

OPEN MEETING MINUTES

Waukesha County Health & Human Services Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting Public Health Advisory Committee Thursday, October 8, 2020

- Present Committee Members:** Steven Andrews, Sarah Butz, Ross Clay, Andy Dresang, Jessica Kadow, Betty Koepsel, Colleen Peebles, Mary Reich
- Absent Committee Members:** Kerri Ackerman
- HHS Board Liaisons:** Mary Baer
- HHS Staff Liaisons:** Bridget Gnadt, Mary Jo Hamman, Theresa Imp, Benjamin Jones, Elizabeth Laatsch, Brittany Leising, Mary Smith
- Guests:** Tom Piacek, Public Guest

Quorum = 5

I. Call to Order

Dresang called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Dresang asked committee members, board liaison, and staff liaisons to introduce himself or herself, including their name, their role in their organization, and one fun thing about themselves, which followed accordingly. Dresang thanked all for their input.

II. Review and Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Kadow moved, second by Koepsel, to approve the minutes from September 10, 2020. Motion passed without negative vote.

III. Business

IV. Committee Reports

A. Health & Human Services Board

Baer reported the HHS Board meeting last month was a joint meeting between the HHS Committee and the HHS Board. The HHS Committee is made up of strictly County Supervisors. The HHS Board will no longer hold joint meetings with them. The HHS Board has three County Supervisors and seven citizen members. The HHS Board has a tremendous amount of responsibility. Larry Nelson is passionate about Public Health.

At the HHS Board meeting, there was a presentation on Family First prevention. The presentation was on how to keep children safely in their homes or with relatives. An increase in awareness of this is critical to the children's health and development. They presented and the HHS Board approved it. Additionally, the HHS Board approved the annual 2019 report of the Veterans' Services Division. They approved the Advisory Committees' By-laws. The PHAC's By-laws had been approved some time ago per Baer due to their early submission.

They discussed the HHS Medical Module Improvement. Jones confirmed this was a capital project. Insight's platform and the Clinical Services Division both have capital projects that were supposed to be worked on this year; however, COVID interfered. Public Health has a deadline of June of 2022, in which Insight's platform will no longer be supported per Jones. Baer stated it was just a discussion but it was critical. The HHS Board approved and accepted over 500,000 dollars for COVID-related funding from the State for Public Health.

On 10/06/2020, the HHS Board met to approve the privileging of those who support the Mental Health Center of Waukesha County. The HHS Board approved 10 professionals to start or continue their support of the Medical Health Center. Their next HHS Board meeting is not until after the next PHAC meeting in November. It is the same day, but in the afternoon. Baer called for questions. No questions. She will continue to report after that November meeting.

B. Environmental Health Division

No Update

C. Aging & Disability Resource Center

No Update

V. Public Health Division Reports

A. Manager / Health Officer

• **COVID-19 Updates**

Jones reported COVID has been the primary topic for Public Health. He proceeded to share his screen and displayed the COVID-19 Dashboard for Waukesha County (<https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/HealthAndHumanServices/PublicHealth/public-health-preparedness/COVID19/>).

At the time of this meeting, Jones reported the county had about 125 cases on average for the 7-day average. Anything more than 100 cases a day will continue to strain the system.

Public Health wants 800 or more tests per day and would like to increase testing. The National Guard came every Monday and Tuesday in September and this past week in October. The Guard will be doing some testing still through November. Then, we will try to supplement through community-based agencies. Those agencies will be reimbursed through the state. Their goal is to do outside drive-thru testing to maintain adequate testing when the Guard goes away.

Hospitalizations typically lag a couple of weeks when we see large spikes. The County's percent capacity is doing okay with a slight increase per Jones; however, the County is doing pretty well compared to other regions in the state. Waukesha County has five hospitals and a high level of resources. The Governor has activated the alternative care site at the State Fair. Waukesha County Public Health is monitoring this, but the activation is not in response to Waukesha County. Hospitals want to run at a certain percentage.

