



MCHENRY COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH
MINUTES • MARCH 23, 2020

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

6:30 PM

County Administration, 667 Ware Rd., Woodstock, IL 60098

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at: 6:35 PM by William Stinson.

PRESENT: McCann (Remote), Lorenc (6:37 PM - 7:48 PM), Stinson (Remote), Gaffney (Remote), Clarke (Remote), Morawski (Remote), Lin (Remote), Trevino (Remote), Marcussen (Remote), Adamson (Remote), Gugle (Remote), Nomm (Remote), Karras (Remote), Howell (Remote), Buthod (Remote), Volant (Remote)
ABSENT: Faccone

2. ROLL CALL

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

4. MINUTES APPROVAL

A. Board of Health - Regular Meeting - Feb 24, 2020 6:30 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED BY VOICE
----------------	--------------------------

5. DEPARTMENT & DIVISION UPDATES

Ms. Adamson reported that the COVID-19 response is a rapidly changing and fluid event. She reviewed the timeline to date including the first case identified in Illinois, the Governor's Disaster Proclamation, McHenry County's first case, the Executive Order announcing the "Stay at Home" policy, and the County's efforts to move to essential services only.

She noted that MCDH continues with an Incident Command structure that meets twice daily and is coordinating across County departments as part of the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) through the County Emergency Management Agency (EMA). The Department is also participating in many calls and webinars to obtain the latest information on response efforts. MCDH shares this information with partner organizations in various ways including hosting calls with Long Term Care Facilities (LTCF) and schools as a way to push out guidance in an efficient manner.

Communications has expanded with regular press releases, website updates to connect residents and key audiences to resources and help, and responding to many email inquiries. MCDH has also participated in a Zoom event with hospitals, and collaborated on developing an FAQ for the County.

Mr. Gugle told members that the Administrative Division has devoted much of their time to the COVID-19 response including consolidating Vital Records into the Woodstock office to help facilitate staffing who are now on a rotating schedule. The Administrative Division is providing essential services such as Vital Records, answering all incoming calls, responding to e-mails, as well all ongoing fiscal responsibilities.

Ms. Karras provided an extensive report on the COVID-19 pandemic response. She initiated Incident Command (IC) within the Nursing Division on January 22nd. Since that time, Situational Reports have been prepared weekly detailing the status of the pandemic from the international, national, state, and local levels. To date, 15 such reports have been prepared and disseminated to the Department's Administrator, Division Directors and Managers. These reports were also posted on SharePoint in order to ensure all current information was accessible to all staff.

Ms. Karras requested an expansion of the IC on March 10th as the Nursing Division was approaching capacity. Additional agencies and organizations with knowledge and skill sets needed to assist with the COVID-19 response were brought into the structure on March 12th.

Ms. Karras addressed the differences between the COVID-19 response and the H1N1 response. She explained that these pandemic incidents are very different, and require different skill sets. For H1N1, there was a pharmaceutical intervention available (H1N1 vaccine), and all needed supplies were readily available. The COVID-19 pandemic does not have a pharmaceutical intervention at this time, guidelines are changing often, and supplies are limited.

Ms. Karras went on to describe the response efforts in more detail including:

- Communicating to the public about the non-pharmaceutical interventions: social distancing, handwashing, stay in place, etc. as outlined in the CDC, IDPH guidelines and legislative orders.
- Updating and posting case counts to the website daily, noting differences between local and State numbers due to process for confirming commercial lab and provider results before entering into the electronic reporting system: Illinois National Electronic Disease Surveillance System (I-NEDSS).
- Conducting weekly conference calls with schools and Long Term Care Facilities to keep them informed on the most current guidelines and to answer questions; and weekly calls with Northwestern Medicine's Infectious Disease team regarding guidelines, testing, and other response information.
- Establishing dedicated email addresses for schools, Long Term Healthcare facilities, and Healthcare Providers to address their specific operational questions in a timely manner.
- Working with the County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and participating in the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
- Activating the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) nurses to assist with the high volume of calls related to COVID-19 medical questions, as well as monitoring MCDH staff to detect any signs of illness as soon as possible per CDC guidelines for healthcare staff.
- Implementing Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) to maintain essential services: surveillance and investigation of all reported infectious diseases, vaccines (influenza, infants/toddlers (0-2) years of age, children that are on catch-up schedules), TB medication delivery, WIC food instrument delivery, high risk infant case management, DCFS health case management, IBCCP referral for essential diagnostic services and treatment. All services are being provided by phone and drive through pick-up where applicable. Immunization clinics are by appointment only with spacing between appointments to allow for appropriate social distancing, with screenings at the door of all entering building for appointments.

