

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

**Waukesha County Health and Human Services
Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting
Public Health Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 11, 2021**

Present Committee Members:	Steven Andrews, Ross Clay, Andrew Dresang (Chair), Jessica Kadow (Vice Chair), Colleen Peebles, Mary Reich, Sarah Butz
Absent Committee Members:	Betty Koepsel
HHS Board Liaisons:	Mary Baer
Present HHS Staff Liaisons:	Mary Jo Hamman, Ben Jones, Mary Smith, Theresa Imp
Absent HHS Staff Liaisons:	Bridget Gnadt, Sarah Ward, Brittany Leising, Elizabeth Laatsch
Guests:	Tristin Bruno, Janelle McClain

1. Call to Order

Chair Dresang called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Peebles moved, second by Reich, to approve the Public Health Advisory Committee minutes from February 11, 2021. Motion passed without negative vote.

3. Business

A. Final Review of Community Needs Presentation

Dresang shared and reviewed a Power Point titled, "Public Health Advisory Committee Community Needs Presentation 2021: The Journey to Public Health 3.0."

Attendees provided the following feedback:

- When presenting to the Board, clarify that Waukesha County will continue to strive to meet the highest accreditation standards and best practices but has not yet become officially accredited due to cost
- Emphasize the vision of creating strategic partnerships with health organization systems
- Name the partners who want to collaborate with the health department to meet the community needs

4. Committee and Organizational Updates

A. Health and Human Services Board

There has been overwhelmingly positive feedback regarding Waukesha County's Mass Vaccine Clinic, as well as the easy-to-use website for vaccine information and appointment registration (<https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/covid19>). The success of the registration and vaccination of the community thus far is attributed to the planning, teamwork, and collaboration between the County and the healthcare community.

Funding sources for 2020-2021, including the CARES Act, Federal Stafford Act, and County Contingency Transfer Funds show that costs will be covered for all pandemic-related expenses.

B. Environmental Health Division

There was no update from the Environmental Health Division.

C. Aging and Disability Resource Center (ARDC)

Waukesha County is in the process of collecting information from the community for ADRC's next Three-Year Aging Unit Plan. The link to the survey included in the most recent ADRC newsletter is: <https://forms.gle/uYr5FkzTgjWY9bG27> . The State is encouraging a look at long-term systematic changes that need to be made, which were highlighted during the COVID pandemic. The members of the ADRC Advisory Board will also be requesting in-depth interviews with agencies and partners help determine specific needs for their clients.

The ARDC received notification from State that there is approximately \$50,000 available to provide outreach and coordination to provide COVID-19 vaccines to homebound population.

5. Public Health Division Reports

A. Manager/Health Officer

• COVID-19 Updates

Numbers are still trending down; Waukesha County is averaging less than 50 cases per day. Before Thanksgiving, the County was averaging 550 cases per day. This reflects a state and national trend of decreasing numbers.

• Testing

Waukesha County is using Patient Education Genius (PEG) to contact patients aged 23 to 59. PEG is used to notify patients of positive test results by text and allow them to remotely complete the close contact questionnaire. This text currently generates a response rate of approximately 50%. As that response rate grows, it may facilitate expansion outside of the current age range.

The UK variant has been identified in Waukesha County. The South African variant has been identified somewhere in Wisconsin, but the exact location is unknown. Less than 10% of samples are being sequenced to determine variant level, so there may be more variants

in the County and/or State. The County is actively working to increase sequenced tests by sending all positive test results to the Milwaukee Health Department Lab, in order to better determine level of variants present. The variants appear to be more transmissible, but it is still unknown if they are more deadly at this time.

- **Vaccine**

Vaccines do appear to be similarly effective against the variants. Though we expect there are more variants present, numbers are still decreasing, and hospital capacity tracking has gone from daily reporting to twice weekly reporting.

Jones shared the following statistics regarding the vaccine for Waukesha County:

- 133,000 vaccines administered
- 22% of the population has received at one dose
- 44,000 people (11%) have received both doses
- 52,000 people (67%) in the 65+ population have received at least one dose

Waukesha County will receive the first shipment of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine next week. There will be four clinics next week - two will be second dose clinics for individuals in the Phase 1A and 1B groups, and two will be educator clinics in which the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine will be used. The milestones reached in the first phases, as well as availability of vaccine with other healthcare providers, have allowed the County to move forward with offering vaccine to other eligible groups at the Mass Clinic.

As more vaccine becomes available, more appointments will be made based on capacity within the Expo building. As the weather warms, an outdoor tent may be utilized in order to increase appointment availability as well.

- **Influenza Updates**

There have been very few flu cases this season.

Butz departed at 8:54 a.m.

Due to the COVID-19 health measures already in place, such as social distancing and mask wearing, as well as an increase in flu vaccinations, cases are historically low. All influenza-like activity is far below baseline.

6. Agency Reports – Lake Area Free Clinic Presentation

From mid-March to the end of June 2020, the Lake Area Free Clinic was virtually shut down. The dental clinic was open for emergencies only and all medical appointments were conducted over the phone and video. Staff ensured that no

patient went without medication or without the clinic being able to triage to determine if patients needed urgent care. Additionally, access to testing for COVID-19 was greatly increased through partners such as the Sixteenth Street Clinic.

Volunteers had previously been uncomfortable coming into the clinic, but they are now able to receive the vaccine which is allowing a safe return to the building. All volunteers are expected to be back by April. All specialists have returned, and clinics are slowly being increased while staff observe extended health and safety protocols, which include decreased use of the waiting room, increased patient screening, increased cleaning between patients, and use of additional personal protective equipment (PPE). The dental clinic returned in a three-phase approach and is now able to fully serve patients again.

Developing a streamlined application and intake process is a major initiative for 2021; much of the new patient eligibility screening for one or both clinics will be available online.

Moving forward, the greatest need will be additional providers, as many have retired in the past year or are planning to retire soon.

7. Agency Announcements and Updates

Sixteenth Street Clinic is continuing to provide flu vaccines and COVID testing, as well as offering COVID vaccines. Appointments for the COVID vaccination fill quickly; however, if any agencies can partner to provide additional staffing, the clinic would be able to increase appointment availability. These COVID vaccine appointments would also be available to eligible individuals who are not patients of Sixteenth Street Clinic.

Hispanic Health Resource Center is also able to provide flu vaccine to anyone in need, including non-clients and uninsured individuals.

8. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

9. Adjournment

MOTION: Clay moved, second by Andrews, to adjourn at 9:14 a.m. Motion passed without negative vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Tristin Bruno.

Minutes Were Approved: _____ Date: _____