

PUBLIC HEALTH SOLUTIONS District Health Department

Board of Health

January 20, 2022

Board Members in Attendance:

Dave Bruning	Larry Cerny	Dr. Josue Gutierrez	Judy Henning
Dr. Bruce Kennedy	Stephanie Knight	Christy Lucking	Mark Schoenrock
Don Schuller			

Board Members Absent:

Janet Henning	Dave Norton	Tim Pickering
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Staff Members in Attendance:

Kim Buser, Director; Sonya Williamson, Fiscal Administration; Debra L. Wendelin, Program Support Technician, Megan Garcia, Public Information Officer/Team Lead/Rooted in Relationships

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 Mark Schoenrock, seconded by Dave Bruning. All ayes, motion #1 carried.

Approval of Minutes:

Previous meeting minutes were emailed before the meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by Judy Henning, seconded by Dr. Bruce Kennedy. All ayes, motion #2 carried.

Financial Reports: Acceptance:

Sonya Williamson presented on the Financial Reports. On the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual (FY21-22) Item D, 42210 Small Equipment Other, our Healthy Families America (HFA) program had been underbudget all year and during the final quarter (July-October) \$100,000 in funds needed to be expended. The program office approved to update office equipment to include computers, cell phones, and a technology package similar to the one in Crete to allow for more virtual options for trainings and meetings. Ordinary Income, 31600 Immunizations-Clinic at 179% of budget represents shots given. Item D, 4325 Program Supplies at 202.72% of budget is family emergency supplies purchased through the HFA program for their clients. Item H, 45700 Employee Stipends-Wellness Stipend at 150% of budget is based on the previous year allotment and shows up as a fringe benefit on the HFA program. Item G, Public Health-Education & Health Services, Vaccine Expense reflects expense for private-pay clients. We bill the insurance company and are reimbursed for the vaccine. The building amortization is not on this set of financial reports as the expense was approved in October and the check was wrote in November. The payment will show up next time under Item D, 42210 Small Equipment in the amount of \$50,000. The total amortized is approximately \$146,000, of which we have paid \$50,000 leaving roughly a balance \$50-75,000. Kim reported that we are sitting well with cash in the bank and in the next month or two are looking at paying it off. Motion to approve the financial reports by Dave Bruning, seconded by Mark Schoenrock. All ayes, motion #3 carried.

Election of Officers:

Chairman Larry Cerny nominated Mark Schoenrock to assume the position of President of the Public Health Solutions (PHS) Board of Health (BOH). No other nominations noted. Motion to approve Mark Schoenrock as President of the PHS BOH by Dave Bruning, seconded by Dr. Gutierrez. All ayes, motion #4 carried.

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Motion to reinstate Dr. Josue Gutierrez as Vice President of the PHS BOH by Larry Cerny, seconded by Dave Bruning. All ayes, motion #5 carried.

Dave Bruning nominated Don Schuller as Secretary/Treasurer. No other nominations noted. Motion to approve Don Schuller as Secretary/Treasurer of the PHS BOH by Dave Bruning, seconded by Dr. Josue Gutierrez. All ayes, motion #6 carried.

Director's Report:

PHS Rooted in Relationships Grant Program Report – Megan:

Megan Garcia, Public Information Officer/Team Lead/Rooted in Relationships (RIR), presented to the BOH a 2020-2021 Community Snapshot of our Rooted in Relationships program within Saline, Jefferson and Gage counties in our district. RIR is funded through the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation and currently supports 11 collaborative hubs in Nebraska. The program works to improve the social-emotional development (SED) of children from birth to age eight across Nebraska implementing evidence-based practices to enhance SED. Megan's power-point presentation included information on implementation of the pyramid model, why social-emotional development matters, our impact in the district, community and family engagement, Circle of Security (COS), Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), and next steps for the program.

Multi-Cultural Day at our department is Monday, January 24, 2022. Virtual training will begin at 9 a.m. with "Unconscious Bias Training" by Kathie Starkweather, Director of the Center of Rural Affairs Farm and Community and at 11:00 a.m. "Removing Barriers-Collaboration with Interpreters at Work" by Javier Castellote, Training Specialist Project Harmony. PHS will be providing lunch. A panel discussion will take place in the afternoon with our exhibitors telling us about their culture and their journey to the United States. BOH members who are interested in observing the virtual trainings should email Kim or Johanna Pesante-Daniel for the Zoom link. Kim will see if we can possibly record the panel discussion to be viewed by those BOH members who cannot attend.

Our new technology package is installed. We are not only excited about this addition but it will be very helpful as move forward with virtual trainings and meetings.

The Nebraska Legislature is in session. Kim, as part of the legislative committee for health directors, is able to take a good look at all the bills. Kim asked the BOH members and their counties to please keep public health in mind. Kim will send out notices when different hearings are coming through. Stephanie Knight, board member of the Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations (NABHO), and on their legislative committee, indicated that if there was ever anything that Kim felt she needed their support, we can ask to have you come testify at our meeting and work together. Mark Schoenrock, Southeast Region Director of the Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO), is participating in a state board meeting this afternoon and a comprehensive legislative review tomorrow morning. Mark felt some of the bills they will be reviewing tomorrow will pertain to public health as well. Dr. Josue Gutierrez of the Nebraska Academy of Family Physicians (NAFP) is always good about keeping us in the loop as well. Stephanie Knight questioned if we have ever thought about having a legislative sub-committee within this group who have similar voices at the legislative level to talk about what we should support. Kim asked BOH members who would be interested in being part of this sub-committee to email her and Kim will work on pulling together a few people to who are willing during the legislative session to get on a call once a week.

