



PUBLIC HEALTH

Danielle Pettit-Majewski, BS, MPH, Director

Board of Health
Joni Bosch, PhD, ARNP
Tatiana Izakovic, MD, MHA
Zachary Pollock, PharmD, MS
Bonnie D. Rubin, MLS, MBA, MHA
Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS

JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

October 20, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

4:00 pm

Call to Order: Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Roll Call: Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS; Bonnie D. Rubin, MLS, MBA, MHA; MS; Joni Bosch, PhD, ARNP; VIA ZOOM: Tatiana Izakovic, MD, MHA; ABSENT: Zachary Pollock, PharmD

Staff: Danielle Pettit-Majewski, Director; Kate Klefstad, Clinical Services Manager; Sam Jarvis, Community Health Manager; James Lacina, Environmental Health Manager; Kristin Meyer, Business Manager; Jamie Huntley, Health Planner; James Bechtel, Systems Analyst; Jennifer Miller, DPS; Jake Riley, DPS; Amelia Slaichert, DPS; Alissa Sotzen, Account Clerk I; Susan Denny, Secretary II; VIA ZOOM: Beth Hora, RN; Caitlin Shea, Adolescent & Women's Health Coordinator

Others Present: Lynn Rose, Assistant County Attorney

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Rubin to approve the September 15, 2021 meeting minutes; seconded by Bosch. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Regular Meeting Date and Time: November 17, 2021 in the Betty Sass Conference Room, first floor, Johnson County Administration Building.

Citizen Comments / Questions / Issues: None

New Employee Introductions: Klefstad introduced Caitlin Shea, RN, promoted to Adolescent & Women's Health Services Coordinator; Beth Hora, Clinical Services, Public Health RN for WIC and Immunization programs. Hora gave a short history of her background and experience.

DISCUSSION / PRESENTATION(S):

- **COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate:** Pettit-Majewski met with Rod Sullivan, BOS liaison to JCPH to

discuss mandating the vaccine for County employees.

Pettit-Majewski also reached out to Lynn Rose, Assistant County Attorney who shared information from Polk County relating to a vaccine mandate. Pettit-Majewski explained as an employer with more than one hundred employees, the Biden Administration Executive order would apply to Johnson County and hopes the BOH would support the BOS if the mandate moves forward. Rose added while the information provided from Polk County coincided closely with the Biden decision, Polk County had been working on the mandate prior to the signing of the executive order. She believes it is a well thought out policy remaining cognizant of constitutional legal issues employers would need to consider if issuing a mandate. Rose reminded the BOH the Polk County policy could be used as a template to develop a similar policy in Johnson County. She pointed out the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), a federal regulatory agency, issued guidance in May, 2021 that employers may mandate their employees be vaccinated. President Biden's executive order signed on September 14, 2021 mandating vaccinations for people who work for employers with more than a hundred employees will involve the Office of Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) for implementation, however no guidance to date has been received. She stressed federal guidance will aid employers in mandating employee COVID-19 vaccinations. Human Resources would likely administer a mandate for Johnson County employees. Rubin asked about possible differences in federal vs county guidelines. Rose responded modifications related to guidelines should be discussed with their county attorney's offices. Izakovic asked if an employee could refuse to be vaccinated and opt to be tested instead of following a mandate. Pettit-Majewski pointed out that both the Polk County draft mandate and the presidential executive order, allow for weekly testing in lieu of vaccination. Wallace asked that Rose and Pettit-Majewski communicate to the BOS that BOH members support the type of resolution Polk County has developed and will support the BOS and HR if they propose a similar mandate. BOH members would like the opportunity to be involved in the drafting and review of any proposed resolution prior to a vote, if possible. Rose suggested the BOH send a two-part recommendation to the BOS; one in support of the mandate, and another to move forward as quickly as possible.

