



The McLean County Board of Health
Wednesday, April 8, 2020, 5:30 p.m.
McLean County Government Center
115 E. Washington Street, Room 400, Bloomington, Illinois.

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call:

Present: Alan Ginzburg, Carla Pohl, Cory Tello, Judy Buchanan, Robert Kohlase,
Sonja Reece, Susan Schafer, Scott Hume

Absent: Hannah Eisner, Richard Ginnetti

Staff: Jessica McKnight, Cathy Coverston Anderson, Tammy Brooks, Dion McNeal, Tom
Anderson, Kim Anderson, Amy Brooke, Amy Hancock, Jessica Woods

Note: To comply with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations to socially distance and the Governor's Executive Order 202010, wherein no more than ten people can convene in one place, this meeting was held virtually and streamed live.

3. Public Participation: The Board of Health was sent an email from Harry Deutsch. The email was read aloud and as follows:

Subject: Comment for Meeting of 4/8/2020

The board of health should take the lead in encouraging people to (a) shelter in place, as per the Governor's order and (b) wear face masks in public, as per the recent recommendation by the CDC. I do not find either of these matters stated on the Health Department's website.

Harry Deutsch

Carla Pohl (CP) stated that she was under the impression that both items were on the website but would investigate.

4. Approve Minutes: March 11, 2020

Motion by Buchanan/Ginzburg to approve the March 11, 2020 minutes.
Motion carried.

5. Consent Agenda

A. Bills to be Paid

		April 2020
Dental Sealant	0102	\$19,686.80
WIC	0103	\$1,431.37
Preventive Health Program	0105	\$690.30
Family Case Management	0106	\$4,158.56
AIDS/COMM Disease Control	0107	\$1,016.85
Health Department	0112	\$100,542.88
Total		\$127,526.76

Motion by Schafer/Reece to approve the bills to be paid.
 Motion carried

6. Committee Reports

A. Behavioral Health Coordinating Council (BHCC)

Sonja Reece (SR) reported that the BHCC last met on March 13, 2020. Updates of grant programs and initiatives were presented (Triage and FUSE). SR reminded members that FUSE supports those who are frequent utilizers of resources like the emergency departments and/or involved in the criminal justice system. They are still in the process of identifying those individuals for the program.

The BHCC looked at the inter-governmental agreements for funding for mental health. Between 2016-2019 approximately 3.5 million has come into the fund. Part of the money has been used to upgrade the jail, for staffing, and for case management.

Susan Schafer (SS) reported that FUSE is not currently doing outreach due to COVID19. They are providing services to those already in the program.

B. Mental Health Advisory Board

Cory Tello (CT) reported that the April 24 meeting will be online. There will be a discussion about identifying needs in community and gaps in service. The pandemic is highlighting needs and gaps. CHIP will be meeting on April 21. They will meet online as well. CT stated that it would be good to have input from CHIP before the MHAB meeting.

C. County Board

SS reported that Jessica McKnight did a wonderful job of explaining things and answering questions for the Health Committee. She shared that anyone that would like to can watch it on YouTube.

SS reported that the EEOC has been activated.

D. Behavioral Health Policy and Funding Committee

This meeting was canceled because of COVID-19. Next month they will meet and review the funding priorities. Because of the pandemic, there might be some different funding priorities.

7. Health Department Administrator's Report

Jessica McKnight (JM) reported on the changes in department operations due to COVID-19. Some examples include:

- Family case management participation has increased. Case managers are doing contacts by phone rather than in person.
- WIC participation has also increased. They are doing curbside pickup and having participants do education over the phone
- Environmental Health plans to halt food inspections for the next two weeks to limit the interaction with the public. This is when the surge in COVID-19 cases is anticipated to happen. This will help protect staff. Staff will still respond to crises and complaints.

JM stated that there has been great internal support from the leadership and staff.

CT observed that there has been good feedback from FB Live and other social media outlets.

JM shared that there was a bit of a rocky start; however, there is a good plan in place now. Physical distancing places limits on us. We cannot do everything desired by the public.

CT stated that it is good to provide the public with daily information.

