

	APPROVED MINUTES Health and Human Services Committee WEDNESDAY, MAY 5 at 5:00 p.m. <i>Health and Human Services Community Room</i> 303 W. Chapel Street; Dodgeville, Wisconsin	Iowa County Wisconsin
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Item	
1	Chairperson Nankee called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2	<u>Roll Call:</u> Members Present in Community Room: Chairperson Dan Nankee, Richard Rolfsmeyer, Joan Davis Members Present Remotely: Justin O'Brien Members Excused: Kimberly Alan Others Present in Community Room: Larry Bierke, Nikki Mumm, Paul Ohlrogge, Cecile McManus, Steve Deal Others Present Remotely: Heidi Tiber, Debbie Siegenthaler, Andrea Johnson, Jeff Lindeman
3	<u>Approval of the May 5, 2021 Agenda:</u> Motion by Davis and seconded by Rolfsmeyer to accept the agenda. Aye: 4; Nay: 0. Motion carried.
4	<u>Approval of the March 3, 2021 Meeting Minutes:</u> Mumm to check with County Clerk, Spurley, to ensure hyperlinks are acceptable. Approval of minutes is contingent upon the Clerk's approval of hyperlinks. Motion by Davis and seconded by O'Brien to accept the meeting minutes. Aye: 4; Nay: 0. Motion carried.
5	<u>Reports From Committee Members and an Opportunity for Members of the Audience to Address the Committee. No action will be taken.</u> <u>Tiber</u> -Tiber is a Registered Nurse at Bloomfield. She discussed concerns with staffing and the use of Agency workers to fill shifts. She asked the following questions: Do we have enough oversight? Do we know where our budget is going? Does the Board know what is happening at Bloomfield? <u>Nankee</u> -On April 13, Tom Slaney had a meeting in Community Room regarding the Governor's Biennial Budget. He began the meeting with a 1-hour briefing on what the budget entailed and then shifted to discussions with legislative aids for Representative Novak and Senator Marklein. Rolfsmeyer and O'Brien were in attendance for the entire day and Nankee was only able to attend the first session. Rolfsmeyer stated that the briefing papers provided by the Wisconsin Counties Association were great and that he learned more than what he said.
6	<u>Discussion and Possible Action on Bloomfield Commission Concerns:</u> Deal gave report. He spoke on behalf of the Bloomfield Commission in regards to the letter sent to Nankee and the HHS Committee. He discussed staffing concerns, concerns regarding the roles and responsibilities of the Commission, capital improvements needed, the Campbell funds and the budget. He stated that the Commission is currently at a standstill with regard to their role and responsibilities due to lack of funding and no clear path for Bloomfield. The Commission believes that monthly meetings are not a responsible use of county funds as, at this time, they are only able to discuss usage of the Campbell funds, which could be done on a quarterly basis. He suggested that the HHS Committee take charge of the Campbell Funds and eliminate the Bloomfield Commission. The Commission used to run Bloomfield but no longer does under the current structure. Therefore, he inquired if the Commission is still necessary or whether it could be suspended or eliminated entirely as volunteers' time could be better spent in other areas. There was a discussion on history regarding the change in county government structure as well as what was needed to have the HHS Committee take on the roles and responsibilities. The Committee discussed their thoughts and concerns with regard to taking on the Commission's roles and responsibilities. They decided to recommend a suspension of the roles and responsibilities, except for monitoring the Campbell funds on a quarterly basis. Motion by Davis and seconded by Rolfsmeyer to make a motion that HHS Committee recommend to full County Board that Bloomfield Commission suspend all responsibilities, except for monitoring the Campbell funds on a quarterly basis until the HHS Committee directs them to re-engage. Aye: 4 Nay: 0. Motion carried.

