



Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

Thursday, September 30, 2021

2nd Floor Conference Room
108 Lee St., E.
Charleston, WV 25301



MEETING NOTES

1. Call to Order—President Mr. Jeremy Nelson

The meeting was called to order with the President, Mr. Jeremy Nelson, presiding.

2. Oath of Office Read for Ms. Danita Nellhaus —President Mr. Nelson

3. Roll Call—Kandy Forsythe

Ms. Forsythe called the roll.

Dr. Dara Aliff-Lao	Present
Ms. Lillian Morris	Present
Ms. Danita Nellhaus	Present
Mr. Jeremy Nelson, President	Present
Mr. Paul Nusbaum	Present
Dr. Arthur Rubin	Present

The President noted the presence of a quorum.

4. Moment of Silence

The President called for a moment of silence for those who have died from COVID-19 and first responders who have responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

5. Report of the President—President Nelson

- Welcoming of the new Director of Operations/Administration, Mr. Robby Queen.
- Approval of the minutes of the July 15, 2021, Board of Health meeting
Upon motion by Dr. Rubin, seconded by Ms. Morris, the question was put: Shall the minutes of the July 15, 2021, Board of Health meeting be approved? Motion carried.
- The President noted the generosity of the Kanawha County Commission, expressing how much this generosity has been appreciated for the \$50,000.00 check for COVID communications.
- The President also mentioned the Kanawha County Commission also committed and sent, an emergency check in the amount of \$100,000.00 for flu vaccines. Small amount of this funding was used to promote the flu vaccine. The Kanawha County commission donated the flu vaccines last year as well.
- The President stated that a Monoclonal Antibody Clinic was set up at the health department within a week. Everything from a new floor, appropriate chairs and equipment needed was installed. Heartfelt thanks were expressed to the Kanawha County Commission.

- f. The President stated the Health Officer position is still posted. Dr. Young has committed to continue to serve in the interim position. The President stated that he has spoken to her and to CAMC and they are very happy with the way things are progressing and serving in both roles. Dr. Young stated that CAMC is very supportive and Dr. Young further stated that she is needed here. No issues have been indicated. Ms. Morris asked if there were any applicants? Mr. Nusbaum stated he spent a great deal of time researching two applicants, but no movement on them.

6. Report of the Interim Health Officer—Sherri Young, DO, FAAFP

Dr. Young read a resolution acknowledging Ms. Carol McCormick's retirement and hard work for the last 19 years at the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department.

Dr. Young praised the work of KCHD staff and stated that this was day 577 of the pandemic. Dr. Young stated that as of this date, we were at 22,323 cases and 176 COVID positive patients. In the last seven days, we have had a decrease in numbers, but a record high of 241 cases in one day. Recently announced that Marmet Elementary will be closed. About 25% of the outbreaks are in the 5-11 age group. Dr. Young praised the Board of Education for the contact tracing and for the masking policy. The partnership with CAMC, Cabin Creek, Family Care, and Ambulance Authority for Arms Across America will be offering vaccines, boosters and flu vaccines on October 16, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

KCHD continues to offer COVID-19 vaccinations and COVID testing daily, through the support of the county and the National Guard in its clinic. With the county's support, we have also been able to set up an infusion center to help with the overflow from CAMC. The flooring, ventilation, ingress/degress, blankets, required equipment, everything needed to open an infusion center was made possible within a week. Want to give very special thanks to the county commission's office for making phone calls to Senator Manchin's and Senator Capito's office to get doses secured. Sincere thanks to Senator Manchin's office and Senator Capito's office as well.

Dr. Young stated that in two weeks of antibody infusions, that 100 doses were given. A big thank you goes out to the West Virginia National Guard. Without their support, we could not do all the testing, vaccines and infusions that we have been doing. A big, final thank you to the Kanawha County Commission, the City of Charleston, and to the wonderful people who provide safety and to the KCHD staff for all they do.