Ms. Karras also laid out anticipated challenges related to COVID-19. As a novel virus, there has been a lot to learn in a short period of time. Guidance changes often with little or no advanced notice, which can make messaging to the public difficult and leading to increases in calls. PPE supplies are limited resulting in calls requesting assistance and resources.

Testing guidance, locations to get tested, and availability of supplies has created confusion. MCDH has not been conducting testing, rather providing authorization numbers for providers and hospitals to submit specimens to the IDPH State lab for patients meeting the testing criteria. Commercial labs are gradually coming on line and the IDPH guidelines have become more restrictive on what specimens are sent to State labs. Testing of uninsured and the

homeless population is a challenge, as we want to keep them out of the Emergency Departments if their illness does not require emergency intervention. We are currently working on strategies to handle this challenge.

Other potential challenges could include the ability to treat the most severe cases should hospital capacity become limited or unavailable; combatting misinformation circulating in the media, internet, and social media; taxing staff and creating burn out should the response be long and drawn out; and the threat of widespread illness among staff.

Ms. Karras also took the opportunity to thank the many county departments and outside agencies and organizations that have helped in the response efforts, including, David Christensen (EMA), Tom Annarella (Valley Hi), Scott Block (Mental Health Board), Jack Franks (McHenry County Board Chairman), Peter Austin (County Administrator), Scott Hartman (Deputy County Administrator), Planning and Development, County purchasing, County Auditor, the DOT, Tom Sullivan and Tina Sheldon and the whole IT team, and Tom Burroughs, Ron Pfeiffer and the entire Facilities Management team.

Ms. Karras then acknowledged the dedication of her staff and the personal sacrifices they have made to assist in the response including working very long hours, 7 days a week, and sometimes overnight. She noted they work without complaint despite frequently changing conditions and guidelines, all the while conducting surveillance, gathering information, maintaining essential operations, and listening to those frightened and angry about the COVID-19 response.

Finally, Ms. Karras acknowledged Dr. Laura Buthod, who has made personal sacrifices to help in the response. As the Medical Advisor, Dr. Buthod has brought her vast knowledge, ability, and experience to help the community, and also gone above and beyond by taking phone calls from providers and working alongside the staff. Her support cannot be understated.

Dr. Buthod thanked all the dedicated staff and volunteers working tirelessly during this difficult time. Dr. Stinson offered staff the Board's thanks for their dedication to the health of the people of McHenry County.

Dr. Lorenc asked about the testing shortage. Ms. Adamson stated the testing guidelines keep getting more restrictive because of the shortage. Ms. Karras explained that State lab guidelines for testing now require a person to be hospitalized. The State lab will only test within a long term care facility in order to identify a respiratory illness as COVID-19. Once that is confirmed, no one else within the facility will be tested. The commercial labs tends to follow along the CDC testing guidelines which is an exposure to a positive case or showing symptoms. Private testing is still not available for everyone and certain criteria has to be met in order to be tested. If a person does not have symptoms, they can't be tested.

Mr. Marcussen said the Federal Government has gone into partnership with some Walmart and Walgreens stores and are doing drive-up testing for first responders but it's impossible to get any information about these sites. These testing sites are located in Northlake, Joliet and Bolingbrook. Ms. Karras said it hasn't been established yet but first responders may have to go through the HHS website and get a number before they can be tested at those federal websites. Mr. Marcussen said it's imperative for first responders to have access to testing information.

Dr. Lorenc voiced his concern regarding the increasing number of confirmed cases on a daily basis. He questioned how will we know if we are plateauing since there is a shortage of tests and restrictive guidelines? He stated that if people aren't tested, we don't know how long the quarantine time needs to be and when the restrictions can start to be lifted. Ms. Adamson said this is a problem many states are going to face unless testing is increased. Dr. Stinson added that many people don't go to the doctor if their symptoms are mild and will not get tested so the data will never be exact.

Ms. Howell explained that Animal Control Division is performing only mandated and essential services that include investigating human bites, rabies enforcement, follow up on dangerous dogs and sick and injured animals and picking up strays as necessary. Ms. Howell added that rabies observations and specimens are being done but not follow up on rabies vaccinations. Staff are being rotated from different sections of the building with some staff working remotely. Ms. Howell noted they are getting some additional equipment for office staff to work from home. The Division has limited the amount of animals in the building to approximately 7, but does fluctuate. One obstacle Animal Control is working on is housing and taking care of some animals that are not strays, but the owners are homeless and are being moved to facilities that don't allow pets. Ms. Howell stated that they have adequate PPE for now in case they have to go into a home where a person is sick or deceased or a situation where an animal has to be removed.