Robert Kohlhasse (RK) shared that at the previous meeting, the Board of Health asked staff to take leadership on communicating. He appreciates that the leadership has been timely and authoritative in their communication.

RK noted a change in set up in the accounting area. Instead of hiring a finance director, both accounting specialist II's will be made senior accounting specialists. He asked how they will be overseen and how decisions will be made.

JM explained that one works more with payroll and the other works more with contract and billing. That division of labor will stay the same. They work closely and will report to Jessica McKnight.

Members discussed the addition of a Behavioral Health position and how that will be different from Amy Hancock's position.

Amy Hancock (AH) explained that it is someone that will work for her. They will provide collaborative support with the different community partners and take on some items within the Health Department. AH stated that she would keep most of the monitoring of agencies and grants.

CP complimented the website and ease with which information can be found.

8. Discussion of Protected Health Information

JM shared that HIPPA allows the Health Department to share some information with first responders but does not require that it be shared. First responders are asking for the addresses, names, and dates of birth for those who have tested positive for COVID-19. JM asked for the Board of Health's assessment of this request/possibility.

Members had a robust discussion of sharing information about who had tested positive for COVID-19 with first responders.

Positives for sharing this information with MetCom/First Responders included:

- MetCom already handles a lot of sensitive information.
- There are other instances where files/houses are flagged. For example, law enforcement knows when they are going to a house where there have been repeated domestic violence calls.
- Some vulnerable populations (ex: autistic, diabetic, Alzheimer's) want their names/addresses on file to facilitate help when needed.
- First Responders are not asking for names. They are only asking for addresses so that they can put on more personal protective equipment (PPE).
- If every case is treated as if it is a COVID-19 call, the community might run out of necessary PPE.
- COVID-19 is a respiratory illness. This could require intubation and bagging. These are high risk procedures. Intubating would require increased PPE.
- Law enforcement might also wear more PPE when going into a home with a known COVID19 case.
- Calls to a positive COVID-19 house could be indicated by a special call sign that only first responders would know.
- Law enforcement only wants an address. They do not want a name.

Negatives for sharing this information with MetCom/First Responders included:

- Addresses are considered protected health information.
- The message the Health Department is promoting is to act as if everyone has COVID-19. Providing addresses of positive cases might give first responders a false sense of security when responding to an unlisted address.
- IDPH is recommending against providing the information. They do not think it is epidemiologically necessary at this point.
- It has taken a long time for public health to build trust with the community. Sharing this information might make the public believe that other information could be or would be shared in the future.
- It is likely that more risk in contracting COVID-19 comes from community contact and releasing individual information will not prevent that.
- Staff, particularly Communicable Disease staff, would be very uncomfortable with the release of the information. Under normal circumstances, the sharing of this information would be a HIPPA violation They are concerned about losing trust with clients that the Health Department serves. The Health Department does not even share information across programs, so it is difficult for staff to envision sharing the information outside of the Health Department.

Questions

- How does the information get to MetCom and first responders?
- How will sensitive information be protected once it is given?
- Would a business agreement with MetCom be needed?
- Should the Board of Health look at the security and privacy policy of MetCom?
- How would this information be used?
- How would releasing this information protect first responders when COVID-19 is so widespread?
- What would the basis for deviating from the recommendation of the Illinois Department of Public Health be?

Board of Health members discussed that Jessica McKnight was only asking for their thoughts on the issue. It was not on the agenda, so it was not something that would be voted upon.

The Board of Health asked that Jessica McKnight reach out to the fire chiefs in Normal and Bloomington and MetCom to better understand their reasons for wanting this information and how exactly it would change their procedures.

9. Action Items

A. Approval of Board of Health By-Laws

Motion by Ginzburg/Kohlhase to approve the changes to the Board of Health By-Laws.
Motion carried.

B. Approval of Funding Process Document

Motion by Tello/Hume to approve the document outlining the Funding Process.
Motion carried

Tammy Brooks announced that there is a dentist interested in being the adult dentist for the Health Department. Scott Hume is assisting in the process of identifying and interviewing this person. The interested dentist already participates in the biannual extraction clinics

10. Adjournment

Motion by Schafer/Reece to adjourn.
Motion carried.