To give an update on HIV, there has not been another report, but I can read you the numbers, the state has now taken this over. There are 80 cumulative cases, with a total of 31 new cases, 25 of those are from injected drug use. We were able to connect more people with Healthright on the West side. With the mobile clinic, there were 25 tests on Tuesday, and 50 tests today. We have learned where we go to get the most response. We are currently working to get tests in regional jails and in emergency rooms. The board had no questions.

7. Report of the Division of Administration/Operations—Carol McCormick/Robby Queen

Ms. McCormick informed the board that KCHD received a FY20 clean audit. This was the last of the three-year contract.

FY21 report ended down. Ms. McCormick stated a lot of this is from us being a lead agency for FEMA application. We reimbursed our partners \$433,753.00 in expenses related to the pandemic response. Julie has been in contact with FEMA officials who have indicated that our application should be approved soon. Once we have received the payment from FEMA, we will need to use that money to pay the next round of invoices submitted by our community partners. The budget is currently in flux because of money given by the Kanawha County Commission for COVID-related expenses and planned flu shot clinics; this money was not planned for in the original budget. We have also recently received a workforce grant for \$135,000.00 that was not accounted for in the initial FY22 budget. Ms. McCormick explained that we strive to maintain around \$1.5 million in the bank. Having this cushion allows us to respond quickly when needs arise. For example, we used \$108,000 to provide initial funding for the infusion clinic. The board had no questions.

President Nelson thanked Carol for her service and stated that she has been a tremendous asset.

8. Report of the Division of Clinic Services—Deborah Snaman

Ms. Snaman also thanked the West Virginia National guard for all their help in the clinic. Without their help, they could not do all they are doing now. Ms. Snaman also stated they are now doing flu vaccines as walk ins. The board had no questions.

9. Report of the Division of Environmental Services/Epidemiology — Stan Mills

Mr. Mills introduced Epidemiologist, Ms. Janay Stewart. Ms. Stewart is a grant employee and here until 2023. Ms. Stewart has been a great asset and is working on nursing home outbreaks. Mr. Mills also mentioned another new Epidemiologist, Mr. Justin Tolbert who will be working school outbreaks.

Mr. Mills mentioned that on Monday, they had 61 new COVID cases, but on Wednesday, there were 176 new cases, our highest Wednesday in six weeks. Very hard to get people to accept they need to be vaccinated. We have a variety of case investigators and in 577 days, we have done case investigations on 575. WV National Guard and Kanawha County Commission employees have been so instrumental. Loretta Haddy, who is nationally recognized, and has 20 plus years as a state epidemiologist, is currently assisting us as well. Very fortunate to have her.

We have very few Sanitarians out in the field, most are being used for contact tracing. We are also losing the City Readiness Initiative Coordinator position to the state. The board had no questions.

10. Report of the Executive Assistant to the ED/HO—Julie Blackwood

KCHD's application to FEMA is in the final phase before going to the state office for processing. Ms. Blackwood also stated that KCHD received funding from the Homeland Security Grant Program to purchase Powered Air Purifying Respirators (PAPRs). We purchased 22 PAPRs with the \$40,000 grant. The PAPRs will be used in the infusion clinic. KCHD also has a grant from the State to assist with Quick Response Teams (QRTs). With these funds, we are supporting the work the city and county are doing to help get people into long-term treatment after an overdose.

Ms. Blackwood gave an update on PHAB reaccreditation. KCHD requested and received a 90-day extension on its reaccreditation application because of COVID and staff transitions. The application is now due March 31, 2022. The board had no questions.

11. Public Comment

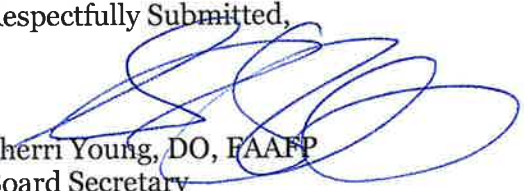
12. Old Business

13. Adjournment

Upon motion by Mr. Nusbaum, seconded by Dr. Rubin, the question was put, "Shall the meeting be adjourned?"

Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sherri Young, DO, FAAFP
Board Secretary