



Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

Thursday, January 20, 2022

108 Lee Street East

Charleston, WV 25301

This Meeting Occurred by Zoom Only



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	Not Present
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 minutes – Mr. Nelson mentioned an update to the December 16, 2021 minutes. Mr. Nelson added an additional line in section four, third paragraph, “the other half of the loss of revenue will be from the city, which has been requested”. With no further discussion, approval of minutes for the December 16, 2021, Board of Health meeting Upon motion by Dr. Rubin seconded by Dr. Aliff-Lao the question was put: Shall the minutes of the December 16, 2021, Board of Health meeting be approved? Motion carried. No further questions.

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

Dr. Young thanked the staff of KCHD and partners Ambulance Authority, Kanawha County Commission, Mayors Office, Kanawha City Fire Department, Kanawha City Sheriffs Department, and Health Right for their continued dedication and hard work during this pandemic. Dr. Young stated that we were up 490 cases today. The Omicron variant is significantly more contagious and has a strong hold and we expected our numbers to go up into the 500's. KCHD is putting a great deal of information out on self-care and self-quarantine in the effort to not over burden the health care system. Dr. Young stated that we are on day 690 of the pandemic with 37,587 cases, 2,657 active cases with 34,406 recovered. Today we had one death, that is a total of 524 souls lost.

KCHD continues to vaccinate and test daily with the numbers of testing in the hundreds at the clinic alone. Dr. Young further stated that it is difficult on the staff to carry on with the normal appointments done at KCHD. The medical personnel with the National Guard that had been assisting during the pandemic, has now been pulled to assist in the hospitals. We are trying to make testing available to the entire community and Dr. Young stated that KCHD has been alternating with Health Right to test on Saturday's. Dr. Young stated there will be a testing event on Saturday, January 22, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. inside KCHD. Testing that was normally held as a drive-thru is now inside due to weather. Dr. Young stated that KCHD continues to offer COVID vaccinations, but she felt like she needs to sound the alarm with the 5-11 year olds. They are in the low 7.4% range of receiving the COVID vaccine. The 12-15 year olds, in receiving their boosters, is at the 38.6%. Dr. Young further stated we need to get the message out there that they are safe, effective and free. We have had breakthrough's but the outcome could be far worse without the vaccines. Receiving the vaccines helps the community spread and decreases hospital stays. If we continue to have low vaccination rates, it will make it difficult to continue to treat. The 71 and over are at 5% in receiving their vaccines and are at the lowed infectious rate.

We continue to do monoclonal antibody treatments and will do our 600th dose tomorrow. Supplies are limited throughout the state, we do not have enough to treat everybody and must prioritize and get the most vulnerable. Though we are losing ground in the availability of what we have to fight the variance, we are still banning together and continue to test and work to provide vaccines and antibodies.

Dr. Young thanked Ms. Morris for her help in finding shelter for the homeless that are COVID positive. Chief Jones helped to provide the cots.

Dr. Young stated that they have confirmed two warming shelters for tonight and tomorrow night. Cabin Creek will be there to give vaccines and to test. Dr. Young then opened for questions.

Dr. Rubin asked how the increased availability of at home tests would impact our numbers. Dr. Young stated the test does cut into our numbers. Some people may not be doing self-quarantine or self-care. Dr. Young wanted to caution people that these home tests must be done carefully. If you test too soon, then you get a wrong result, you must wait five days from exposure. This test is not one hundred percent assurance when getting a negative result and most come to get a PCR test and it returns positive.

Mr. Nelson stated he wanted to commend Ms. Morris and Dr. Young, along with the county and city on the hard work that went into providing shelter, in a day and a half, for the homeless that were COVID positive. Ms. Morris stated that she just made a couple calls and that Dr. Young took it from there.

Ms. Morris asked Dr. Young if she could mention a little more information about the 2nd boosters. Dr. Young stated there were a lot of questions regarding the 2nd boosters and that guidance changes every week. A week and a half ago, Dr. Young stated that the severely immune compromised was approved for a fourth dose. This includes a organ transplant patient who are taking medicine to suppress the immune system, patients receiving active cancer treatment for tumors or cancers of the blood, received a stem cell transplant within the last two years or are taking medicine to suppress the immune system, moderate or severe primary immunodeficiency (such as DiGeorge syndrome,

Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome), advanced or untreated HIV infection and active treatment with high-dose corticosteroids or other drugs that may suppress your immune response. No further questions.

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

Mr. Queen stated KCHD had received the revenue funding of \$600,000.00 from the county. Mr. Queen further stated there was \$100,000.00 in expenses arranged and reported out to the county as required. There is a pending request, expected tomorrow, from the city for the other half.

