



Scott County Health Department

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SCOTT COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

November 19, 2020

MEETING MINUTES

12:00 p.m.

Meeting Held at: Via Web-Ex at the Scott County Administrative Center
600 West 4th Street – 4th Floor Conference Room
Davenport, Iowa 52801

Dr. O'Donnell, Vice Chair of the Scott County Board of Health, called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Members Present: Via Web-Ex: Dr. O'Donnell, Dr. Hanson, Dr. Sandeman, Mrs. Coiner, Dr. Squire

Staff Present: In Person: Edward Rivers, Amy Thoreson, Eric Bradley, Roma Taylor, Tiffany Peterson, Teri Arnold
Via Web-Ex: Anna Copp, Carole Ferch, Christina McDonough, Kim Mills

Others Present: Via Web-Ex: Dr. Katz, Diane Martens, Tom Loewy, Mark Ridolfi

Dr. O'Donnell called for a motion to accept the agenda. Dr. Sandeman moved to accept the agenda. Motion seconded by Mrs. Coiner. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. O'Donnell called for a motion to accept the minutes. Dr. Hanson moved to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2020 Board Meeting. Motion seconded by Dr. Squire. Motion carried unanimously.

The following reports were reviewed and discussed by the Board:

A. Director's Report

Mr. Rivers provided an overview of COVID-19 cases for Scott County; over 9,800 confirmed and epi-linked cases. More than 5,500 cases reported in Scott County since the October Board of Health meeting. In addition, the number of deaths had doubled with 32 deaths reported at the October meeting compared to 66 at the November meeting. Over 4,000 cases had already been reported in November.

Mr. Rivers then shared information regarding the recent decision to relinquish primary responsibility for case investigation to the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH). An average of 266 cases per day were received during the last week. Staff had no ability to keep up with the workload, even with additional contact tracers in the process to be hired. IDPH has better resources and is able to scale up operations much easier than a local health department. Staff will continue to be engaged in contact tracing efforts as requested by partners, in long-term care, child care centers, and other unique situations.

Mr. Rivers informed the Board that the Governor has made two Proclamations this week having to do with mask requirements, restrictions on gatherings, businesses, and sports. A number of exceptions and interpretations that have ensued. Professional and high school sports are exempted. He referenced a mixed martial arts event scheduled in the River Center with close to 700 attendees that was scheduled to occur. An interpretation from the Governor's office stated there was no restrictions on the number of attendees as it is a professional event, even though the indoor gathering section states a limitation of 15.

Mr. Rivers discussed the challenges being faced by emergency medical service providers with additional calls and out of town transports. He also described the steps the hospitals were taking to expand capacity to serve increased numbers of patients. Additional ventilators were requested on an emergency basis from the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

Mr. Rivers informed the Board that IDPH shared a preliminary priority population list for the first round of vaccine. It is expected to include health care, EMS, and long term care.

Edward Rivers recognized the following employees for their years of service with the department.

- Danielle Freund, Correctional Health Nurse 1 year November 4
- Chris Varnes, Community Health Consultant 5 years November 16
- Anna Copp, Child Health Consultant 6 years November 10
- LaNae Ramos, Per Diem Nurse 7 years November 14
- Christina McDonough, Community Transformation Consultant 7 years November 25
- Kim Mills, Community Tobacco Consultant 9 years November 7

B. Dr. O'Donnell moved to the Public Health Activity Report for the months of October 2020.

Dr. O'Donnell noted that a decrease in the number of influenza cases compared to last year. She stated it will be interesting to see how other diseases will be impacted.

C. Dr. O'Donnell moved to the Budget Report for the months of October 2020.

Following discussion, Dr. Sandeman moved to approve the claims. Motion seconded by Mrs. Coiner. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Dr. O'Donnell moved to the Scott County Kids Report.

Diane Martens shared that the social emotional screening project continues via distance learning this year. Mrs. Martens expressed her appreciation to Jessica Redden for the presentation she provided to the Scott County Kids Early Childcare Iowa Board regarding the current situation in childcare centers during the pandemic.

E. Dr. O'Donnell moved to the Title V, Local Public Health Services and Tobacco Use Prevention Program Report.

Tiffany Peterson shared that IDPH provided some updates on the Maternal, Child, and Adolescent Health Grant Collaborative Services Area based on feedback that was received.

