

MACOUPIN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 16, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Michael LeVora
Ruth Ann Pomatto (by phone)
Paula Robinson
Suzanne Stayton
Nikki Ray
Andrea Card
Mike Barnard (by phone)
Ralph March

OTHER PRESENT

Kent Tarro, CEO
Peggy Garrison, FCO
Christy Blank, Clinical Director

Ralph March called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

CEO Update

Kent Tarro gave an update on the following topics:

1. The County Board did not accept the proposed ordinance related to restaurants occupancy.
2. Kent discussed the increase in deaths from COVID-19 during the past month. He feels that the county will continue to see an increase in people who have COVID and deaths.
3. The MCHD employees are ramping up for the delivery of the COVID vaccinations.
4. Dr. Theresa Polo hopes to be at the January meeting.
5. There is a portable building now at the Maple Street Clinic housing a team of COVID-19 Contact Tracers.
6. The Columbia Street Clinic in Litchfield is now open. So far, there are good responses from the patients using the facility. The new clinic will help reduce the number of patients on the waiting list at the Maple Street Clinic. The St. Francis clinic should be open in February.
7. Funds have been allocated for the immunization for the prevention of COVID. All citizens will receive the shots for free.

Secretary Report - Andrea Card moved to accept the November 2020 Board of Health minutes. Seconded by Nikki Ray. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report – Peggy Garrison reviewed the account:

Public Health – Beginning balance - \$528,006.73 and ending balance \$247,214.77. WIC – Beginning Balance - \$36,753.78 and ending balance \$8,103.67. Transportation - \$21,287.41 and ending balance \$19,333.27. In December, there has been two checks for this program. Community Care – Beginning balance - \$853,927.17 and ending balance \$605,749.55. There has not been any draw downs in November. The Amount of money owed to the Public Health account is \$327,323.47. Paula Robinson moved to accept the treasurer report. Michael LeVora seconded. Motion carried.

Business Meeting

1. The Macoupin County Board did not accept the proposed Food Sanitation Ordinance related to COVID and public areas.
2. The Transportation program will receive \$260,000 from IDOT for the first payment this year.
3. An accident occurred in a transportation program vehicle. The vehicle was hit from behind while stopped at a train crossing. A person was killed in the accident. The MCPHD employee has contacted a lawyer.
4. Unemployment numbers for Macoupin County are down to 3.7%. This number may not be accurate for the true picture of the county.
5. The CEU Expenses by Provider was presented. The following information:

| | Expenses | Days |
|----------------------------|------------|------|
| Dentists/Midlevels/Doctors | \$1,500/YR | 4/YR |
| Therapists/Hygienists | \$1,000/YR | 3/YR |
| RN's | \$500/YR | 2/YR |

Per Fiscal Employment Year

6. Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville will partner with MCPHD for a BHWET grant. The Health Department will host students doing their clinical rotations in their final 6 – 12 months in the MSW, DNP and PMHNP programs. Michael LeVora moved to partner with SIU-E with the students doing their clinical rotations. Seconded by Suzanne Stayton. Motion carried.
7. The National Association of County and City Health Officials will have a contract with MCPHD. This grant is for the local Medical Reserve Corps unit. MCPHD will receive \$5,000.
8. There were reports that the Besserman Superbowl in Gillespie on November 25 held events with a large number of people in attendance. The Illinois State Police and Governor's office is involved in this issue.
9. From November 7 to December 6, Macoupin County has an increase of 172% in positive cases in COVID-19. There was 240% increase in deaths.
10. The Statistical Analysis of Appointments was presented for November. Behavioral Health Visits – 884; Dental Visits – 787; and Medical Care Visits – 298. November Total Visits – 1,969.
11. The WIC Program continues to have high number – 760 total participants receiving nutrition supplements. Kent thinks the numbers are staying high because the program is a drive through for the participants and more people have a lower family income due to COVID-19.
12. Christy Blank gave an update for the COVID-19 plan for the vaccination of county residents. The vaccine is being provided in phases with population groups designated by the CDC and IDPH. More groups will have access to the vaccine as the supply increases. The time frame for receiving the vaccine and distribution to more groups is not determined at this time. The following groups of people will receive the vaccine:
 1. Health Care Personnel & Residents from Long Term Care Facilities.
 2. Essential frontline workers including first responders.

