

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Waukesha County Health & Human Services Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting Public Health Advisory Committee Thursday, August 13, 2020

Present Committee Members:	Kerri Ackerman, Steven Andrews, Ross Clay, Andy Dresang, Jessica Kadow, Betty Koepsel, Colleen Peebles, Mary Reich
Absent Committee Members:	None
HHS Board Liaisons:	Mary Baer
HHS Staff Liaisons:	Bridget Gnad, Mary Jo Hamman, Theresa Imp, Benjamin Jones, Elizabeth Laatsch, Brittany Leising, Mary Smith
Guests:	Trista Neary, Unnamed public guest (unnamed agency)

Quorum = 5

I. Call to Order

Dresang called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Koepsel moved, second by Kadow, to approve the minutes from June 25, 2020. Motion passed without negative vote.

III. Business

A. Review and Approval of Bylaws

Kadow stated she did not see anything about being able to be present in the meeting via phone. Baer said a quorum is five; it did not say a quorum in presence was five. The HHS Board did not directly answer Baer's question on this when asked; however, Baer stated this committee was covered at this point according to her understanding. Jones noted COVID has brought about this change in operations and this would probably continue to be looked at.

MOTION: Kadow moved, second by Reich, to approve Bylaws. Motion passed without negative vote.

B. Review and Approval of Member Terms

Jones commented the majority of member seats are for agencies and not for individuals. These seats are reviewed every three years. Jones stated ProHealth Care was looking for a new representative for the committee. The Sixteenth Street Community Health Center's agency seat would be vacated by Ackerman and filled by Peebles; however, Ackerman said she would stay on for now until the question of replacing an agency seat was answered by the HHS Board. Baer will email Larry Nelson, HHS Board, regarding the process for appointing representatives for standing agency seats.

MOTION: Andrews moved, second by Reich, to approve Member Terms. Motion passed without negative vote.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Health & Human Services Board

Baer reported she went through her first HHS Board budget hearing. She updated the group on the Public Health budget results from the HHS Board meeting: The HHS Board approved the Public Health 2021 budget, which included their approval of an additional \$65,000 as well as an additional \$125,000 to support additional COVID work. Baer stated the HHS Board's approval was made possible due to the CARES Act and the recognition of Waukesha County and Public Health's COVID response. Baer noted budget concerns for future years included constant cuts for different divisions of HHS.

Smith reported on the ADRC's budget results. She mentioned concerns, which included paying the ADRC people an adequate salary for helping with in-home care and a lack of recognition. The ADRC did not get their data analytics person in next year's budget. The ADRC has a verbal commitment in the budget to work with Carroll University for a data analytics person.

Baer said tax revenues were dropping since March and stated budgets would be tight for the next few years. Jones stated Public Health does have a balanced 2021 budget thanks to COVID funding.

Smith commented that the ADRC Department had a number of critical needs, and they struggle to meet these needs. Many agencies are not staffed, and some clients do not want staff in their homes. The ADRC currently has a high ratio, with one supervisor assigned to 12 supervisees. Social isolation needs exist, and the ADRC has been successful in doing volunteer work; however, they did not receive increased funding for next year. The ADRC asked for a forensic accountant, but funding was not received. Smith stated they also did not receive this funding last year.

Baer stated the HHS Board budget hearing included a lot of analysis, and it was disheartening that they were unwilling to add people. Baer expressed she was looking forward to being the HHS Board Liaison. Baer stated she could no longer vote during Public Health Advisory Committee meetings since she was an ex-officio member.

B. Environmental Health Division

No Update

C. Aging & Disability Resource Center

No Update

V. Public Health Division Reports

A. Manager / Health Officer

Jones stated COVID was the majority of what Public Health was working on. Jones shared his computer screen to display the COVID-19 Dashboard for Waukesha County. He gave a general overview of the data. As of August 13, 2020, Waukesha County had approximately 4,400 COVID cases, of which approximately 1,000 were currently active. Approximately 8% of cases have required hospitalization since the beginning of COVID. Waukesha County Public Health has looked at over 60,000 lab tests, and Jones commented on the sheer volume of the workload.

Jones commented he believed the daily confirmed case count would fluctuate, and that over 100 cases a day would strain the healthcare system. Public Health's goal

was to continue to perform the Public Health mission through investigating cases and identifying infectious people to break the transmission chain.

Public Health is constantly bringing on new staff. They have partnered with Carroll University to do online training, first for contact tracers and then for disease investigators. At the end of August, they will have close to another 70 people to do contact tracing.

Jones reported schools are a big unknown. Overall, the general belief is the virus affects kids less. Kids over age 10 are probably impacted more like adults than kids under 10, according to new research. They continue to learn more information, and there is a lot that is unknown about the COVID virus. Public Health has to adjust to research and recommendations as they change. Jones commented there was a large volume of contacts and tracers. They are setting up a schools team to assist. The goal is to contain this and ensure infectious people stay home; the goal is not to shut down schools. If a school has large numbers of positive cases or uncontrolled spread, then Public Health will work individually with that school.

Jones called for questions. Clay asked about Public Health's follow up on persons under investigation and their plan for influenza season. Jones replied persons under investigation are the people getting testing and awaiting test results. Public Health follows up after they get test results. Their first priority is positive case follow up and getting to the positive case's close contacts. Jones remarked they rely on physicians telling people to isolate until they get their test results. In order for Public Health to follow up, the physician needs to report it; the lab reports are what Public Health uses for their follow up. Leising added that if someone is identified as a close contact, Public Health follows up with that close contact.

Jones said it was unfortunate that testing supplies were in short supply. The stance of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is (1) anyone with symptoms and (2) any close contacts should be tested. The healthcare systems are now in shortage and rationing testing, which is affecting Public Health's investigations. Public Health's standpoint is they need to get to points one and two: anyone with symptoms and any close contacts should be tested. They have taken steps back due to the shortage.

Jones replied he anticipated influenza was going to be a massive challenge. Public Health was partnering to get flu vaccine out for this flu season. Starting September 1, Public Health will be offering immunizations, including flu and other childhood vaccines, on a by-appointment basis. Jones said Public Health has to default to the CDC and the DHS to distinguish between COVID and flu. He stated Public Health's hope was for more people to be vaccinated.

Kadow asked what guidelines would schools follow, and how would Public Health fit in. Jones answered Public Health is not being prescriptive with recommendations. Public Health is not mandating anything. Public Health provides DPI, CDC and DHS guidance. He noted questions for schools to consider would include what schools can operationalize safely and what school boards can approve. There are varieties of approaches schools can take. Public Health's stance is to try to contain and work with the school and for the school to provide Public Health with the information Public Health needs. If Public Health identifies all cases and close contacts, then the school can stay open. It is an organizational decision how to implement responses and keep kids socially distant.