Jones further explained the "Waukesha County Hospital Capacity" data shown on the Dashboard. Public Health meets regularly with the hospitals and wants to limit the impact on our County's vulnerable populations. The daily report data is received from the four systems or the five hospitals. Public Health averages all the hospitals' data and puts those numbers together to form the data that appears on that data in Hospital Capacity.

Schools are a hot topic. The Dashboard shows active cases in schools by age group. The Dashboard represents the Waukesha School District boundaries (not Waukesha County kids, per say). The Dashboard identifies how many cases in children there are. If less than five, then it does not display that number. School partnerships have been pretty strong. Public Health meets with school nurses every week and school superintendents every week. Public Health meets with private schools on a set schedule. Our goal is to keep kids in school. The schools determine the close contacts based on their setup and interactions. Public Health works with schools to ensure that they are safe environments.

Public Health picked the four main areas that create the most work. Schools is one of them. Automating and further refining the data is a huge job. Another area is testing. We have a testing team. We have another team working on the contact tracing workforce. We have approximately 250 contact tracers. We have the General, Schools, Business, and Long-Term Care Teams. Overseeing all of these teams in this structure is massive. Jones credited the Public Health management team with their ability to do this oversight. Public Health grew this team structure quickly and impressively. They feel they have come up with a solution that works. Really all Public Health staff has had to step up to mount this response per Jones.

Baer voiced a concern that the money will run out at the end of December. Baer congratulated the team. She asked whether there is a plan to continue the contact tracing if there is no additional funding from the federal government. Jones stated they are working on a long-term sustainable plan. Without the funding, we cannot continue to mount the same response. Regardless of the funding amount, we need to prioritize where to direct the resources we have. COVID will continue to be out there. Part of how we position ourselves will depend on the larger talks about what is our long-term goal. They are looking at creative solutions, such as whether we can use students from Carroll University and volunteers. Where state and national funding is going to go will be key.

Smith stated HHS leadership is working as a team on an HHS Sustainability Plan. Smith is part of this team. They are working diligently and looking at all options and exploring all options of how we can sustain it. It is going to be a challenge.

The County spends \$250,000 weekly on Contact Tracers.

Jones concluded his summary and called for questions.

Dresang asked Smith regarding the ADRC and the behavioral health effects on the aging population. He queried whether they had an uptick in calls and needed resources. Smith replied they have seen an impact in all areas. The call volume has now increased to even before COVID. Social isolation is a huge challenge in the community and the nation.

Andrews left the meeting at 9:04 a.m.

Smith stated a Client Resource Specialist was just hired for those that live alone.

Care givers are struggling to manage. Our providers cannot find staff. In-home services are minimal. Smith stated these issues are very concerning to her.

The ADRC has seven Adult Protective Services (APS) social workers. There has been an uptick in emergency detentions. Law enforcement are detaining individuals. It is difficult to manage the situation. Smith has spoken with Lisa Roberts to add staff to APS since they can no longer manage. Smith said she is open to suggestions for this.

Baer stated she knows the ERAS Senior Network calls are so meaningful to people. It takes a couple of hours a week. It is a positive way to volunteer and Baer highly recommends this if one has time to contact ERAS.

Smith stated she is working closely with the community seniors and those with disabilities. However, there is another group of individuals living in long-term care facilities. The ADRC primarily works with those in the community. The long-term care facilities are supposed to take care of those people within their facilities. In addition, there is a whole group of people who are not connected with technology and not able to connect with virtual platforms. The ADRC is exploring all areas.

Dresang and Butz have been involved with community interviews. Dresang posed the questions summarized as “what will be the long-term health effects on individuals, and what services will we need for the post-traumatic stress that will have taken affect?” Butz commented she is co-chairing the United Way campaign at ProHealth. Butz is thinking of ways to plug people into these volunteer opportunities. She is also considering other ways people can contribute.

Clay stated we may also see that those individuals who have had COVID may end up with chronic lung problems. We may see a new set of lung issues.

