofchak to approve to Rescind COVID-19 Positive Staff Policy; was seconded by DuRae Fletcher, Sr. Roll Call vote was unanimous: Kevin Satsky-yes; Doug Gibb-yes; DuRae Fletcher, Sr.-yes; Robert Bondi-yes; Stephanie Grimes-yes; Bruce Bobofchak-yes; Lorraine Garland-yes; and Dan Harris-yes. Absent: Susan Vinson

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items on agenda under New Business.

UPCOMING BUSINESS

President Dan Harris reviewed Upcoming Business, including the Knox County Board Finance Committee meeting on December 16,2021 beginning at 6:30 p.m. via teleconference, the Knox County Board meeting on December 22,2021 at 6:00 p.m. at Galesburg City Hall and via teleconference, and the next Board of Health Meeting on January 13,2021 beginning at 6:30 p.m. via teleconference.

COUNTY BOARD LIAISON

Robert Bondi, Knox County Board Liaison to Board of Health, Robert stated the County has successfully finished the annual budget and it is on display for public viewing, it will be voted on at the County Board meeting. Robert stated they continue to fix issues in their IT department, getting into better shape now and look forward to getting personal into those positions necessary in the next 30-60 days, the County hopes to have a head-hunting group help make sure they find qualified staff to help with operations they plan on putting in place. Robert wished everyone Happy Holidays.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Stephanie Grimes appreciates all the Health Department staff is doing, thanked Mary for her report and wished everyone a Happy Holiday. The rest of the Board appreciates all the work the Health Department is doing and wishes everyone Happy Holidays. President Harris complimented Michele and her team and was grateful to all the Board members for their commitment and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There were no items on agenda under Executive Session.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

There were no items on agenda under Open Session.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Robert Bondi to adjourn the December 9,2021 Board of Health meeting at 7:41pm; the motion was seconded by Lorraine Garland. Roll Call vote was unanimous: Kevin Satisfsky-yes; Doug Gibb-yes; DuRae Fletcher, Sr.-yes; Robert Bondi-yes; Stephanie Grimes-yes; Bruce Bobofchak-yes; Lorraine Garland-yes; and Dan Harris-yes. Absent: Susan Vinson