



APPROVED MINUTES
Board of Health
September 23, 2020 @ 5:00 PM
Health & Human Services Building
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 5:00 PM
2	Roll Call was taken. Committee members present (either via videoconference/teleconference means): Bruce Haag, Bruce Paull, Joan Davis, Judy Lindholm, Linda Pittz, Sue Steudel, Tom Howard, and Iowa County Board Chairman John Meyer. Others present (either via videoconference/teleconference means or in person): Sue Matye, County Sanitarian Troy Moris, County Corporation counsel David Morzenti, Iowa County Sheriff Deputy Austin Duerst, Dodgeville Police Chief David Bauer, Iowa County Executive Director Larry Bierke, and Iowa County Health Department Director Debbie Siegenthaler.
3	Approve the agenda for this September 23, 2020 meeting. Lindholm moved to approve the agenda. Paull seconded the motion. Motion passed.
4	Approve the minutes of the May 27, 2020 meeting. Howard moved to approve the minutes. Davis seconded the motion. Motion passed.
5	Report from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the board. No action will be taken. Howard stated that he had completed an online training course from Johns Hopkins University on contact tracing to get a better appreciation of what the Health Department staff was experiencing with this issue. Interested persons can find this free course by googling "Johns Hopkins contact training course". Davis stated that much thanks were due to the Health Department head and staff for the efforts they have made the past few months regarding the pandemic crisis.
6	<u>Program Updates</u> Environmental Health: County sanitarian Troy Moris described two issues with properties in Mineral Point that he has been working on. Both concern a vermin breeding grounds issue. He stated that in one case a citation had been issued by the Mineral Point Police Department and that a citation may be issued in the second case but no further action has been taken as of yet. Director Siegenthaler stated that Troy is an integral member of the Covid team – a critical resource for fit testing as well as for other environmental issues. Pittz asked if there was difficulty in obtaining masks and Moris stated that there was, for some models, and that some substitutions of one type for another is made is one type is in short supply. Communicable Disease – COVID-19 response: Director Siegenthaler gave a presentation on Iowa County COVID-19 Disease control metrics (Dashboard) and demonstrated how to access the history of all the media releases that have gone out on this issue from the Health Department via Iowa County website, including weekly dashboard check-ins. Paull questioned what the term "probable case" consisted of. Director Siegenthaler described it as "a case where there has been close contact, has symptoms (example: a person in the same family), but hasn't been tested for some reason. Another example is if there is an antigen test that is positive (such as used at college campuses) and that this was not a PCR test. Early on in the pandemic, the term probable cases was widely used because of a shortage of tests available". Director Siegenthaler then described a model utilizing metrics and indicators used for school capacity, modeled after the Minnesota model. She stated that not much definitive direction had been forthcoming from state authorities, so Iowa County worked with school administrators and neighboring counties to come up with a dashboard of metrics to assist in determining when a school would reduce school capacity or pivot to virtual instruction. She also described school operational status considerations and gave a list of resources to draw upon to help populate this model. On a related topic, Siegenthaler described county staffing issues: nine staff had been added (principally for contact tracing) but six have since left, leaving three limited term employees to do contact tracing, along with 2 RN project positions brought on, the two regular FT RNs and a staff member from Social Services .

	She stated that there is a federal funding stream to support this effort but it is very problematic/of concern regarding how to continue keeping up with the demand for epidemiological work. Siegenthaler then stated that Iowa county was looking into establishing a testing site – a drive thru site – for Covid 19 testing and was collaborating with Lafayette County to consolidate staff for this effort. She said some planning had been done with the State DHS and National Guard to stand up the site. Also, preliminary planning work is being done regarding mass vaccination scenarios for as early as May 2021. We will potentially facilitate early doses of COVID-19 vaccine for distribution to high priority groups. We are also planning several Saturday flu clinics (drive thru) for school-age children. Siegenthaler also mentioned the Governor’s recent pronouncements regarding executive orders related to Covid-19 which is now extended to November 21 for the mask mandate. Davis asked if the current level of contact tracing has failed to halt community spread, at what point do we discontinue the current level of effort? Siegenthaler said that we have to determine at what point do we balance realistic available public health infrastructure with unfair expectations to “keep up” and that conversation needs to be held at the local level as well as state levels. Iowa County Communicable Disease Ordinance: County Corporation Counsel Dave Morzenti addressed the board regarding background efforts and challenges related to development of a county public health ordinance. He stated that there are laws at the state level, but there are some local events that might occur that require effective things that we might want to do to protect the public – for example, it may be important to have a local mask order. A local ordinance fills in the gaps where a state authority falls short but a big question lies in the enforcement of a local order. Basically, it is still a work in progress, and that different counties have different situations – and that what may work for one county may not work for others. The Wisconsin Counties Association has released (August 19, 2020) “guidance in implementing regulations surrounding communicable diseases: an analysis of local health department and local health officer positions, duties, and enforcement actions”. Iowa County Board Chairman Meyer stated that any ordinance needs to be introduced at one county board meeting as an agenda item and then acted upon at a subsequent meeting, so there is already a two-month period of time here before an ordinance can be put into place.
7	Monthly Report. Director Siegenthaler had previously provided committee members with a copy of the monthly report. There were no comments or questions regarding this report.
8	Next Meeting Date. The next meeting of the Iowa County Board of Health is tentatively scheduled for November 18th at 5:00 PM. Members will be notified by Director Siegenthaler if there is any change to this schedule.
9	Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made by David and seconded by Lindholm. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM

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