- **Environmental Health Program Report:** Lacina presented a quarterly overview of Environmental Health programs as an alternative to the program units report document, which will no longer be included in the BOH packets. Lacina highlighted programs in three key areas: Watershed, Food, and Community Environmental Health programs. He included water sampling data, Time of Transfer inspections for properties sold with private sewer disposal systems, and pre-opening inspections in the food program. Food complaint data, included hygiene, illness, and specific complaints related to COVID-19, such as mask wearing. In the Community Environmental Health programs, Lacina reported on radon test kit tracking. Bosch asked about whether radon levels have remained steady or dropped over time. Lacina responded levels have remained relatively stable, though all of Iowa is a high risk zone mostly due to its geographical location. He added remediation is highly effective. Pettit-Majewski asked if the increase in home sales may have influenced radon testing increases. Lacina responded it very likely did influence increased testing, but clarified radon testing is not a requirement to buy or sell a home, however if homes are tested, results must be disclosed. He also highlighted the mosquito surveillance program data, noting since the program began in 2017, last quarter was the first detection of West Nile Virus found in mosquitos. No human cases were reported in Johnson County since 2018. Collaboration with Iowa State University, State Hygienic Lab, Iowa Department of Public Health and reporting by the Daily Iowan has helped raise public awareness. Rubin asked whether reported complaints or issues highlighted have been resolved. Lacina responded with processes and timelines for resolving various complaint types.

- **Mask Effectiveness in Practice (publication):** Riley presented to the BOH details of a report on mask effectiveness by JCPH staff. Disease Prevention Specialists Jake Riley, Jennifer Miller, and Amelia Slaichert; Health Planner Jamie Huntley, Biostatistician Grant Brown with the University of Iowa, Contact Tracing Team, Community Health manager, Sam Jarvis, and Systems Analyst, James Bechtel, all contributed to the report. Riley gave an overview of the project timeline beginning with data collection in

October 2020 and final publication scheduled for January 2022. He ended his report with a summary of significant data supporting the use of masks as an effective tool to prevent secondary cases of COVID-19. Rubin asked if the publication could be shared before the January 2022 publication date. Riley encouraged sharing of the report and added social media tracking has been very positive. Bosch asked if the report had been shared with the school boards. Riley confirmed sharing the report with school nurses who had shared with administrators and school boards.

- **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds:** Pettit-Majewski, elected officials, and other department heads met with the BOS to provide more context for ARPA funds requests. She listed JCPH requests such as technology to support increased remote work capabilities, upgrading timekeeping processes to support paperless payroll reporting, and additional staffing for a Disease Prevention Specialist, Community Health RN's and an Outreach Specialist. Pettit-Majewski reported additional requests included a community based doula scholarship for doula education and a mobile health clinic van. Pettit-Majewski expects to further prioritize requests in anticipation of funding limits. JCPH will meet again with the BOS on October 27, 2021 to answer additional questions with an expected final decision on allocations November 8, 2021. Discussion regarding public meetings and community input and support for building public health capacity followed. She stressed the requests for ARPA funds are focused on recovery efforts and building capacity to address emergency issues.

ACTION ITEMS

Expenditures Over \$3,000: None

Applications, Contracts and Agreements:

- **21-12 NACCHO Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP)**

Framework: Jarvis noted both requests for action are contributions by Jamie Huntley, Health Planner, and James Bechtel, Systems Analyst and align with goals of the Community Health Assessment process and other emerging threats. The NACCHO MAPP framework opportunity has been used by JCPH for past Community Health Assessments. He added the MAPP process is being overhauled and will include new language and principles. Bechtel and Huntley have spent significant time reviewing JCPH internal processes and implementation and are excited to be a part of this pilot program. Jarvis explained JCPH is particularly interested in participating in the partner's assessments and provide valuable feedback to NACCHO.

Motion by Bosch to approve the application to pursue the NACCHO MAPP 2.0 Grant; seconded by Rubin. The motion passed unanimously.