Mr. Queen stated in the last meeting the board had passed a one-time based salary increment for full time employees at \$2,500.00 and part time employees at \$1,200.00. This process is on schedule and will be discussed at the department of personnel meeting on January 27, 2022. Mr. Queen stated that they are still anticipating the middle of February for the payout but will get it out to the staff as soon as it is approved by the department of personnel.

With the numbers on the vaccine boosters not taking off like the initial vaccines, Mr. Queen stated that they were working on a campaign to help get the numbers up. This campaign will include young college kids, government folks and local people from Kanawha City.

Mr. Queen stated that they continue to adapt to the staffing needs and the demands of the public. There have been adjustments made throughout the department with the national guard being pulled and personnel being sick, changes have had to be made on the fly. Mr. Queen stated the staff at KCHD is one of the most adaptable groups and he continues to be impressed. No questions asked.

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

Ms. Snaman stated the clinic continues to be extremely busy with COVID testing escalating. Ms. Snaman stated though they did lose the National Guard on the medical side, they do still have the National Guard doing registration which allows the KCHD clinic staff to run the daily needs of the clinic. Ms. Snaman stated her clinic report was included in the meeting packet and asked if there were any questions. Mr. Queen asked Ms. Snaman to tell the board about the medical students and what an outstanding job they have been doing. Ms. Snaman stated they have been a true blessing and that they could not do what they do everyday without them. The first day they were scheduled to start their rotation was the day after the holiday vacation and they were thrown into a chaos of COVID testing. Ms. Snaman stated without the med students, they would have really struggled, and would continue to do so. No questions asked.

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

Mr. Mills stated contact tracing has been seven days a week for the last 690 days. Mr. Mills stated that each case investigator is getting about 17 cases a day, but they are adding up each day with 25 or so in the queue. The state is changing the way they are doing things. If a lab is older than three days, then they are not going to contact anybody. Things are also changing with the schools in that we are no longer reporting outbreaks with the schools. The schools will be doing that themselves. Mr. Mills further stated that he feels the contract tracing is going away. Mr. Mills stated they continue to have people who are positive, want to argue with us which makes our job difficult. On Monday we will have nonmedical national guard show up, but it is unknown for how long.

Mr. Mills stated that they have heard nothing from Ms. Horsfield as of yet, after the response was sent. Mr. Mills stated that they had reached out to the South Charleston Sanitary Board and they stated they will help with testing, but otherwise, they are out of this.

Mr. Nelson stated that he is confident Mr. Mills is on top of this issue. Mr. Nelson suggested that for the next 60 days, possibly once a week, see if there are any findings on Ms. Horsfield's property and if any issues arise during that time.

Dr. Lao stated that a sense of burnout is very real and ensure that the staff will not be stretched too thin and if they have the manpower to do what is being suggested. Dr. Lao stated that she appreciates what Mr. Mills is willing to do, but ensure you have the manpower and mental capacity to do this. Dr. Lao suggested to protect each other's mental and physical health. Dr. Lao further suggested maybe take the calls from Ms. Horsfield when there are issues then come and test. They have ran some dyes on homes across from her and some sampling and it showed no sewage. Mr. Mills stated the water company also did testing and it showed no sewage. Mr. Mills stated that they are ready to go out and do testing when they do hear from her. Mr. Nelson referred to Dr. Aliff-Lao's suggestion last week to leave it in her hands to call is a good suggestion and thanked Mr. Mills for taking Ms. Horsfield's case so seriously. Mr. Queen also stated that he has not heard from Ms. Horsfield as of yet.

Mr. Mills stated that Charlie Saber passed away yesterday at 84. Stated he was his mentor and provided funeral information to the board. No further questions.

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

PHAB - The team is reviewing current plans and procedures. There are certain documents which needs Board approval. We will have these documents available for board members to review prior to the March board meeting. We remain on track to submit the application for reaccreditation by March 31, 2022.

FEMA - Once FEMA authorized the project and obligated funding, our project was sent for state review. We were asked to provide additional information which we have done. Based on our last communication with the state team, it is anticipated they will submit the reimbursement request by the end of this week. From there, it will be approximately another week for the Treasurer's office to remit payment. No questions asked.

Mr. Nelson asked that the we keep Mr. Nusbaum in our thoughts and prayers and hope he is back with us very soon.

10. Public Comment

No public comment.

11. Old Business

No old business.

12. Adjournment

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

Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sherri Young', is written over the printed name.

Sherri Young, DO, FAAP
Board Secretary