

## **PUBLIC HEALTH SOLUTIONS District Health Department**

**Board of Health**

**January 21, 2021**

### ***Board Members in Attendance:***

Larry Cerny                      Judy Henning                      John Hill                      Dave Norton

### ***Board Members in Virtual Attendance:***

Dave Bruning                      Dr. Josue Gutierrez                      Janet Henning                      Dr. Bruce Kennedy  
Stephanie Knight                      Christy Lucking                      Tim Pickering                      Mark Schoenrock

### ***Board Members Absent:***

### ***Staff Members in Attendance:***

Kim Buser, Director; Sonya Williamson, Fiscal Administration; Debra L. Wendelin, Office Administrator.

### ***Call to Order:***

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by President Larry Cerny. Notice of the meeting was given in advance thereof by posting required by law.

### ***Approval of Agenda:***

Meeting agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve the agenda by Dave Norton, seconded by Judy Henning. All ayes, motion #1 carried.

### ***Approval of Minutes:***

Previous meeting minutes were emailed before the meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by Janet Henning, seconded by Dave Norton. All ayes, motion #2 carried.

### ***Financial Reports: Acceptance:***

Sonya Williamson presented on the Financial Reports. Sonya pointed out that the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual FY20-21 percentage on page 1 is a bit skewed as we have provided additional compensation to those salaried employees that worked extra hours performing COVID-related activities. This won't put us in the hole and will be reimbursed by COVID funds. Kim reported to the Board that COVID funds are holding up good. Technically funds were to expire on December 31, 2020 but the State is keeping funds available until the end of June, 2021. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) requires our department to submit every timesheet, pay stub, and invoice for proof it was paid. We submit COVID expenses on a quarterly basis. Submitting expenses after the money has been spent has made it easy to reconcile our books and get approval from the State. Motion to approve the financial reports by Judy Henning, seconded by Dave Bruning. All ayes, motion #3 carried.

### ***Election of Officers:***

President Larry Cerny requested the Board wait until the next meeting to elect officers. This will give everyone a chance to give it some thought and be fair to all. Kim commented that since 2002 we haven't kept very good track of officers and their terms. Prior to COVID Kim had wanted to hire a consultant to review our by-laws. The Term Reappointment Schedule is as follows:

<i>Serving 1 year (Initially)</i>	<i>Serving 2 years (initially)</i>	<i>Serving 3 years (initially)</i>
Fillmore County Elected	Gage County Public Spirited	Gage County Elected
Jefferson County Public Spirited	Saline County Public Spirited	Jefferson County Elected
Saline County Elected	Fillmore County Public Spirited	Thayer County Public Spirit
Thayer County Elected	Dentist	Medical Doctor

## Minutes of PHSDHD Board of Health Meeting

We send a form along with a letter to each county board to see if they want to appointment someone new once a term is up or if they will stay with who they have. When we tighten up our by-laws this is something we will have to look at. Kim shared that legislation is being introduced to permanently allow open meetings via Zoom. Kim will include "Election of Officers" on the agenda for the next Board of Health meeting in March.

### **Directors Report:**

Kim or Deb will email out the yearly Board of Health meeting schedule along with an Outlook calendar invite that will include Zoom meeting instructions.

We are moving forward with our new building. Next week we will be making our first upfront payment which will be held in an escrow account at our attorney's office. Contractors will ask for drawdowns and we will be notified when this happens. This system will provide accountability for expenses paid should we be audited.

We are currently at the bottom of Phase 1A and most individuals in Tiers 1-5 have been vaccinated. Now we will start moving on to Phase 1B. Technically we will be ready to move to Phase 1B next week but will wait until the following week until our health care providers receive their vaccine. By that time our whole district will be in Phase 1B. Vaccine recommendations for groups with Phase 1B have changed dramatically over the last three weeks. We are now registering individuals 65+ and are now adding chronic health conditions to that list. We have not yet received definition from the State as to what is considered a "chronic disease" and are waiting for direction.

We received approximately 600 doses of the vaccine which was farmed out to hospitals. Most of our hospitals are either out of the vaccine entirely or only have a few doses left. We received 100 doses each week for the last three weeks. That doesn't go far considering the number of people we have that need to be vaccinated. We have found that there are more people in Phase 1A than we anticipated. The State advised us that in February the supply would open wide---just not wide enough. Starting next week, we will receive 700 doses a week. Kate and Kim met with health care providers to determine how much to delegate to each provider weekly. We have to simultaneously go through the rest of the tiers while health care providers are vaccinating their patients.