7	<u>Health Department Update:</u> Siegenthaler gave report. Our Covid-19 metrics have been steady for the past 5 weeks or so. The Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine usage was paused by the Federal Government and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS), but has since been lifted after further research. Iowa County has 51% of our residents vaccinated and are fifth in the state for vaccinations. We are still utilizing the Comer Center to vaccinate residents and, at our peak, had 12-13 vaccination stations. Interest has recently waned, but we have given over 8,000 vaccines and are nearing 40 clinics held. We have been able to hire 15 LTE vaccinators to help and have had Moderna and J&J until today, where we were able to offer our first Pfizer clinic. Pfizer is currently the only vaccine approved for those aged 16 and older as Moderna and J&J are only approved for 18 years of age and older. We are currently working on making the shift from residents coming to us for vaccines to us intentionally getting out to residents. We need to reach out to residents who are hesitant or have barriers to coming to a clinic by reaching out to employers, holding pop-up clinics (Arena on May 6th and looking into hosting one in Cobb next week), homebound residents (working with ADRC and SUN), the jail, and the Hispanic population (Southwest CAP and their new Community Health worker that speaks fluent Spanish). We are addressing vaccine hesitancy and misconception. We are making great progress with vaccinations but need to reach 60-90% vaccination to help build herd immunity. We are hearing that the Pfizer vaccine will be approved for kids aged 12 and above and have begun reaching out to local school districts to hold school based clinics before the end of the school year. We are still having weekly vaccinators' calls with all of the vaccinators in the County to discuss synergies and collaborations. The CDC has recently released new recommendations for those who are fully vaccinated (i.e., being outside unmasked except for when in crowds and less restrictions on quarantining if you have been exposed, as long as you are not experiencing symptoms). Davis asked about how the pop-up clinics are going to work. Siegenthaler said the Arena pop-up clinic is at the EMS building and will be a drive thru clinic. There will be a controlled space where they can draw up the vaccine while paperwork and the vaccination will be done in the car. The patient will then pull forward while they wait for 15 minutes before leaving. Davis inquired about whether booster shots will eventually be needed, and Siegenthaler stated they are hearing this is likely somewhere in the 6 to 12-month range and that they are anticipating and planning for this. They are hoping they can go back into schools this fall to vaccinate younger school-aged kids as well as have flu clinics. They should be busy into 2022. Rolfsmeyer inquired which vaccines will be offered at the pop-up clinics, and Siegenthaler stated it will be Moderna or J&J. O'Brien commended the Health Department for their response as our numbers are terrific. He noted that homebound residents are an interesting challenge and inquired as to whether we can lean on visiting nurse programs for assistance. Siegenthaler stated that they have reached out to certified in-home homecare and hospice agencies and have found that they have vaccinated their caseloads, if they had vaccine available. It would be complicated for them to vaccinate residents who are not part of their caseload due to funding and, for this reason, are not interested in vaccinating residents not on their caseload. Therefore, the safety net for those residents is the Public Health Department. It's a role we can take, but there are a lot of logistics associated that we are working through. Siegenthaler acknowledged terrific partnerships with the Department of Social Services, ADRC and SUN programs during the pandemic as they assisted by reaching out to residents and lending staff to aid in contact tracing and vaccination efforts. Bierke stated that Bloomfield has recently received guidance that they can treat vaccinated residents differently. For example, four vaccinated residents can get together to play cards with no masks. Does that mean that 60-65% is a good number to relax mask usage? Siegenthaler stated that local health officers have been asking DHS to get insight from the CDC on what the triggers are for mask relaxation. We are putting tools in place to protect people such as vaccinations, masks and social distancing. Herd immunity is achieved between 60-90%, probably closer to 90% with the variants. The range is due to the variants as the virus is working hard to mutate and could be one or two variants away from something that could be more virulent and transmissible. Therefore, masks and social distancing are an important mitigation factor, especially when you do not know other people's vaccination status. Davis stated that she is excited about the news regarding adolescents and teenagers and that it is welcome news to educators as well as a game changer to schools for the fall.
