



TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH  
Minutes of Meeting  
April 27, 2020

**Members Present by Call In, Roll Call Conducted:** Gary Burton, Dave Dingledine, Peggy Flannigan, Rich Karnebo, Tricia Larson, Greg Sinn, and Adam Sturdavant.

**Members Absent:** Steven Dickey, Lynne Johnson, Sarah Kosciwa, and Bobbi Mullis.

**Staff Present:** Amy Fox, Karla Burrell, Janet Johnson, and Rachel Borton.

President Burton called the scheduled BOH meeting to order at 6:30pm via conference call from various locations due to the COVID-19 stay at home guidance. There were no public comments submitted. Roll call completed at this time with quorum met. Member Dingledine joined the call at 6:32, Member Flannigan joined the call at 6:33.

**Motion by Member Karnebo** to approve the March 23, 2020 minutes as mailed with correction to Motion to Adjourn corrected to member Mullis, **second by Member Dingledine. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Agenda changes:** Move Report #3 to be reported first. **Handouts:** None.

## Reports-

**Item (3) 1. Update regarding Nurse Practitioner services-** Administrator Fox stated Rachel was on the line to provide a report. She has been preparing us for improving our women's health services. Rachel provided a brief summary of the last 6-7 weeks. She has been working on getting credentialed. Currently her Medicare and Medicaid are completed. Currently working on private insurance credentialing. The clinic has a fantastic electronic medical records program and Director Phillips has been assisting in getting that ready to go. Rachel has also been networking with about 35 local providers. She shadowed a women's health provider physician at Heartland to see what types of services we could offer to our clients. The department has been getting the exam room ready and ordering supplies. Finally, she has been completing some training related to labs and testing options. Amy shared there is a good deal of the health department that has continued services through the COVID response, the women's health programs are continuing to work with clients. Rachel disconnected from the call when finished.

**Item (1) 2. Finance Report-Year to Date-** Administrator Fox shared that Director Johnson included the regular reports. This is the time of year that payments and income naturally decrease. We hope to receive county payments and disbursements sooner if possible. We have obviously had a decrease in fees for services since many services are on hold. We do still have a large chunk of money owed for grants. We did have to pull from our Money Market to cover upcoming bills and payrolls to clear everything through early May. The financials in the packet are through March and the funds were transferred in April. It will appear in next months report. We are expecting an increase in some of our dental fees. Please refer to page 14-15 in the packet. At this time, the center is closed due to shelter in place orders and we are unsure when we will be able to re-open the clinic.

**Item (2) 3. COVID-19 Update (Cases/Housing/IDPH grant/Public Assistance)-** Administrator Fox reported the tri-county numbers: 69 cases in Peoria, 37 in Tazewell and 11 in Woodford County, total 117. The State of Illinois announced an additional 1,980 cases today with an additional 50 deaths. Stated totals to date: 45,883 cases and 1,983 deaths. Cases are now in 96 of the 102 Illinois counties. In the past 24 hours, they will start to relay lab testing numbers, achieving approximately 12,600 tests per day. Of the 37 Tazewell cases: 17 are recovered, 4 are hospitalized, 13 on home isolation, and 3 are deceased. There are three new testing sites that have opened through Heartland health. All three are located in Peoria County. There are testing criteria being followed to include: those with symptoms, high risk factors, those with a compromised immune system or a serious chronic medical condition, and those with or without symptoms to include- health care workers, correctional facilities, first responders and those

who work in critical infrastructure positions of employment. Amy shared that antibody testing is not being done by hospitals or the state of Illinois Department of Public health. The results are unclear and not confirmed to provide adequate immunity.

Temporary housing is a plan that the health department is to be able to achieve when needed. The TCEOC has been trying to find temporary housing for those who would need to isolate beyond their own home. We have not been able to find a willing hotel to participate. The state has provided a screening tool for this application and it is a very complicated process. We hope we don't have to use this housing; the county has worked with us on a contract.

We received a grant award from IDPH in the amount of \$81,000 to assist with COVID response. It was turned in last Thursday and approved by the State on Friday. We have the ability to go back to February to recoup costs already incurred. As a result, about half of that grant has already been used.

Public assistance is something that is usually used in Federal disasters. This is applied for through FEMA. TCHD has turned in the public assistance form and so has the County through Dawn and the EMA. Hopefully, we will be able to recover some additional funds to assist with the response we have provided.

