



# Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

Thursday, November 18, 2021

Bible Center Church

100 Bible Center Drive, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Charleston, WV 25309



## MEETING NOTES

### 1. Call to Order—President Mr. Jeremy Nelson

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

### 2. 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 via telephone |
| Dr. Arthur Rubin             | Present               |

The President noted the presence of a quorum.

### 3. 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.

### 4. Report of the President—President Nelson.

- Approval of the minutes of the September 30, 2021, Board of Health meeting  
Upon motion by Dr. Rubin, seconded by Dr. Aliff-Lao, the question was put: Shall the minutes of the September 30, 2021, Board of Health meeting be approved?  
Motion carried.
- The President read the resolution congratulating the former Health Officer and Executive Director, Dr. Rahul Gupta for his confirmation to serve as the Director of the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy.

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

Dr. Young stated that this was day 626 of the pandemic. Dr. Young stated that as of this date, we were at 26,491 cases, and up 67 cases today, but lower than we had been seeing. To date, 469 deaths within our county.

Dr. Young mentioned they were hard at work outside with their second health fair. Participants include American Cancer Society, CAMC, Cabin Creek Health System, The City of Charleston, Family Care Health Centers, West Virginia Health Right, Kanawha County Sheriff's Office, Kanawha County Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Partners in Health, Prester Center, The Health Plan, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Aetna

Better Health, United Healthcare, UniCare, and First Choice . Dr. Young stated CAMC was donating bike helmets to keep children safe. Kanawha Charleston Sheriff's Office doing car seat checks and Kanawha County Homeland Security doing vouchers for a smoke detector. With the voucher, American Red Cross and Homeland Security will go out and put them in the houses. Dr. Young further stated that we have free blood work, thanks to a generous grant from the Kanawha County Commission's Office; a FIT test that can be done in the privacy of their own home and will be checked for cancer cells; Flu Vaccines and COVID vaccines.

Dr. Young stated that approval for 5-11 year olds to receive the COVID vaccine was received two weeks ago. They are looking at where the schools are and the number that would be needed to vaccinate. Not an easy task to get into every elementary school and middle school. Looking at both doses for 5-11 year olds before Christmas break.

To give an update on HIV, things continue to move. Last meeting was cancelled, updating the numbers and we are moving into the winter months which will make it harder to do outside outreach. Dr. Young stated we can go into homes and homeless shelters and models utilizing emergency rooms. We are also looking at regional jails. December 1<sup>st</sup> is world aids day and we need to remember those who have passed from HIV and need to remain thoughtful and mindful. We are hearing some encouraging things from the hospital systems and doing well on the West side.

Dr. Young stated we are unfortunately seeing measles epidemics and it is very alarming. We do not want a measles outbreak along with flu outbreaks. Immunizations are falling but we are watching those children who are home schooled. We will continue to monitor as we fall into the new year. Dr. Young encouraged the adults to get the shingles vaccine and pneumonia.

Dr. Rubin stated that in the beginning, we were having large clinics and going out to extended care. How are we being sure that they are being taken care of? Dr. Young stated that Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority and the Charleston Fire Department have been and continue to do home visits to the homebound to ensure they are being vaccinated and receiving their boosters. Dr. Young further stated that we do have the antibody clinic, which has been very successful, for anyone that needs help. President Nelson asked if we had a good supply? Dr. Young stated that we do have a good supply and will not run out again. The board had no further questions.

**6. Report of the Division of Administration/Operations—Robby Queen**

Mr. Queen stated that as COVID has continued, the finances have remained strong and stable. We received \$20,000.00 from the county commission that was not expected for the health fair and lab work pieces. We will see a clearer picture in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Mr. Queen further stated that we anticipate grant money from FEMA as soon. Once received, it will go to partners to pay off invoices. We are following a process, which takes time. Mr. Queen added how much he has been impressed at the men and women at the health department and is amazed at what they can accomplish. Mr. Queen has seen what the health department can be transformed into depending on what is needed. The board had no questions.

**7. Report of the Division of Clinic Services—Deborah Snaman**

Ms. Snaman praised the West Virginia National guard for all their help in the clinic as things continue to run well. Ms. Snaman also stated they continue to do flu vaccines as walk ins. President Nelson asked if the clinic had the shingles vaccine. Ms. Snaman stated that we do and an appointment is necessary. No further questions were asked.

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

Mr. Mills stated that all sanitarian have now finished their training. Mr. Mills also stated that they do have a position open and to be filled within the next 30 days.

Mr. Mills stated most of their time remains with COVID investigations. As cases go down, they will not dismantle the system, but will be more flexible. Mr. Mills stated that he cannot say enough about the school nurses, they are doing a wonderful job. No state has stopped COVID tracing and I do not foresee that in the future. Cases are down about 50% but still a great deal of cases calling in. When looking at the deaths, the same factors were seen. The factors were diabetes, hypertension and obesity, with people not treating those issues. CAMC has been great to work with and Janet Briscoe has been a tremendous help. Loretta Haddy has been doing 5 to 6 cases a day, doing a tremendous job.

Mr. Mills stated that other infectious diseases, streptococcus pneumonia and campylobacter are back. Hep B cases are picking up and of interest is ciguatera, which is from tuna. No questions were asked.

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

Mr. Queen stated FEMA has indicated that our payment is obligated for December. Our payment will be 75% of the approved invoice, as the state withholds 25% until project closeout. As soon as the payment comes in, we will pay out another round of invoices from our community partners and then submit a project update to FEMA for the additional money. Ms. Blackwood stated that the next round should go more smoothly as the project has already been approved.

In other grant news, Ms. Blackwood stated that the state is extending our Quick Response Team (QRT) grant for another year. The project will run through the end of September 2022, and supports the city and county QRTs by providing transportation for individuals in treatment, naloxone training, and other educational activities.

Regarding PHAB, Ms. Blackwood said we are meeting biweekly and gathering needed documentation. As part of this work, we have scheduled a quality improvement training for the staff in early December. Judy Crabtree, of the Kanawha Coalition for Community Health Improvement is facilitating the training. No further questions were asked.

**10. Public Comment (Adding Ms. Horsefield sentence)**

When public comment was announced, President Nelson stated a Ms. Imajean Horsefield was here. Ms. Horsefield stood and introduced herself and presented a concern regarding her property Saint Albans. Personal statement from Ms. Horsefield is attached.

**11. Old Business**

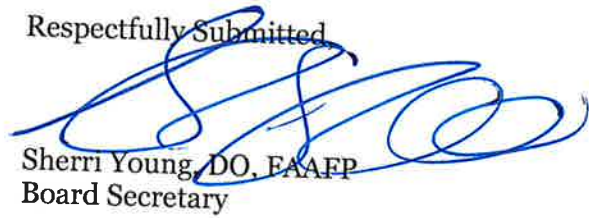
No old business.

**12. Adjournment**

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

Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sherri Young, DO, FAAFP  
Board Secretary