



Kanawha-Charleston Board of Health

Meeting Minutes

May 21, 2020

Members – Present

Dr. Arthur B. Rubin, President
Mr. Jeremy Nelson
Dr. William Payne
Mr. Stephen Weber
Mr. Paul Nusbaum
Mr. Danny F. Scalise II

Staff – Present/Presenters

Dr. Sherri Young
Carol McCormick
Julie Blackwood
Stanley Mills
Deborah Snaman

Staff – Excused

Lori Kersey

1. Call to Order - President, Dr. Arthur Rubin

Dr. Rubin called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

a. Roll Call – Kandy L. Forsythe

Ms. Forsythe conducted the roll call. All board members were present via Zoom. All staff were present in the board room, except for Ms. Kersey.

2. Report of the President – Dr. Arthur Rubin

a. Approval of the minutes from the January 16, 2020 Board of Health meeting

Upon a motion by Dr. Rubin seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the minutes of January 16, 2020, as submitted, the motion passed.

b. Moment of Silence

Dr. Rubin called for a moment of silence to honor those we have lost to COVID-19, to honor the first responders and to take a moment to reflect.

c. Appreciation of Dr. Young

Dr. Rubin mentioned two letters of appreciation for Dr. Young, one from the Kanawha County Commissioner, Mr. Ben Salango and the other from Major General James A. Hoyer, WVARNG, The Adjutant General, recognizing her tireless work during the pandemic. Dr. Rubin further stated that in all that Dr. Young has been doing in her efforts of COVID-19, she has also been continuing to keep up on all of her regular duties.

d. **Kanawha County Commission President Kent Carper**

Kanawha County Commission President Kent Carper attended briefly and spoke of his appreciation on the job that Dr. Young has done during the pandemic. Mr. Carper stated he has watched Dr. Young work with a force he has never seen before and he spoke extensively on the courage and compassion shown by Dr. Young on her effort to keep the city of Kanawha as safe as possible from COVID-19.

3. **Report of the Executive Director/Health Officer – Dr. Young**

a. **COVID-19 Update**

Dr. Young stated they are in day 70 of the pandemic and she could not have accomplished all that she has without her fantastic team of professionals. There are 208 positive cases, 136 of those sent for regional review. There are 72 active and 18 total deaths in the county.

b. **COVID-19 Update on Drive Through's**

Dr. Young stated they had their 11th drive thru with 221 people tested in a four-hour period. Dr. Young further stated that 100% of those people appreciated their efforts and know they are cared for. In these 11-drive through's, 1,245 individuals were tested. Dr. Young further stated that they are currently working with the state on the next two drive-throughs. A great deal of planning has gone into these events with signage up and police traffic flow.

c. **COVID-19 Update on Nursing Homes and Day Care Centers**

Dr. Young stated all nursing homes and assisted living in Kanawha County have been tested. All day care workers who have presented for testing in Kanawha County have also been tested. It was no small feat to complete this effort.

d. **COVID-19 24-hour Hotline**

Dr. Young stated there has been a 24-hour hotline, 304-348-1088, where people can ask anything from basic to complex questions. There have been 10 thousand calls in the last 70 days.

e. **COVID-19 and Moving Forward**

Dr. Rubin asked Dr. Young to explain to the community, in moving forward, what guidelines should be followed to keep as safe as possible. Dr. Young stated for all to remember that we are all human and are vulnerable. Dr. Young further stated that as we reopen and in moving forward, remember to wash your hands, keep your distance, and keep clean is your best advice. Remember to take hand sanitizer with you and use it often and do use some kind of mask. If you do not feel well, have a fever, please stay at home. If you need a test, we'll give you a test. This has been a strain on hospitals, health departments and first responders. Dr. Young stated that we are reopening and let's do so safely and respect each other while we get used to the new normal.

Dr. Rubin mentioned that due to the isolation, there are people who have been neglecting health problems they have had, and we encourage you to access your medical provider. Dr. Rubin highly encouraged parents to ensure their children are immunized, even though a return date is unknown for school at this time. We do not need any other additional breakouts during this pandemic. Dr. Young further stated that the immunizations are up and running in the clinic and she highly encouraged the public to make those appointments now to get the immunizations needed for back to school.

Dr. Young mentioned that we would love to have an open week in August to do immunizations but at this point, we do not know what we will be facing when school returns, so it is best to make an appointment and get those immunizations done now.

4. Report of the Division of Administrative Services – Ms. Carol McCormick

a. Staffing Report

Ms. McCormick stated there is one vacancy, a Nurse-3, that is currently posted.

b. Audit

Ms. McCormick stated the audit is in the packet and asked if there are any questions. No questions were presented by the board members.