Administrator Fox addressed the current executive order. The court case in Clay county by a state representative was in reaction to the state order. He was issued a stay, but it only applies to the one individual who filed. We are operating on the executive order through April 30<sup>th</sup>. We expect an additional Executive order after that. We have had several calls wanting to know future plans. We are operating in a very grey zone without any new guidance moving forward. We continue to keep public safety in the forefront. We are running all services other than clinic and dental, those are only emergency services at this time. The school staff are being utilized in some other areas. At this time, we cannot layoff those staff if they are needed for summer. They have been doing trainings and they delivered over 400 books to families in the school program. The dental staff are assisting in TCEOC and also doing the temperature checks for the building staff. We did open the Public Health Emergency Operations Center, PHEOC. This is internal staff designated to look at TCHD functions and needs in the response period.

## **Discussion-**

**Item 1. Policy Language for COVID Related changes to County Health Care-** Administrator Fox shared the County will be looking at some language on Wednesday night around COVID and coverage for treatment. If it passes on Wednesday night, we will send it to you. Member Johnson shared that it was related to coverage under the county insurance plan. It was not included in the packet so Janet will send it to members.

**Item 2. Letters to encourage increase to Local Health Protection-** Administrator Fox stated that we sent a letter on behalf of the health department to plea for additional funding for local health departments. The current LHP grant has not seen an increase in a number of years. This funding covers various parts of infectious disease and the water/sewage/food programs. We receive about \$217,000 and we are requesting the general assembly look at that funding and the service that is expected.

**Item 3. Staffing for COVID response (Interns/Volunteers)-** Administrator Fox wanted to discuss with members on future planning. Typically, in Spring/Summer we have some interns and volunteer opportunities. She wanted BOH input on additional staff. No staff to date have been eliminated or placed in layoff. An intern position with different skill sets might not be attainable with some current staff. Amy would inform the BOH before an intern would be accepted, most likely from a university or hospital education setting. Members were ok with looking at these in a case by case situation. Members were comfortable with Amy's discretion on hiring during a time of need and immediacy. Contract tracing may be the first service to have a quick need for hiring/training. Some medical knowledge and communication skills would need to be present for this type of position.

**Item 4. Poquette and Burt Awards-** Administrator Fox pointed out that the reception was cancelled. These awards would normally be done at the reception. We did put out the awards for nominations and we have received candidates for both. BOH members agreed to postpone the awards until fall or possibly include it in the Anniversary celebrations towards the end of this year. Amy will go back to nominees and inform them of future plans. The health foundation also temporarily suspended their grant awards to a future date to be determined.

**Item 5. May meeting-** The meeting would be on Memorial Day. Members were asked input on new date or plan for May. Members agreed to conduct the next meeting on Tuesday 5/26/20 at 6:30pm. Director Johnson will inform the County Board office of the change of date and also send email to all BOH members of the change.

**Item 6. Recovery interim program changes and challenges-** Administrator Fox touched on this before. We are unaware of what the extension of the order will look like. We are looking at plans and changes every day. We have fielded a wide range of calls from restaurants, pools, schools for graduations, hair salons, etc. As we are provided guidance from the State, we are following that, and passing it along.

### **Action-**

**Item 1. – Approve Invoices & Bills-** Member Karneboge presented the four batches of invoices, Director Johnson presented information on the monthly insurance, and mileage costs to a total of \$183,172.76. **Motion by Member Karneboge and second by Member Flannigan** to approve in the amount of \$183,172.76. **Motion Carried by Roll Call Vote.** Aye: Burton, Dingleline, Flannigan, Karneboge, Larson, Sinn, and Sturdavant. Nay: 0. Absent: Dickey, Johnson, Koscica, and Mullis.

### **Announcements-**

**The next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday May 26, 2020 as a conference call in again at 6:30pm. Please call in by dialing (309) 670-0444, enter conference ID 527727#, and then enter the security pin of 730221#.**

Economic Interest statements were mailed out by the County Clerk to complete. Please fill out your form and mail it back in.

**Motion by Member Karneboge to adjourn, second by Member Flannigan. Motion carried by Voice Vote. Meeting adjourned at 7:19pm.**

Respectfully submitted,



Janet S. Johnson, Business Operations Director