The National Guard was willing to do community clinics for us but we have decided at this time to hold off on community clinics as long as possible as we make our way forward on those 65 and older. We do not want the elderly and those with chronic health conditions having to go to a community clinic. National pharmacies, such as Community Pharmacy, CVS and Walgreens are another option for the vaccine, however, there are none in our district. The State can direct pharmacies what group they work on. When the State goes to Phase 1B CVS and Walgreens will start doing shots. We have asked health care providers in our district to vaccinate in reverse seeing the most vulnerable first then working on down to the next age range. Our district is in a good place right now, just waiting for more vaccine. Johnson & Johnson has a one-dose vaccine and are waiting on approval of their Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) which will hopefully be granted by the end of February. This would give us another vaccine source into March. Kim met with health care providers and emergency managers and we will provide 700 doses a week for approximately the next five months to get through those individuals 65+ and those with chronic health conditions. The Biden administration has stated that all second doses are to be released. The Federal government has been holding second doses and automatically ships when the second dose is due in 28 days. If the second doses are released, we will store them in Nebraska.

Our worry now is those people who get their first dose and become exposed to COVID don't think they have to quarantine. Why should I get the vaccine if I still have to quarantine? The Center for Disease Control (CDC) hasn't changed their stance on quarantine requirements.

A new study last week shows an 80% efficacy rate on the first dose. We have seen some strong side effects from having received the second dose. There is about a 95% efficacy rate after the second dose as your body has a greater response to the vaccine after having seen it the first time. We might find that you will have to receive a booster each year just like the flu.

## Minutes of PHSDHD Board of Health Meeting

Kim thanked representatives from each county board and our district's health care providers for being so accommodating and working with us every step of the way. President Larry Cerny expressed what an amazing job PHS has done through this pandemic with everyone working together as a team. Kim shared that nurses who work for Blue Valley Community Action (BVCA) have offered to help with community clinics.

Mark Schoenrock wanted to know administrative wise, what our department does after someone receives their shot. Kim explained that the Nebraska decided not to use the Emergency Management System (EMS) to record shots given but to run them through the Nebraska State Immunization Information System (NESIIS). We have to record the vaccination in NESIIS within 24 hours. Each patient is monitored for 15 minutes after receiving their vaccination and we call them back to our office for their second dose.

The front office has been inundated with people calling to be registered for the vaccine. We have approximately 2,900 registrations thus far. The registration is not an appointment but rather tracks the approximate number of people who want their vaccination. This registration list will be shared with primary care providers so they are on their radar. Those individuals with no primary care providers will come to our office to be vaccinated. Blue River Area Agency on Aging (BRAAA) and Saline County Aging Services has offered to help anyone who calls them to register. This has really helped out the front office staff. The State will have their registration live next week and then ours will go away and registrations we have collected will be dumped into theirs. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has launched their own registry. Everyone is worried they are going to be missed.

We are able to get 11 doses out of a vial of both Moderna and Pfizer. We have six hours once a vial has been opened to use it before it is no good. Logistically this presents a nightmare trying to get people in to get their shot. We have not wasted one dose even with these stipulations.

Very excited that through this pandemic we have been able to partner with the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) on a federal grant focusing on mental health, in particular opioid/substance abuse disorders. A survey was sent to providers in our district to determine what services we have available. Now with that complete we will do an environmental scan to see where we have a gap(s) in services. We will use that information to write an analysis and strategic plan for our strategic steering community to reference when they go out in our communities. This partnership may hopefully see more funding coming down the line in the future.

### ***Open Forum:***

Mark Schoenrock wanted to know if our current landlord had been notified of our upcoming move. Kim told Board members that our landlord was very gracious when Kim explained this move gives us the opportunity to expand our clinical services. He is going to work with us and we will continue to rent our space across the hall for PPE storage/distribution. We intend to be moved by the end of May but have asked for an extension to June.

Christy Lucking wanted to thank Kim for sending out an email on Jen Hansen becoming a Master Certified Health Education Specialist (MCHES). Christy appreciates how PHS employees value education and their commitment to the department. Stephanie Knight thinks it's because of Kim and her leadership and the culture that has developed at PHS. Kim thanked Stephanie and her team for talking to staff about their mental health concerns during the pandemic. They did an amazing job debriefing staff and providing resources for them.

**The next Board of Health Meeting is Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. in Crete, NE.**

Being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned.

Debra L. Wendelin  
Office Administrator

**PUBLIC HEALTH SOLUTIONS**

**Board Members Roll Call & Roll Call Votes**

**Meeting Date: 01-21-2021**

		<b>MOTIONS</b>																		
<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Roll Call</b>		<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>8</b>		<b>9</b>	
	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Yea</b>	<b>Nay</b>
Dave Bruning	X		X		X		X													
Larry Cerny	X		X		X		X													
Dr. Josue Gutierrez	X		X		X		X													
Janet Henning	X		X		X		X													
Judy Henning	X		X		X		X													
John Hill	X		X		X		X													
Dr. Bruce Kennedy	X		X		X		X													
Stephanie Knight	X		X		X		X													
Christy Lucking	X		X		X		X													
Dave Norton	X		X		X		X													
Jim Rickering	X		X		X		X													
Mark Schoenrock	X		X		X		X													
<b>Totals</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>													