



MCHENRY COUNTY

BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES • MAY 11, 2020

Regular Meeting

County Board Conference Room

6:30 PM

667 Ware Rd, Administration Building, Woodstock, IL 60098

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at: 6:45 PM by William Stinson.

PRESENT: McCann (Remote), Lorenc (Remote), Stinson (Remote), Gaffney (Remote), Clarke (Remote), Faccone (Remote), Morawski (Remote), Lin (Remote), Trevino (Remote), Marcussen (Remote), Adamson (Remote), Nomm (Remote), Karras (Remote), Howell (Remote), Buthod (Remote), Volant (Remote)

ABSENT:

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Stinson read a comment from Ms. Bonnie Duresa from Grafton Township regarding the COVID-19 stay at home orders. This person stated McHenry County should be separated from Cook County and be allowed to re-open businesses and churches. It is unconstitutional.

Cal Skinner, McHenry Blog, stated the McHenry County Department of Health should have daily listings of the ages of people who have died of COVID-19 in McHenry County instead of going to the IDPH website. He listed several categories of data that should appear on the website. It was also suggested that the Department should include contact tracing data on a weekly basis.

Board members stated they understand the frustration of the limitations the state is currently under. Ms. Adamson said the Department of Health is continually updating information and data on the COVID-19 Dashboard. Ms. Adamson noted that the Department will consider the suggestions made and determine if we can fulfill any of the requests.

Ms. Karras added the Department is working to update the Dashboard with new metrics and trying to align our Dashboard with IDPH Restore Illinois metrics. Ms. Karras said the Epidemiologist update later in the meeting will go into more detail regarding this issue.

Board members discussed some of the medical and economic concerns of re-opening the state under the Restore Illinois Plan.

3. MINUTES APPROVAL

A. Board of Health - Regular Meeting - Mar 23, 2020 6:30 PM

RESULT:	ACCEPTED BY VOICE
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4. DEPARTMENT & DIVISION UPDATES

Dr. Stinson read a comment from Ms. Bonnie Duresa from Grafton Township regarding the COVID-19 stay at home orders. This person stated McHenry County should be separated from Cook County and be allowed to re-open businesses and churches. It is unconstitutional.

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Board members discussed some of the medical and economic concerns of re-opening the state under the Restore Illinois Plan.

Ms. Adamson said that last week the Governor issued the Restore Illinois, a 5-phase plan to re-open the state. Counties are grouped into regions and must meet certain criteria in order to move into the next phase. Ms. Adamson said the plan is primarily a one size fits all, and IDPH is receiving a lot of feedback stating a more tailored approach per county is needed.

The Department is also participating in several county initiatives such as Resume McHenry County led by Chairman Franks. Our role is to offer public health information and expertise to support the re-opening of the county.

Ms. Adamson stated communication is one of our biggest priorities and challenges. The Department receives a large amount of phone inquiries and e-mails. There is a broad spectrum of requests for information, complaints, and questions regarding the state mandates and orders. The McHenry County Council of Government requested a letter on what the Department is currently doing based on the Department's infectious disease investigations and contact tracing, which was provided to them.

Ms. Adamson explained that regarding the temporary restraining order, the Department filed its motion, the plaintiffs responded, and currently the attorneys are working on a reply to the plaintiff's response. Ms. Adamson also noted that she understands the ACLU is looking at this case and may choose to intervene.

Board members were reminded that the budget process is coming up which has included preliminary discussions regarding MCDH's network fleet replacement.

Ms. Nomm said the Environmental Health division does respond to complaints regarding non-compliant food establishments, is able to provide responses that are needed in regards to the COVID-19, and can meet our essential services at this time.

Ms. Nomm will be meeting next week with other Environmental Health Directors in the region to review and discuss what has been working and not working in their counties. Ms. Nomm informed board members that

tomorrow she and Ms. Karras will be participating in an Algonquin-Lake in the Hills Chamber meeting to provide information and guidance for businesses.

Ms. Karras said there is an emerging issue concerning children in regards to the COVID-19 virus. The first case emerged out of the UK in April and then in New York City in May. This syndrome is similar to Kawasaki Disease and is potentially associated with the COVID-19 virus. There is research currently being done and physicians are encouraged to watch for symptoms in children and do COVID-19 testing if symptoms are present. It is rare but progresses very quickly.

Mr. Marcussen asked Ms. Karras for clarification on the number of epidemiologists currently on staff. Ms. Karras stated we have a full-time permanent epidemiologist, a contracted epidemiologist, and we are putting a resolution through the county for a second full-time epidemiologist. We currently have someone on staff that was originally hired as a Health Educator and holds an MPH in epidemiology and is currently working in that capacity.