8	<u>SUN Update:</u> McManus gave report. They recently gave the Health Department a list of clients who receive home delivered meals in Iowa County so they can reach out to them regarding vaccinations. She believes the

	percentage of their clients that have not been able to receive the vaccine is low. Kari Bennett, Health Department, brought down a notice for SUN to include with their April statements that explains how clients can receive the vaccine if they have not already received it. They send between 140 to 150 statements out in Iowa County, so it is a good way to reach the elderly population. They are currently focusing on reopening congregate sites. The restaurant locations in Blanchardville and Highland have been open. Highland has closed a couple of times in the last six months when cases increased. They are starting to get more clients back in person. Arena plans to open May 10th and will be spacing out tables in the dining area. Last July, Benton and Dodgeville opened with limited seating, spaced six feet apart, and now guidance has been updated to three feet apart. Along with spacing, they are also following guidance around masks, sanitation and symptoms. Linden is going to remain a carryout/delivery site for the time being. In Lafayette County, Shullsburg opened on May 3rd, Belmont is looking at May 12th, and Darlington opened on April 12th. Staff are feeling more comfortable and less stressed than six months to a year ago. They recently sent out surveys for both SUN and the ADRC's in each county with statements. The ADRC surveys are to help each ADRC to put together their three year Aging Plan. They recently received two generous donations. Charles and Karen Tennesen donated \$1,000 towards delivery costs and Benton State Bank donated \$1,172, which is the balance needed to purchase an under the counter dishwasher for the Shullsburg Meal Site. March was their biggest month since McManus has been with the program. Rolfsmeyer is glad to see the numbers coming back and wanted to let everyone know that The Viking Café, the restaurant that cooks food for the Blanchardville Meal Site, has recently opened a grocery store, which is important to have in a small community like Blanchardville.
9	<u>UW Extension Department Update:</u> Ohlrogge gave report. His last day is May 27th and he thanked everyone. They recently hired a new Department Assistant, Tom Harman. They had 31 applicants, and it was a great pool of potential employees. UW-Extension recently participated in a statewide Zoom training on COVID-19, where they learned about vaccines and how they work. This training was exclusive to Extension agents as the UW would like them to be good communicators to help combat vaccine hesitancy. The rural areas are not getting vaccinated at the same rates as more urban areas and that while we may be at 50% in Iowa County, the next 30% will be the hardest to get vaccinated. The Extension community can reach out to the Ag communities to provide education and remove politics from discussions of the vaccine. We need people to get vaccinated so that our economy can return and we need to make sure they know the vaccine is safe. He said the training would have been beneficial to the County Board members as well, so they could help educate their constituents. We need to educate not advocate. There are states that are returning vaccine to the Federal government due to residents in rural communities not receiving vaccinations. We need to continue talking about the safety of the vaccine and education is critical. UW-Extension is opening back up to the public and 4-H Clubs are happy to be meeting again. Gene Schriefer has been able to make farm calls again and is a happy Ag Educator. Ruth Schriefer has been working with Southwest CAP, and Donna Peterson has been hosting the Strong Bodies program over Zoom which has been very successful. Barry Hottmann has been working on rural broadband expansion and Joe Bonnell is working on water and taking over the Clean Sweep Grant. Ohlrogge shared that he recently participated with Allison Leitzinger and the Equity and Inclusion Committee and how wonderful it has been for Iowa County. We had a guest speaker, Ellie Krug, speak to the entire County staff about Grey Area Thinking. It was a very powerful presentation and there is a brown bag lunch discussion about the presentation tomorrow, May 6, at noon. We are having people talk about diversity in a way that can be heard and encouraging us to admit that we might have biases, and understanding what it is like to be treated as less because of who you are. He stated that Iowa County is better for it and our staff have identified that they value the programming. The committee thanked Ohlrogge for his service and wished him well.
10	<u>Veterans Service Office Department Update:</u> Lindeman gave report. The Veterans are happy that the building is open again. He has been busy distributing flags and markers for Memorial Day. Memorial Day celebrations will be scaled down again this year. Dodgeville and Linden will not be having a parade or program. Mineral Point is planning a truncated parade. Quite a few Veterans have been receiving vaccines. He has worked hard to get them vaccinated and, when they were having trouble getting into the VA clinic, he worked with the Health Department to ensure Veterans were able to receive vaccines. They are beginning to have Service Organization meetings

	again and things are starting to look like they did before the pandemic. Nankee commended Lindeman for his article <i>"Ask Not Get Not, What Do You Need?"</i> in the Veterans' Newsletter. It explains what services the VA has available that Veterans need but generally do not ask for and encourages Veterans to talk to their primary care provider about what services they may benefit from. Nankee shared that Highland is working on constructing a monument in honor of local Veterans.
11	<u>Wednesday, June 2, 2021</u> : Approved for the next HHS Committee meeting at 5:00 p.m., HHS Center, Community Room, Dodgeville. Zoom will be an option.
12	Motion by Rolfsmeyer and seconded by O'Brien to Adjourn. Aye: 4, Nay: 0. Meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.