3. Those with high-risk medical conditions and adults over 65 years of age. Limited COVID-19 vaccine doses will be available in December 2020. On December 23, the MCPHD will receive 401 doses from Pfizer. The vaccine distribution for vaccines requiring ultra-cold (-80 C) temperature controls. After the first shot, patients will need to return 17 - 21 days later for the second vaccine. The other company that will have vaccines soon is Moderna.

The vaccination will be given at the Maple Street Clinic or the Gillespie Civic Center. The vaccine will be stored at the Maple Street Clinic in a locked room. It will be end of January before the vaccine will be given to the public.

There will be a five-step process to receive the immunization:

1. Registration and scheduling time for the first vaccine.
2. Screen of the patients.
3. Vaccination of patients – 4 cars at a time.
4. Monitor the patients for 15 minutes.
5. Patients with an allergy will be monitored for 30 minutes. Patients with a reaction will be sent to a hospital.

Most common side effects: In the arm where you got the shot: pain, swelling, and redness. Throughout the rest of your body: chills, tiredness, headache.

13. The union employees of MCPHD are negotiating a new contract. There has been some discussion related to employees that test positive to COVID-19. Kent proposed the following policy:

1. Employees that test positive for COVID-19 and received the virus at work will receive pay for the time that they are off work.
2. Employees that test positive for COVID-19 and received the virus during non-work time will have to take sick time if off work.

Michael LeVora moved to accept the payment of staff members who receive COVID-19 while working at MCPHD. Suzanne Stayton seconded. Motion carried.

14. A new contract with AFSCME employees is being negotiated at this time. Kent announced that it is not going well. Kent shared some of his concerns related to the union request.

1. Minimum wage increases and cost of maintaining employee salaries and fringes continues to go up.
2. Funds from State programs will be cut in the 2021 fiscal year.
3. Employees received a substantial increase in August and September.
4. Cost of benefits (medical and dental) continue to increase. At this time, the cost is \$7,441 per employee per year.
5. The MCPHD received an increase of funds (\$2,862,000) related to handling COVID-19 testing, tracing, isolating, quarantining and enforcement of migration efforts to control the pandemic. This is a temporary increase and won't be available when COVID is under control.

Paula Robinson moved that Kent continue to negotiate with the union to keep a balanced budget. Michael LeVora seconded. Motion carried.

15. Suzanne Stayton left the meeting. The board discussed the purchase of the real estate located at 205 Oakland Avenue in Carlinville. Stayton Construction, LLC of Carlinville owns the building and will be doing the remodeling. The building needs a major remodeling but will have two times the square feet of the current office. The first floor will be handicap assessable. Each employee will have their own office space and there will be a larger board room. The sum of \$188,000 will be paid up on signing of the contract by both parties. The sum of \$50,000 will be paid monthly until the construction is completed for a total of \$488,000. It will take 6 months to complete the renovation. Kent hopes to get \$100,000 to \$150,000 for the current building on North Broad. Brent Cain is the lawyer for the MCPHD and will be reviewing the contract. The MCPHD has a line of credit with UCB of \$800,000. There will be some moving cost. Kent hopes this building will be more professional and will increase work productivity. Paula Robinson moved to purchase the 205 Oakland Ave. Building if the contract is approved by Brent Cain. Seconded by Andrea Card. Motion carried.
16. The board discussed a policy related to monitoring the health of employees in the transportation program. There are IDOT guidelines related to drivers. A motion by Michael LeVora stated that all drivers in the transportation program have an annual medical physical and visual test. Andrea Card Seconded. Motion carried.
17. Michael LeVora moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Paula Robinson. Motion carried.

Paula Robinson, Secretary