Ms. Howell said she is currently working with Ms. Nomm as a backup safety officer in the Incident Command.

With the closure of the restaurants, bars and onsite consumption of food, Ms. Nomm stated things have been very busy in the office. Environmental Health has reached out to food operators several times to keep them updated of changing information. Ms. Nomm said Environmental Health has currently prioritized their activities and are only working on essential services and services that do not pose an additional risk to staff or customers. The Environmental Health staff will begin working from home on a rotating schedule. Ms. Nomm said the schedule will allow enough people to handle the on-demand activity in the office.

Ms. Nomm told board members that she is working with Ms. Howell as Safety Officers and have been working on overall safety issues for staff.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	ADOPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Ted Lorenc
SECONDER:	Kyle Marcussen
AYES:	McCann, Lorenc, Stinson, Gaffney, Clarke, Morawski, Lin, Trevino, Marcussen
ABSENT:	Faccone

- A. Disbursements
- B. Income & Expenses
- C. ADM Division Report
- D. Webstat
- E. ENV Division Report
- F. ENV Well/Septic Report
- G. ENV Lab Report
- H. VPH Division Report
- I. VPH Reports

7. NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE DISBURSEMENTS

1. Northwestern Medicine Disbursements

RESULT:	APPROVED [7 TO 0]
MOVER:	Mary McCann
SECONDER:	Juliana Morawski
AYES:	McCann, Gaffney, Clarke, Morawski, Lin, Trevino, Marcussen
ABSTAIN:	Lorenc, Stinson
ABSENT:	Faccione

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Board of Health Bylaws Revision

Ms. Adamson stated this revision will allow us to add the Hearing Committee into the bylaws.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Mary McCann
SECONDER:	Juliana Morawski
AYES:	McCann, Lorenc, Stinson, Gaffney, Clarke, Morawski, Lin, Trevino, Marcussen
ABSENT:	Faccione

B. Extension of Annual Health Permit Due Date

Ms. Nomm said the expiration date for all Health Permits is April 30. Several food operators contacted Ms. Nomm to discuss the difficulty for some operators to make the deadline for the annual health permits due to the shutdown of onsite food consumption. It was discussed to potentially extend the deadline by 60 days and notify any operators who haven't paid by April 30 that the due date would then be extended an additional 60 days.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Joseph Clarke
SECONDER:	Ted Lorenc
AYES:	McCann, Lorenc, Stinson, Gaffney, Clarke, Morawski, Lin, Trevino, Marcussen
ABSENT:	Faccione

C. Resolution for Emergency Appropriations for Court Ordered Corrections-5303 Alden Road, Woodstock

Ms. Nomm reviewed the case with board members at Mr. Marcussen's request. This was a residential property but the buildings have been demolished and removed. However, the well and septic components were not properly sealed. Ms. Nomm said the Department originally pursued legal action through Ordinance Violation court but the owners didn't comply. The next step was to request a court order. This property was picked up for taxes and then the owner determined he did not want to continue due to the cost of getting the problems corrected. It has currently reverted back to the McHenry County Collector.

Ms. McCann mentioned this process took approximately 6 months and wanted to know if there is something the Board can do to speed up the process in the future. Ms. Nomm said in this particular case, some of the time was spent on requesting proposals and requests for quotes. Once the injunction was received, the Department is required to wait 30 days to allow the property owners to appeal the decision.

The quotes from independent vendors to conduct the work is \$8,800.00 and includes the cleaning and disposal of rubbish, sealing the water well and abandoning the sewage components. Ms. Nomm said that if the Board approves tonight, the Department would begin the process to request an emergency appropriation through the General Fund to pay for the work to be done.

Ms. Nomm was asked if the title will revert to the County and if a lien would be placed on the property. Ms. Nomm stated it's possible a lien would be put on the property prior to the property being turned over to the County. Ms. Nomm noted the value of the property may not reach that level since it's quite small, only a ¼ acre and due to the location, unlikely to be developed.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Kyle Marcussen
SECONDER:	Ted Lorenc
AYES:	McCann, Lorenc, Stinson, Gaffney, Clarke, Morawski, Lin, Trevino, Marcussen
ABSENT:	Faccone

9. ADJOURNMENT

Prior to adjournment, Ms. McClain Trevino discussed some of the problems she had as a food operator in receiving up to date information from various sources and agencies. Ms. McClain Trevino told members that going forward, she would be happy to be involved in discussions to find better ways for information to be distributed of any further changes for food operators.

Dr. Lorenc motioned, second by Mr. Clarke to adjourn regular meeting at 7:48 pm. The motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.