



APPROVED MINUTES

Board of Health

May 27, 2020 @ 5:00 PM

Health & Human Services Building – Community Room

Join via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7180094544>

Meeting ID 7180094544

Join via phone: 930-9884

303 West Chapel Street

Dodgeville, WI 53533

Iowa
County
Wisconsin

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1	Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Linda Pittz at 5:02 PM.
2	Roll Call was taken. Members present: Bruce Paull, Tom Howard, Bruce Haag, Sue Steudel, Joan Davis, Judy Lindholm, and Linda Pittz. (Joan Davis joined the meeting at 5:12 PM) Others present: Debbie Siegenthaler, Director/Health Officer; Steve Deal, County Board Supervisor; Dan Nankee, County Board Supervisor, Dr. Peter Mullin, Medical Advisor; Troy Moris, Environmental Health Coordinator. Chairperson Pittz welcomed new BOH member Supervisor Bruce Haag to the group.
3	Election of Chair: Lindholm nominated Linda Pittz, seconded by Howard. No other nominations. Pittz elected by unanimous voice call vote.
4	Election of Vice Chair: Haag nominated Bruce Paull, seconded by Lindholm. No other nominations. Paull elected by unanimous voice call vote.
5	Election of Secretary: Lindholm nominated Tom Howard, seconded by Haag. No other nominations. Howard elected by unanimous voice call vote.
6	Approve the agenda for this meeting: Davis moved to approve the agenda for this May 27, 2020 meeting of the Iowa County Board of Health meeting, seconded by Lindholm. Motion approved unanimously.
7	Approval of the minutes from the February 26, 2020 prior meeting: Paull moved to approve the minutes of the 2/26/2020 meeting, seconded by Howard. Motion approved unanimously with abstention of Pittz who was absent/excused from that meeting.
8	Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the Committee. No action will be taken. Bruce Paull commented that Debbie Siegenthaler, recently hired Health Department Director, was doing a marvelous job in helping people feel safe. Linda Pittz commented that Siegenthaler's efforts in keeping the Committee, Health Board, and General public informed were much appreciated.
9	<u>Program Updates</u> Environmental Health: Troy Moris reported that the case on the "Fentanyl Property" at the intersections of Johnson and Division Streets has been closed. The house passed final testing after a second inspection following the removal of more materials from the premises by the owners (the bank holding the mortgage). He said that Iowa County had done a great job on this issue and he now considered the case as "closed". Moris then gave an overview of other issues he had been engaged in. Communicable Diseases – COVID19 Response: Director Siegenthaler presented a graph of COVID-19 tests conducted between 30 April (300 tests done) and 27 May (807 tests done) and stated that to date there were 12 positive tests. A second graph showed tests done per day from 5/1 through 5/26 and tests per day have greatly increased since 20 May. She stated that of the 12 positive cases, 11 were considered "recovered" (met isolation requirements, no symptoms for 3 days, not deceased since symptom onset).

Siegenthaler also described 11 “probable” cases where a patient exhibited symptoms early during the pandemic but were not tested due to the lack of sufficient test to prove virus infection. She also described a couple of “positive antibody tests” on healthcare workers. To date, there are 64 tests “pending results”. The age of the positive cases ranged from toddler to 90 years of age; most were 50 years old or older. There have been 2 hospitalizations. The statewide figure for hospitalization of positive cases is currently 15%.

Siegenthaler stated that the EOC (Emergency Operations Center) was activated on March 12, as a critical mechanism for partner communications and to develop/implement daily incident objectives. There were daily communications/briefings between Keith Hurlburt, the county sheriff, a hospital liaison, the Health Department, and many other participants. Troy Moris was included in briefings as he acted as a conduit to other Health Departments, PPE management and other environmental resources (air purification, etc). Separate meetings were (and are still) being held regarding mortuary affairs (planning), Long term care centers (3 in the county: Bloomfield Manor, Mineral Point Care Center, and Upland Hills), and all (5 or 6) of the assisted Living facilities in the county. Weekly meetings are also held with all school districts.

Siegenthaler stated that the Health Department was taking a proactive approach in testing the health care workers and patients at the three long term care centers. Bloomfield and Upland Hills are completed (with testing) and Mineral Point will be conducted this coming week. The assisted living facilities will be next in this process (Crestwood is being done now) – this increase in testing explains the spike in testing in recent days. The plan is to be working on these vulnerable populations first: the elderly, then jail, first responders, Law enforcement personnel, etc. The Health Dept is awaiting guidance for these sectors so as to avoid issues and proceed consistent with statewide implementation.