Dresang thanked all for the great discussion and called for further updates.

Peebles said 16th Street has started doing testing for flu this week. They will do Monday, Tuesday, and Friday mornings and Tuesday afternoons. Currently, this service is only for their patients. They have Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoon COVID testing.

Baer expressed there was a need for the County to get messaging out about the flu shot. She urged to push this to *The Freeman* and the *Journal Sentinel*. Jones stated this is a high priority for the County Executive. The PIO team is working on this. Public Health offers by-appointment flu clinics Tuesday through Thursday with up to 40 appointments per day. We refer people to their medical providers. We will be seeing more on this per Jones. Smith stated Nicole Kelly, ADRC, has the flu campaign assigned to her, along with the County Executive’s team. Kelly is now in charge of the Public Health Facebook page as well.

Clay said at a number of their production facilities, they have started offering flu shots to employees and spouses.

- **General Updates**

Jones reported the HHS Committee and the Finance Committee budget presentations occurred this week. Earlier this month, Public Health had their 140 Review, which went very well. No issues were foreseen. Jones said they should hear back from the 140 Review in about a few weeks.

B. Coordinator

No Update

C. Communicable Disease

No Update

D. Family & Community Health

No Update

E. WIC

No Update

F. Preparedness

No Update

VI. Agency Announcements and Updates

Reich stated the Lake Area Free Clinic is providing flu vouchers to get flu shots at Pick 'N Save. No COVID testing at the Free Clinic. Many volunteers do not wish to come into the Free Clinic. Peebles stated a lot of their case managers are taking on that work. She acknowledged that 16th Street Clinic was continuing to take Free Clinic patients and employees.

Kadow asked how many people were seen at the 16th Street Clinic per day. Peebles replied the Clinic sees anybody from 1-3:30 p.m., and it depends on the day. Yesterday, they saw around 15 people, and Monday was a heavy day with 28-29 people. Generally, it fluctuates from 20-30 people per day. Capacity is around a maximum of 35 people per day.

Gnadt stated the Waukesha Free Clinic will test Tuesday and Thursday and alternating Fridays and Saturdays. The National Guard will be at the Waukesha Expo on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, and Village Primary Care will be at the Expo on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Gnadt stated that both are planning to start COVID testing on Tuesday next week. Starting next week, they will have testing five days per week. Public Health is looking to expand into Saturdays. They are looking into this with another site, which is still to be determined. This information will be on the website as soon as it is ready. Gnadt stated she was working with the PIO group. She noted the Free Clinic is by-appointment only (on foot or in cars – two separate lines). All testing at the Expo is without an appointment. The National Guard's number of tests per day will be less than what they have typically been doing. However, overall, they are looking at a much higher testing number. Once we get through the first week, Public Health feels it will better meet the needs of the community than ever before, even with the lower number of tests per day.

Baer stated she saw the Great Dane story was in the paper. Jones said he had not received a report from Sarah Ward, Environmental Health Manager.

VII. Public Comment

Tom Piacek, public guest, wished to talk about an issue of the quarantine or house arrests for close school contacts. Schools point to Public Health, and Public Health points to the CDC and DHS guidance. The CDC guidance is messy and still is recommending the 6-foot distancing. It is not unprecedented to go against this CDC guidance. He noted other states like Iowa have done this in regards to the quarantining of school close contacts. He stated the County should have a mountain of data on this. He called for a need for adjustments to be made to the quarantining. The kids are stressed by the quarantine and missing school and sports. Families are stressed by finding care of kids during quarantine. The County is stressed with all of the contact tracing. Piacek said contact tracing makes sense when there are low numbers in the County, but that is no longer the case.

VIII. Adjournment

Dresang thanked all for the topics and conversation discussed at the meeting.

MOTION: Dresang moved, second by Reich, to adjourn at 9:25 a.m. Motion passed without negative vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Teri Bull.

Minutes Were Approved: ___11/12/20_____ Date: _____