5. Report of the Division of Clinic Services – Ms. Deborah Snaman

a. Clinic Update

Ms. Snaman stated they were down a little for the third quarter and is expecting a much higher number for the fourth quarter. Ms. Snaman also stated they have done over 1000 COVID-19 testing with the small nursing staff employed here. The clinic is also open for business by appointment only with the social distancing in place. Ms. Snaman encouraged the public to come see us if they cannot get in to see their normal pediatrician for vaccinations. Dr. Rubin asked if there are any vaccine shortage issues. Ms. Snaman stated they are well stocked at the moment.

6. Report of the Division of Environmental Health Services and Division of Epidemiology and Threat Preparedness – Mr. Stanley Mills

a. COVID-19 Update

Mr. Mills stated his environmental staff have been repurposed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The staff has been used as phone operators, assisting epidemiology, enforcing the governor's orders and doing investigating. Dr. Rubin asked how we have been doing on opening restaurants, sanitizing and spacing? Mr. Mills stated they are not doing inspections at the moment. Mr. Mills further mentioned that the state of West Virginia has come up with doing virtual inspections and that he does not have faith in the restaurants to do that via cell phones. Dr. Rubin agreed with Mr. Mills in doing inspections the way we have always done them. Mr. Scalise asked if Mr. Mills was going to be able to get to the inspections, with Mr. Mills stating that it has all been suspended for now.

Mr. Nusbaum mentioned that one of the things that have come out was larger venues would be allowed for weddings, but it wasn't subject to the 25 people rule. Dr. Rubin stated that was correct, for weddings, it is 50%- and six-foot distancing. If the facility sits 100 people, then you cannot have more than 50 people.

Dr. Rubin asked if there was anything additional for threat preparedness and Mr. Mills stated there was not.

7. Report of the Executive Assistant to the Health Officer – Ms. Julie Blackwood

a. PHAB Update

Ms. Blackwood stated due to the COVID-19, the reaccreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) has extended all deadlines by 90 days. Therefore, the reaccreditation that was previously due the last quarter of 2021 is now due the first quarter of 2022.

b. **Aetna Foundation Healthiest Cities and Counties Grant Update**

Ms. Blackwood stated she is still waiting to hear back from them but if this project, which addresses food insecurity on the West Side, is funded, we will receive \$100,000 or \$50,000 for each of the two project years. Ms. Blackwood stated she is hoping to hear back by the first of June.

8. Report of the Financial Subcommittee

a. **FY2021 Budget**

Ms. McCormick stated the FY2021 budget was discussed, as presented in the packets, with no questions. A motion by Mr. Nusbaum, seconded by Mr. Nelson was made to approve the FY2021 budget. Motion carried and passed.

b. **FY2019 Audit Report**

No questions regarding the FY2019 as presented in the packets. A motion by Mr. Scalise, seconded by Mr. Nusbaum was made to approve the FY2019 audit report. Motion carried and passed.

Mr. Nusbaum asked Ms. McCormick if we have received any funds from the county? Ms. McCormick stated that Mr. Carper has offered, but right now we are setting out at about the same for funding. Ms. McCormick stated that she will reach out to Mr. Carper and to the board if it is needed.

Mr. Nusbaum further stated that Governor Justice has stated he has been getting money and it may be an opportunity that we move to Governor Justice that we would like a portion of that money. Dr. Rubin asked Ms. McCormick if she was able to track money spent on COVID-19. Ms. McCormick stated she was tracking all overtime and all hours spent on COVID-19. Ms. McCormick further stated that we did get an additional \$97,336 of federal money in this fiscal year and \$97,335 in FY21 for COVID-19 expenses.

9. New Business

None

10. Unfinished Business

a. **Public Comment Period**

None

Dr. Rubin asked if there were any public comments? Mr. John Law stated there have been no public comments yet, but he has replied to reporter comments.

Dr. Young welcomed back Mr. John Law to the health department to help us during the COVID-19, stating it has been a two person PIO operation here during the pandemic. Dr. Young further stated that she wanted to also thank Mr. Scalise for loaning Mr. Law to us and she realizes it has been a strain on them.


Mr. Nusbaum stated that he has talked to numerous people in the healthcare business in the last several days and they have all stated what an incredible job Dr. Young and her team has done, that she is an example of how things should be done during a pandemic.

Dr. Rubin stated the board needs to meet in person for the next meeting, scheduled on June 18, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in the first-floor conference room where safe distancing can be practiced.

11. Adjournment

Mr. Scalise motioned to adjourn seconded by Mr. Nusbaum. The Board adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri Young, DO, FAAFP
Executive Director/Health Officer