Mr. Marcussen asked if a second permanent epidemiologist was necessary prior to the pandemic. Ms. Karras said there has been an increase in infectious disease reporting. In the past two years, the Department has done a lot of public education and we moved another health nurse into the Communicable Disease investigation team. Ms. Karras said more outbreaks have been identified because of the work we have been doing. In addition to that, we have added the COVID-19 data and we will need that added position.

Ms. Howell said Animal Control has been focusing on their mandated services and state mandated services. AC is trying to balance the services they will be able to offer compared to what they can offer under the Stay at Home order. Ms. Howell said that she has noticed over the last few weeks an increase in phone calls and the intensity of these calls have increased. Ms. Howell said they are trying to mediate the neighborhood issues as best they can without having to go to the homes unless necessary.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

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

- A. Disbursements
- B. Income & Expenses
- C. ADM Division Report
- D. ENV Division Report
- E. PHN Division Report
- F. VPH Division Reports

6. NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE DISBURSEMENTS

- 1. Northwestern Medicine Disbursements

RESULT:	APPROVED [8 TO 0]
MOVER:	Kyle Marcussen
SECONDER:	Mary McCann
AYES:	McCann, Gaffney, Clarke, Faccone, Morawski, Lin, Trevino, Marcussen
ABSTAIN:	Lorenc, Stinson

7. CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS - NEW

A. Jason Thomas, Edpidemiologist-Independent Contractor

Ms. Adamson stated Jason Thomas has been working on grants. We approached the county for emergency assistance to use his time, since we were between board meetings in order to take Jason off grants and re-direct his work to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

B. IDPH-COVID19 Crisis Grant

Ms. Adamson explained that the grant is being used to help local health departments respond to COVID-19. It can be used for staffing, supplies and other activities to assist in response to the pandemic.

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

C. Court Ordered Cleanup-21309 Robin Road, Harvard

Ms. Nomm stated the Department has been working on this since late 2016. The Department has gone through the typical process of ordinance violations, court, then sought a court order to have the work completed. Ms. Nomm said the property is owned by a private owner who is aware of the issues on the property, but has not brought the property into compliance.

Ms. Nomm said bids went out to 8 vendors; 2 were received back. The most cost-effective quote was for the entire cleanup of the property, except for the removal of the vehicle and one grill that is currently operational. This site will be brought into compliance using grant money allocated specifically for elimination of mosquito breeding sites from the Vector Surveillance and Prevention Grant.

Ms. Nomm explained that the primary concern is the accumulation of water in containers and mosquitoes, but the Vector Prevention grant also allows us look at other types of vectors of concern.

Mr. Clarke asked what, if any, arrangements will be made to recover our costs. Ms. Nomm replied that typically a lien would be put on the property, but because grant funding is being used to resolve the issue,

there wouldn't be any cost recovery. Mr. Clarke stated cost recovery should still be attempted and Ms. Nomm said she would check with the States Attorney's Office.

Ms. McCann suggested to Ms. Nomm to talk to the grantor and see if you could use recovered monies as a revolving loan for vector cleanup. Ms. Nomm said she would check into that option.

Mr. Marcussen asked Ms. Nomm about the totality of the Vector Surveillance and Prevention Grant. Ms. Nomm explained that the grant is approximately \$55,000. It is a Department grant-not just an Environmental Health grant-used for a variety of things including, mosquito surveillance and testing, educational efforts in the Nursing and Environmental Health divisions, and providing larvacide to townships and municipalities.

Ms. Nomm said she has used a portion of the funds for tire recycling events in order to reduce mosquito breeding sites in the past. Tires recycled properly help eliminate environmental concerns. We try to leverage some funds to use them to further other programs we have and to address issues that may otherwise be difficult to address.

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

D. Court Ordered Cleanup-4609 Franklinville Road-Union

Ms. Nomm said this is a site that the Department has been working on with Planning & Development since 2017. The Department has gone through the process of ordinance violations, court, then sought a court order to have the work completed. The property has still not been brought into compliance.

In this case, Ms. Nomm said, she is asking the Board of Health for approval to use the remainder of the West Nile funds, approximately \$5,000 for the purpose of removing the rubbish and litter on the property that also relates to Vector Surveillance and Prevention. The Department of Planning and Development will have other things they will take care of and are moving forward a resolution through the County Board asking for an emergency appropriation.

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

E. Paper Tiger Document Destruction Recycling Events

Ms. Nomm explained that earlier scheduled recycling events were cancelled due to the pandemic. We have moved the (4) dates throughout the months of July through October, 2020 to have the single day document destruction and also the electronics and battery recycling.