A recent call with Dr. James Lawler, University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC), reports by all modeling the State in general will likely peak in the Omicron variant somewhere around February 2-4, while in the Lincoln/Omaha area this week or early next week. At that point, cases should drop off, but in turn hospitalizations will increase followed by increased deaths. Sharon Clouse, RN and PHS Data Surveillance Specialist, reports an increase in cases in our district from 366 last week to 554 this week. Positivity rate last week was 64.66% with an increase this week to 69.95%. The last 14 days, the per 100,000, which is what the state puts on the dashboard, that is the number of infected positive individuals per 100,000 through our population.

We do have schools that are closing. Superintendents have asked that our team go back to meeting every Thursday to help with guidance. Testing is a huge issue. Kim is looking at an option where a

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company could come in and do testing similar to what Lincoln has but it can only be put in one place and they will only come out if they can do a certain volume (10,000) of testing each day and we don't have that volume. Providers are having problems getting the rapid test as shipments have been delayed so they have to do the PCR and send it off which takes 5 days to receive results so they are telling people that yes, you probably have COVID-19, so go home for 5 days, as that is how long it will take to get results, which is catching up a lot of teachers and school staff. More concerning to Kim is the hospital situation. We do not track the people that died because of lack of transfer to critical care...Kansas tracks that and has lost 44 people. We have lost several in Nebraska that could not transfer to where they needed to go. This is going to get worse before it gets better even as the cases go down the hospitalizations will go up for a while. Kim wishes that people would take it seriously, not to the point that we shut down the entire economy, but to the point that people understand what is going on in their hospitals and are doing what they can to stay out of the hospital. Testing is so clogged up...people are testing without symptoms, employers who are requiring people to test to go back to work. Kim has been calling these employers all week informing them that they are only wasting test kits when we need the tests for people who are symptomatic...follow the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and quarantine for five days...it is not required to test to come back to work.

Kim shared current vaccine rates in our district representing the percentage of individuals five years and older who are fully vaccinated in each county. Thayer-51%, Saline-59%, Jefferson-58%, Gage-54%, Fillmore-57%. We have hit the 50% mark in all our counties but we are seeing a decline in attendance at our vaccine clinics. We have utilized social media to encourage the public to receive their vaccination but it has become so politicized. Stephanie Knight asked Kim why schools aren't requiring masking. On our superintendents' call we tell them these are the CDC guidelines when they call us with concerns of kids being out of school. Kim hopes that once we get past Omicron, we will report COVID-19 just like the flu...if you are sick, stay home, no one is going to quarantine you, take the responsibility to do what is right. Kim doesn't foresee another booster shot but only time will tell. They may approve one, but doubts there will be a big push for it.

Dave Bruning mentioned that Colt Farringer, Thayer County Emergency Manager, shared with him that he felt that the schools are getting more information about COVID-19 than what he is getting from Public Health Solutions. Kim indicated that this could be a valid concern. We just started back with regular superintendent calls and last week had a meeting with emergency managers. We used to send out the information but it is now all on the dashboard. We have discussed having more frequent update calls with emergency managers.

Mark Schoenrock shared with BOH members that NACO meets today with Governor Ricketts. How best do we communicate these concerns to Governor Ricketts? Kim informed Mark that Governor Ricketts stopped having calls with health directors some time ago. We still need to protect our hospitals.

Open Forum:

Dave Bruning wanted to know from the county commissioners/supervisors at the table what they are doing as far as mask wearing in their courthouse. Mark Schoenrock said they were considering it, but haven't done anything at this time. Larry Cerny shared they talked about it at their last meeting and he looks for it to happen, but again, nothing is happening at this time. Dave Bruning shared that the Thayer County Courthouse implemented yesterday an ask/request that employees have the option of wearing a mask while in their office but they are required to wear a mask when someone comes in and they go up to the counter to meet with them.

Mark Schoenrock stated NACO has been working very closely with Senator Tom Brandt to address the problem of methamphetamine-affected living quarters. Kids that are exposed to methamphetamine-affected living areas develop all kinds of problems to include mental health issues. Senator Tom Brandt has drafted LB756 and it has been referred to a committee.

Stephanie Knight shared that at the hospital we had such an outpouring of help in the beginning of this pandemic for nurses and frontline staff and it was such a moral booster. Stephanie feels that now our schools need it. The hospital has started a committee working with local businesses to perform random

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act of kindness for the school. Locally they are trying to arrange a coffee truck or breakfast for our school system or purchasing equipment, such as markers. Christy said we are seeing the social and emotional impact of the pandemic in kids' behavior; teachers being burned out...education is completely changing.

The next Board of Health Meeting is Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 8:30 a.m. in Crete, NE.

Being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned.

Debra L. Wendelin
Program Support Technician

PUBLIC HEALTH SOLUTIONS

Board Members Roll Call & Roll Call Votes

Meeting Date: January 20, 2022

		MOTIONS																		
Board Members	Roll Call		1		2		3		4		5		6		7		8		9	
	Present	Absent	Yea	Nay																
Dave Bruning	X		X		X		X		X		X		X							
Larry Cerny	X		X		X		X		X		X		X							
Dr. Josue Gutierrez	X		X		X		X		X		X		X							
Janet Henning		X																		
Judy Henning	X		X		X		X		X		X		X							
Dr. Bruce Kennedy	X		X		X		X		X		X		X							
Stephanie Knight	X		X		X		X		X		X		X							
Christy Lucking	X		X		X		X		X		X		X							
Dave Norton		X																		
Jim Pickering		X																		
Mark Schoenrock	X		X		X		X		X		X		X							
Don Schuller	X		X		X		X		X		X		X							
Totals	9	3	9	0	9															