- **21-13 NACCHO Climate & Health:** Jarvis asked for approval to proceed with the application for an additional NACCHO grant to track, prevent, and mitigate the health effects of climate change. This grant supports implementing the initial phase of the Building Resilience Against Climate Effects (BRACE) framework, the CDC's flagship for health departments to address climate change. He added other entities can apply for this grant, but are required to have a letter of support from their health departments. Jarvis also pointed out as JCPH is awarded these types of grants they become viewed as a best practice site. If awarded the grant, Jarvis would look at what JCPH has done previously, implementing a Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) or Rapid Needs Assessment to address vulnerabilities.

Motion by Rubin to approve the NACCHO Climate Action Grant submission; seconded by Bosch. The motion passed unanimously.

- **21-14 Fall Budget Amendment:** Meyer explained JCPH is allowed twice a year to adjust the current year budget figures; once in the fall and once in the spring. She feels the fall amendment process provides an opportunity to align the current year accounting budget to actual grant budgets. Typically county budgets are created seven to eight months prior to the next year, before grant applications have been initiated, making it difficult to create accurate budget projections. Meyer reported additional revenues of \$584,967 and \$308,035 in expenses, noting no additional local tax dollars are being requested from the County. She provided details for the revenue and expense adjustments by division.

Motion by Rubin to approve the Fall Budget Amendment; seconded by Bosch. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER

Reports / Inquiries:

County Attorney: Rose thanked Jarvis and the BOH for sponsoring her to attend the Public Health Law conference last month via video. She was able to participate in a number of interesting discussions focused on legal and medical ethics and policy. Rubin suggested budgeting for the conference annually.

Members, Board of Health: Bosch asked about the status of pediatric COVID-19 immunizations and whether a BOH recommendation would be helpful for Johnson County school districts. Jarvis responded encouragement would benefit some of the school districts in Johnson County. He cited CDC estimates and reported some schools are not interested in on-site clinics, but are trying to find ways to get children to clinics and pediatricians. He doesn't anticipate vaccine supplies to be an issue. Pettit-Majewski added parents were more inclined to have children vaccinated at their physician's office. Wallace commented the vaccination rates for aged 12 to 18 were discouraging at only 27%. He asked Jarvis to pass on the BOH will be willing to help to encourage schools to promote the vaccine.

Rubin congratulated JCPH for their success with their sorority and fraternity COVID-19 Vaccine Challenge. Wallace commented seven of the organizations achieved 100% vaccination and were honored at an awards ceremony. A yearly cooperative event is planned with the PanHellenic and Interfraternity Councils. Bosch suggested working with university dormitories and high schools as well.

Director: Pettit-Majewski reported on the JCPH Fall All Staff retreat at the Celebration Barn. Guest speakers included Dr. Erin Ulrich, Drake University to speak on the pandemic and mental health issues, Jason Haglund, COVID Recovery Iowa who spoke on mental health impacts of the pandemic and encouraged staff to debrief and use tools for recovery.

Highlights for the last month: JCPH is coordinating with the Iowa Department of Public Health and the State Hygienic Lab as a distribution and drop-off site for Test-Iowa home kits to increase access to testing.

Klefstad and Pettit-Majewski have been meeting with neighboring counties, especially Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP) to speak about the FY23 Collaborative Service Area and changes to Maternal Child Adolescent Health (MCAH) and Special Supplemental Nutrition

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Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) programs regarding service continuity and maintenance.

Management has been reviewing the Performance Management and Quality Improvement plans for potential revisions and to incorporate staff feedback. Creation of a Performance Management Committee is planned for November.

Jamie Huntley, Health Planner, reported results of the Well-BQ survey last month and assisted Pettit-Majewski with an additional survey addressing JCPH staff concerns to help expand on the workforce management plan.

Wallace adjourned the meeting at 5:21 pm.

Approved by Board of Health Action on

November 17, 2021

Date

Signature on File

Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS, Chair

Submitted by:
Susan Denny
Secretary II