



The McLean County Board of Health
Wednesday, January 12, 2022, 5:30 p.m.
McLean County Health Department, Room 324
200 W. Front Street
Bloomington Illinois 61701
IN-PERSON

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Carla Pohl, Susan Schafer, Hannah Eisner, Robert Kohlhase, Sonja Reece, Scott Hume, Judy Buchanan

Members Absent: Richard Ginnetti, Cory Tello

Staff Present: Jessica McKnight, Kim Anderson, Tom Anderson, Tammy Brooks, Amy Brooke, Cathy Coverston Anderson, Samantha Vazquez, Ashley Scarborough

3. Public Participation

4. Approve Minutes: Regular Session December 8, 2021, and Special Session December 31, 2021

Motion by Reece/Kohlhase to approve the December 8, 2021, regular session minutes.
Motion carried.

Motion by Reece/Buchanan to approve the December 31, 2021, special session minutes.
Motion carried.

5. Consent Agenda

A. Bills to be Paid

		December 2021
Dental Sealant	0102	\$21,305.63
WIC	0103	\$84,34.12
Preventive Health Program	0105	\$72.68
Family Case Management	0106	\$15,811.53
AIDS/COMM Disease Control	0107	\$65,797.69
Health Department	0112	\$110,631.60
Total		\$222,053.25

Motion by Schafer/Eisner to approve the consent agenda.

Motion carried.

6. Committee Reports

A. Behavioral Health Coordinating Council

Sonja Reece (SR) said that the next meeting would be on March 11, 2022. They will be discussing the Mental Health Action Plan.

Susan Schafer (SS) shared that fifteen-twenty people originally wrote it. They will be working on editing for consistent style.

B. Mental Health Advisory Board

C. County Board

D. Behavioral Health Policy and Funding Committee

The committee will meet at the end of February to look at goals and processes.

7. Health Department Administrator's Report

A. General Report

SR noted that the past two years have made it difficult to notice things unrelated to COVID-19. She appreciated reading about inspections, WIC, Family Case Management, etc. It is important to note that ongoing duties have not diminished, and staff continues to fulfill these.

SS asked what IRIS was.

Kim Anderson (KA) explained that IRIS is a referral system launched in April. The University of Kansas developed it. Illinois is piloting it statewide. The system helps prevent duplication of services and allows staff to see if a referral has been accepted or rejected.

Judy Buchanan relayed compliments from the community. She asked if the staff continued to use Cornerstone.

KA explained that the goal was to move away from Cornerstone. However, the State does not have a new system in place.

HE inquired about the COVID-related State grants.

Jessica McKnight (JM) doesn't have the approved budgets from IDPH but is hopeful to have them available next month.

8. Action Items

A. Approval of the Testing Services Agreement with Battelle

Motion by Reece/Buchanan for approval of the Testing Services Agreement with Battelle.

Motion carried.

Members discussed a discrepancy in collection and testing results time frames. The discrepancy will be clarified.

Testing may begin early next month and take place at Grossinger. Offering testing aligns with OSHA and demands in the community for convenient testing.

The test offered will be a PCR nasal self swab test. Battelle is CLIA approved.

B. Approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Bloomington

Motion by Reece/Buchanan for approval of the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Bloomington.

Motion carried.

HE brought up the subject of vaccine incentives and pandemic pay. HE stated that they made need a legal opinion as to if the Health Department could establish additional pay for Health Department employees related to the pandemic. She would like to see this topic on an upcoming agenda.

Amy Brooke (AB) clarified issues around the vaccine incentive. She explained that she spoke to the Board of Health in December. As a courtesy, she copied the Board of Health on letters to County Board members. The initial letter advocated for the \$1,000 vaccine incentive. AB spoke at the January Finance Committee meeting. Before the meeting, AB learned about the proposal for that Pandemic Pay. She advocated for the vaccine incentive as the better option. After discussions with the County Administrator, AB wrote a second letter to County Board members. The second letter voiced that she saw the vaccine incentive as the better option; Pandemic Pay would also be agreeable. AB explained the differences between the vaccine incentive and Pandemic Pay and the concerns that Pandemic Pay excludes upper management and those who worked from home. AB noted that these exclusions are set forth by the Federal Government and out of the County's hands. AB stated that the County Board was voting on the Pandemic Pay on Thursday, January 13, 2022.

HE proposed that some of the fund balance be used for Health Department employees. She stated that a quarter of the county employees are Health Department employees. She expressed disappointment in hearing about the controversy in this manner.

Carla Pohl (CP) noted that she was unsure if the fund balance was allowed to be used in this manner.

JB asked if it was appropriate to contact County Board members regarding the Vaccine Incentive/Pandemic Pay. She was encouraged that this was allowable.

Samantha Vazquez communicated that the Board of Health has autonomy over the budget; however, that budget derives from the County Board.

SR stated that she would like to see the work done by management recognized.

CP suggested that \$1,000 for management could be discussed. If Pandemic Pay for the rest of the staff is tabled, they could discuss how to do the same for Health Department staff.

Robert Kohlhasse (RK) asked that it be on a future agenda. He stated that they owed it to the staff to evaluate it and that it is important to have a dialogue about it. It can be brought forward for discussion at the next meeting. The meeting following that, it could be an action item.

HE stated that while everyone in the County deserves credit, our employees really deserve it. They took the brunt of anger and stress from the public.

SS stated that it is not just Health Department management who would not get Pandemic Pay. It is a larger conversation than the Health Department.

RK asked for time to come up to speed on the issue.

SS stated that she would put it on the Health Committee agenda.

HE noted that they might amend the budget to utilize fund balance.

RK brought to light the 2020 and 2021 Employee of the Year: Mary Colby and David Hopper. He was appreciative of the work they did.

Given the prevalence of COVID-19, SR suggested that meetings might move virtually.

SV stated that this would be something for Jessica McKnight, Carla Pohl, and Chris Spanos to discuss. The discussion would consider OMA regulations.

SR stated that she would be out of town in February. She could attend if it were virtual.

HE noted that she would also be out of town in February. She could also attend if it were virtual.

9. Adjournment: 6:15 p.m.