Scott County will be included in service area 14 which consists of Cedar, Clinton, Jackson, Muscatine, and Scott Counties taking effect in October 2022. The determination regarding the contractor to service the area will be made through a competitive grant proposal process.

Dr. O'Donnell called for a motion to accept the reports. Dr. Hanson moved to approve the reports. Motion seconded by Mrs. Coiner. Motion carried unanimously.

Dr. O'Donnell moved to Public Comment.

There were no comments.

Dr. O'Donnell moved to Unfinished Business.

There were no items for Unfinished Business.

Dr. O'Donnell moved to New Business.

Following discussion, Dr. Hanson moved to approve and authorize signature of the agreement between The Project of the Quad Cities and Scott County Health Department. Motion seconded by Dr. Squire. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Rivers explained at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, IDPH advised all local Health Departments that if local health departments were not interested or unable to provide contact tracing, the state would deliver the services. At that time, it was an either or situation. Scott County chose to do the contact tracing to provide a better understanding of the landscape of the pandemic in the county and maintain the connection with citizens, the schools, and long term care facilities. Data being gathered was used also reviewed and analyzed.

The Department was aware there could come a point in the pandemic when the department no longer had the resources or the ability to do the work. IDPH advised that at any given point contact tracing became too much for a county, they were able to give it back to the state without reservation or penalty. Scott County has come to that point. While additional resources had been requested and approved by the Board of Supervisors, the daily case numbers were double to triple the number being received at the time of the request. IDPH does the same basic work but has more resources and is more scalable. The state will be entering into a contract for a company to assist with contact tracing. Due to the large numbers being reported daily, a decision regarding the transition had to be made quickly.

Amy Thoreson shared that staff will continue to investigate the approximate 1,600 cases and contacts that had been received in the week prior to the transition. The new state data system allows both the local health departments and state to investigate cases. Staff will maintain contact tracing efforts with the childcare centers and long term care facilities when they have cases. Staff will continue to advise the schools as they reach out to us as well as the public. The goal is to work with the state and local partners to continue to serve and protect the community.

Dr. Hanson shared that she was not in favor of the transition and inquired as to how many attempts the state tracers are making to contact individuals and what the response time is once they get notification of a case before they make the initial phone call. Mr. Rivers stated

that we have been informed that the protocol for the state is the same as we followed. They make three attempts and they are three to four days behind on interviews, which is much better than the department's recent abilities. Amy Thoreson shared that the state is doing investigations for 63 of the 99 counties as of most recent report. Mr. Rivers stated they have been doing the investigations for Polk County since May. Mr. Rivers shared that 10 other counties relinquished cases back to the state the same week that Scott County did.

Dr. Sandeman stated he is extremely proud of the Scott County Health Department. He inquired as to how the state is able to hire that many more contact tracers. Mr. Rivers shared that they were originally using National Guard then issued an RFP for vendors to provide contact tracers and that the state directly received CARES funding for COVID-19 related activities.

Dr. Hanson stated her appreciation for how overwhelmed staff has been but expressed concerns regarding how the delays in case investigation is impacting its effectiveness. She expressed disappointment in funding to support these efforts coming to local health departments.

Amy Thoreson shared that due to the surge in cases, many health care providers, school nurses, and employers are already providing isolation and quarantine guidance to students, patients, and families to support the efforts. IDPH sees case investigation and contact tracing as a priority and is taking steps to build capacity to assure timely responses.

Mrs. Coiner supported giving the state a chance to do the contact tracing and made a motion to transfer primary responsibility for case investigation and contact tracing to the Iowa Department of Public Health. Dr. Squire seconded the motion. Mrs. Coiner, Dr. Squire, and Dr. Sandeman voted in favor of the motion and Dr. Hanson was opposed. Motion carried.

Dr. O'Donnell expressed overall concern regarding the process, but acknowledged the significant cost for the department to deliver a service that could be provided by IDPH. She also recognized the change would allow staff to focus on other aspects of the community response to COVID-19. Dr. O'Donnell requested an update regarding the number of days before a case is contacted be included in the monthly COVID report to allow the Board the ability to monitor the situation. Mr. Rivers shared that he would investigate available data. Dr. Hanson shared that this will be valuable data for the future. Mr. Rivers shared that it will also be useful during the After Action Report process which is a requirement of Public Health Accreditation.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 17, 2020.

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Teri Arnold
Recording Secretary