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

8. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

A. COVID 19 Epidemiology Update

The program highlights presented at the May 2020 Board of Health meeting covered the latest updates from the Epidemiology Team concerning COVID-19. The following topics were covered: Case Statistics and Trends, Evidence of “Flattening the Curve”, Epidemiological Modeling, and the Restore Illinois Metrics for McHenry County.

Case Statistics and Trends

Updated case statistics for COVID-19 were presented to the Board of Health including the number of cases, number of deaths, number hospitalized, and number recovered. Case data was presented for all cases, by Long Term Care Facility status (i.e. whether a case is associated with an outbreak in a Long Term Care Facility or not), by race, and by ethnicity. Curves for the number of cases, deaths, and hospitalizations by date were also presented.

Evidence of “Flattening the Curve”

Evidence for the “flattening” of the COVID-19 epidemiological curve was discussed, including how R_0 and doubling days appear to be changing over time. R_0 indicates how infectious a disease is; an $R_0 > 1$ indicates that a disease is spreading more rapidly in a community, and an $R_0 < 1$ indicates that a disease is spreading less rapidly in a community. Doubling days is the amount of time it takes for the total number of cases to double, and it is inversely associated with R_0 . As the curve for COVID-19 “flattens”, R_0 decreases and doubling days increases, which is what we are currently seeing for COVID-19.

Epidemiological Modeling

A high level overview of the epidemiological modeling currently being performed by the Epidemiology Team was discussed. Visualizations created from the models were used to illustrate how the shape of the model (e.g. the maximum number of cases and the date on which this occurs) changes as R_0 is adjusted.

Restore Illinois Metrics

The current Positivity Rate data for McHenry were presented, along with some of the limitations of this data at the time. The Positivity Rate for McHenry County was at the desired level (below 20% positivity). The other Restore Illinois Metrics that the Epidemiology Team was in the process of obtaining were also discussed (please note: all data for the Restore Illinois Metrics currently in use by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) have now been obtained).

RESULT:	PRESENTED
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9. OLD BUSINESS

10. NEW BUSINESS

A. Addition of Epidemiologist Position

Ms. Adamson said that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was a need for a second full-time epidemiologist. Since 2018, the CD investigations have gone up 128% and outbreak investigations have gone up 813%. There are mandated services that the Department provides such as the Community Health Assessment and we have started new surveillance projects and data sharing projects across the county. Ms. Adamson stated that with all of the services and new projects combined, along with the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a need for an additional epidemiologist.

RESULT:	PRESENTED
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B. Executive Order Enforcement

Ms. Adamson explained the draft position statement outlining the essential services responsibilities. She explained that the first page of the document reiterates core functions in each Division: Administration, Nursing, Environmental Health, and Veterinary Public Health. The second page is a recommendation for the Board's consideration regarding the Executive Orders; and, in particular, enforcement responsibilities.

Due to the Department's existing demands including essential services/core functions, it cannot take on additional responsibilities of other agencies. The Department will continue to do the work that falls in its jurisdiction and what is available to us within the law. The Department is making the recommendation to refer concerns and complaints to the appropriate authority for follow up.

Ms. Adamson asked if the Board would like to take a position on this recommendation. The Department receives a lot of calls and complaints and we do try to direct them to the appropriate authority. The longer the pandemic and the Executive Orders continue, people are becoming increasingly frustrated. The safety of our staff is of utmost importance and we don't want to put our staff in a situation that they would normally not handle or would be better handled by another agency.

Ms. Adamson gave an example of people complaining about a food establishment that may be serving food or drinks inside the restaurant or people congregating outside in large groups. This would not be within our usual role of the Health Department.

Ms. McCann suggested that the Board of Health makes a statement on their position and make it available to the public.

The Board of Health voted to formally adopt this position statement and present to the Chairman of the County Board.

RESULT:	PRESENTED
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11. BOARD ISSUES

Ms. McCann told board members they should look at both the County and the Department of Health websites. She stated there is a lot of good information, but the amount of space is too small. If we can't communicate the information more effectively, Ms. McCann suggested doing a separate site.

12. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION (AS NECESSARY)

14. APPENDIX

A. Media Detail

RESULT:	PRESENTED
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B. Webstat

RESULT:	PRESENTED
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C. ENV Well & Septic Report

RESULT:	PRESENTED
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D. ENV Lab Report

RESULT:	PRESENTED
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E. PHN Reports

RESULT:	PRESENTED
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F. VPH Reports

RESULT:	PRESENTED
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15. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Ms. Gaffney, second by Ms. McCann to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 PM. Motion passed unanimously with a voice vote.