

CABELL-HUNTINGTON HEALTH DEPARTMENT
Board of Health Regular Meeting – July 28, 2021

Board Members Present:

Kevin Yingling, MD
Robert Sweeney
Donna Rumbaugh
Danny Porter
Fred Kitchen
Daniel Konrad

Staff Members Present:

Michael E. Kilkenny, Chief Executive Officer/Health Officer
Tim Hazelett, Chief Operating Officer
Jack Mease, Chief Financial Officer
Laura Powell, Administrative Services Office Assistant
Elizabeth Adkins, Administrative Services Manager
Rodney Melton, Director of Environmental Health Services
Hannah Petracca, Public Information Officer
Bryce Parker, Epidemiology
Austin Hoffman, Regional Epidemiologist
Sharon Scott, Administrative Services Office Assistant

Visitors Present:

Taylor Stuck, Herald Dispatch

Dr. Yingling called the Board of Health meeting to order at 5:05pm.

A motion to approve the July 28, 2021 Board of Health Agenda was made by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mr. Kitchen and approved.

A motion to approve the June 2021 Board of Health Meeting Minutes as written was made by Mr. Sweeney, seconded Mrs. Rumbaugh and approved.

Departmental Reports:

Chief Operating Officer:

Tim Hazelett presented the Chief Operating Officer report. All seven vacancies are in process of being filled.

Dr. Yingling expressed the Board's appreciation to Rodney Melton and the Environmental Health staff for their flexibility and accomplishments through all the department's challenges through the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Environmental Services:

Rodney Melton presented the Environmental Services report.

Epidemiology and Regional Epidemiology Report:

Dr. Kilkenny presented a verbal report. All epidemiology duties continue to be performed. The written monthly board report will be reinstated in August, when the new epidemiologist begins his position.

Nursing:

Elizabeth Adkins presented the Nursing report, which includes the clinical and Harm Reduction Program.

Tim Hazelett announced the robust testing strategy funded by the Enhanced Laboratory Expansion Grant. Two Abbot ID Now machines are being purchased and will be used to run PCR Tests and the purchase of BINEXNow which run the COVID-19 antigen test with a result in approximately fifteen minutes. The goal is to be able to provide testing in congregate settings through partnerships for nursing homes, schools, universities, dormitories, and other situations when deemed necessary. The test results will be available in approximately fifteen minutes, whereas currently it is taking anywhere from twelve to seventy-two hours. CDC protocols are in place and will be followed. Clinic personnel will be trained on the new testing strategy and equipment in August. Marshall University has already requested our assistance to support the return of students, in which they require students to have proof of vaccination or a negative test prior to moving on campus. Public school protocols are currently being developed and we are prepared to support through testing and/or technical support.

In response to Board of Health member's questions:

- The antigen test will not show if the individual has been vaccinated or not.
- The strategy and purchase of machines has been discussed with partners through the weekly COVID-19 meetings.
- CHHD will not be competing with other community testing providers. We will only be using our strategy and equipment in specific congregate settings and situations that meet specific guidelines.
- Multiple revenue options are being investigated to cover the cost of deployment of staff and supplies, including instituting contracts to provide services.

Administrative Services:

Elizabeth Adkins presented the Administrative Services report, which includes Administration, Public Information, Prevention Programs and Threat Preparedness.

Two staff members who have been promoted to new positions were introduced:

- Austin Hoffman – Regional Epidemiologist
- Sharon Scott – Administrative Services Finance Office Assistance

The COVID-19 Call Center was moved internally and is being staffed by two internal operators.

The Board of Health was presented with a new CHHD Organization Chart, which included adding three new positions for review and approval. The three new positions requested are grant funded and for immunization specific duties:

- Vaccine Outreach Coordinator
- Vaccine Site Coordinator
- Office Assistant for Clinic

The establishment and development of the Epidemiology Department is to fulfill our FY2022 objective of an enhanced epidemiology department.

A motion to approve the CHHD Organizational Chart as presented was made by Mr. Konrad, seconded by Mr. Sweeney and approved.

Threat Preparedness: Due to the state rebuilding their MRC website, the graphs and data are not included in the report.

Financial Report:

Jack Mease presented the May 2021 financial report. Additional information will be included in the Financial Report beginning FY2022.

A discussion occurred on cybersecurity and purchasing card fraud. The IT Department is working with a federal vendor to complete an audit the CHHD IT system.

A motion to approve the June 2021 invoices and receipts was made by Mr. Sweeney, seconded by Mrs. Rumbaugh and approved.

Health Officer:

Dr. Michael Kilkenny presented the Health Officer report.

Harm Reduction Program: At this time, no action is being requested from Board of Health. We continue to operate the Harm Reduction Program. We are conducting an audit of our HRP policies and procedures to ensure our program aligns with all rules, regulations, and laws. A meeting with OHFLAC will be conducted next week to get clarification on the situation and input.

Epidemiology Department: The new Epidemiology Department will be working at top capacity to perform high level, complex functions. We see value in strengthening our Epidemiology Department services to a higher functionality, including being able to ask and answer upstream questions in what public health can do to change the basic environment in the county to get ahead and stop breakouts before they start. This health department has modernized the look at our role in the community and we believe community collaboration extends beyond emergency response. We want our partners to see us as a resource beyond emergency response. Our community deserves a well-balanced health department that can produce meaningful work and we will provide that level of service.

COVID-19: Dr. Kilkenny stated the CDC conducted a briefing with the healthcare community prior to the public announcement of the mask strategy. The briefing gave the healthcare community the opportunity to ask questions and be prepared for the public announcement. Dr. Kilkenny stated we anticipate the Delta Variant cases to be the same in other counties, where there are 80% of the new COVID-19 case reported. The Delta Variant is two times as infectious as the original virus. The COVID-19 vaccine remains effective and the most potent defense in decreasing the likelihood of vaccinated cases to die or be hospitalized as compared to unvaccinated cases. Messaging to encourage the community to get vaccinated continues. Partners have been alerted and are prepared for the possibility of a surge in cases.

Dr. Yingling requested a summary report of the level of service changes and resource cost increases to be submitted to the Board for approval of action, in regards to the upcoming changes to the Harm Reduction Program.

Tim Hazelett made the following statements:

- A robust grant report will be built in addition to the financial report.
- Bryce Parker completed his internship project on COVID-19 in Cabell County for the timeframe of March 2020 – July 22, 2021 and will be working with Dr. Kilkenny to submit to the Board.
- A John Hopkins professor has agreed to provide technical support and assist the CHHD Epidemiology Department.
- A meeting with Solar Holler to discuss opportunities has been scheduled.

- Congratulations were given to Dr. Yingling for his new role as the CEO of Mountain Health Network.

Dr. Yingling requested the succession from BOH Chair to begin.

A motion to approve all departmental reports as written and presented was made by Mrs. Rumbaugh, seconded by Mr. Kitchen and approved.

The July 2021 Board of Health meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

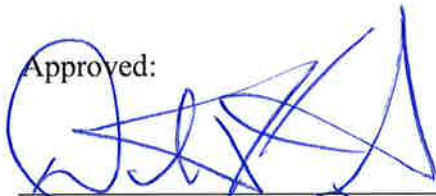
The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for September 22, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Kilkeny, MD, MS
Physician Director, Cabell-Huntington Health Department

Approved:



~~Kevin Yingling, Chair~~ DANIEL KONRAD - VICE CHAIR
Cabell-Huntington Board of Health