The Health Department is also meeting with schools regarding precautions and advice for graduations, parades, summer school, planning for fall, etc. and is receiving good cooperation from school districts. Iowa County is waiting for guidance from the State and from the Department of Public Health on these issues.

Siegenthaler described past and current incident objectives: PPE continues to be a big area. Health care workers,/schools/dentists/first responders/etc. all have a need for PPE. Keith Hurlbert is managing PPE procurement and distribution. Keith and the EOC did set up an isolation shelter (at Bethel Horizons) for people who would be unable to isolate in their current living arrangements. The county will have this available officially through the end of May and then reevaluate the necessity to continue it.

A large part of the workload for the Health Department has been fielding lots of questions regarding enforcement of the stay at home order, frequently addressing vulnerable populations (groups of ethnic minorities, elderly, etc), and messaging daily to inform the community, the Board of Health and the County Board to keep everyone current on the status of the pandemic and progress within the county. Another large issue behind the scenes is prevention/investigation, contract tracing, etc. Sue and Kari (public health nurses) have taken leadership roles in case investigations, follow-ups, etc. Other Health Department work (dog bites, etc) continues, but 90% of the Department’s focus has been on Covid-19.

Siegenthaler reported that the county was fortunate in having in place an organized mechanism to bring on Limited Term Employees in a timely manner. She mentioned Annie Timmerman, Shirley Marty-Klosterman, and Nurse Practitioner Elizabeth Heth as examples. She specifically singled out past Iowa County Health Director Sue Matye who was able to return to assist and provides invaluable assistance. Future help may include a couple of school nurses who will be brought on as needed as she mentioned that some of the LTE’s need to return to their regular jobs.

	Regarding funding, Siegenthaler noted that some Supplemental COVID-19 budget monies have been received and CARES funding is on the horizon for continued tracing. Several questions were asked of Siegenthaler by BOH members: “Are test kits readily available?” Early on, test kits were hard to come by and we had to prioritize who was tested but test kits are now much more available. Upland Hills is coordinating testing and Community Connections gets involved for the uninsured. “Is antibody testing available?” There are unknowns regarding effectiveness. Dr. Mullin stated that these are done in-house by health care systems, are facility specific, but are still evolving. “Do antibodies give protection?” This is unknown – there is fairly good specificity, but in an area where case counts are low (like Iowa County), reliability and specificity decline. “What about all the ‘missed funerals’?” Funeral directors are making plans on how to schedule all those “missed” funerals – we haven’t talked much yet about this item (with funeral directors), but mass gatherings are hard to plan for as of yet. “Is there legal responsibility for businesses to provide PPE (masks) to employees?” We are asking businesses to follow recommendations and guidance but without an order, there’s no enforcement ability. “What does ‘recovered from COVID-19’ mean?” Patient has completed isolation and is symptom free. From Chairperson Pittz: We should be planning on how to capture our response to this pandemic per our strategic plan, detailing response from start to finish. There is lots of documentation already involved that looks at cases over time, etc. We should try to discuss this at our next meeting. Siegenthaler responded that development of an “After Action Report” would necessarily be secondary as the staff are heavily engaged at this time and may not have time to focus on this while dealing with the current issue. Chairperson Pittz asked Debbie Siegenthaler to give the BOH some background regarding herself. Siegenthaler stated that she was “farm grown” from the Darlington (Lafayette County) area, was educated at UW, worked at the Monroe Clinic for several months then as a public health nurse in Lafayette county for three years, followed by a 17 year position as the Health Director in Lafayette County (also a certified home care and hospice agency). In 2013, she went to UW School of Medicine and Public Health, facilitating community learning of MPH students and their required 400 hour practicum. She credited past Health Department Director Sue Matye for encouraging her to apply for the Health Department Director position in Iowa County.
10	Monthly Report (visits, communicable diseases, animal bites, etc): This monthly report was distributed to BOH members via email prior to this meeting.
11	2019 Annual Report: This report was distributed to BOH members via email prior to this meeting. Director Siegenthaler explained that former Director Matye assembled this report together – it is a statutorily required report and is organized by Programs and Services, around the Ten Essential Public Health Services. It will be further presented to the full county board. Chairperson Pittz suggested that the BOH may discuss items within the report at the next meeting to see what we should focus on in 2020.
12	Next Meeting Date: The next meeting date of the Iowa County Board of Health is tentatively scheduled for June 24 @ 5:00 PM. Board members will be notified if there is any change to this date/time by Director Siegenthaler.
13	Adjournment: Haag moved to adjourn and Lindholm seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:23 PM.

Minutes submitted by Tom Howard, Iowa County Board of Health secretary