



PUBLIC HEALTH

Danielle Pettit-Majewski, BS, MPH, Director

Board of Health
Joni Bosch, PhD, ARNP
Tatiana Izakovic, MD, MHA
Zachary Pollock, PharmD, MS
Bonnie D. Rubin, MLS, MBA, MHA
Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS

JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

September 15, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

4:00 pm

Call to Order: Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS, called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

Roll Call: Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS; Bonnie D. Rubin, MLS, MBA, MHA; Zachary Pollock, PharmD, MS; Tatiana Izakovic, MD, MHA; Joni Bosch, PhD, ARNP

Staff: Danielle Pettit-Majewski, Director; Kate Klefstad, Clinical Services Manager; Sam Jarvis, Community Health Manager; James Lacina, Environmental Health Manager; Kristin Meyer, Business Manager; James Bechtel, Systems Analyst; Jamie Huntley, Health Planner; Alissa Sotzen, Account Clerk I. Debbie Ackerman, Data Specialist; Crystal Fernandez, Dental Assistant (via Zoom); Susan Denny, Secretary II.

Others Present: Lynn Rose, Assistant County Attorney

Approval of Minutes: Motion by Pollock to approve the August 18, 2021 meeting minutes; seconded by Bosch. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Regular Meeting Date and Time: October 20, 2021 in Conference Room 203 at the Health and Human Services Building.

Citizen Comments / Questions / Issues: None

New Employee Introductions: Klefstad introduced Crystal Fernandez, Clinical Services, Dental Assistant; a new position in the Oral Health program. She enjoys working with children in the I-Smile program.

DISCUSSION / PRESENTATION(S):

- **JCPH Employee WellBQ Results – Jamie Huntley:** Huntley presented a slideshow to illustrate results from the WellBQ survey. The survey was provided to all Johnson County employees by the Johnson County Employee Wellness (JCEW) Program. Questions were based on the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Worker Well-Being

Questionnaire. Huntley described the framework, with some additions to accommodate COVID-19 vaccine status, cancer screening and additional safety questions, and the five domains from the NIOSH questionnaire. Huntley used the Qualtrics software to administer the survey from June 24, 2021 until July 16, 2021 initially, and extended the survey dates to July 30, 2021 in order to allow employees more time to complete the survey. In total, 259 Johnson County employees fully completed the questionnaire. 75.6% of JCPH staff completed the survey. The results will be used by the JCEW to set internal benchmarks for the Johnson County workforce to encourage a healthier workforce. Huntley responded to comments and questions from BOH members and staff.

- **COVID-19 Update – Sam Jarvis:** Jarvis reported in the last seven day look back period, COVID-19 cases increased to 500, and is continuing to increase weekly. He commented this pace is unsustainable and in need of creative ways to curb the increases in transmission. 66% of the cases cited are aged 22 years and older. Community partners working to decrease transmission speculate that either college aged citizens were vaccinated at the end of the last semester and have increased immunity or they are not testing, or a combination of both factors. JCPH continues to coordinate with the University Student Health and Leadership Team to share information. Jarvis added cases are primarily occurring in unvaccinated households. Pollock asked Jarvis the percentage of break-through cases in Iowa, and occurrence of reinfection. Jarvis responded the percentage is higher than the national average. Concerns with large events such as Hawkeye games and high school sports together with the before and after activities associated with large gatherings contribute to exposure. Jarvis suggested the BOH reach out to other school districts to support a school mask ordinance. Rose will be speaking at the Solon School Board meeting. More discussion followed concerning tracking positive cases and lack of data following large events. Pollock asked Jarvis to update the Contact Tracing processes and goals and timelines. The team continues to streamline the process to minimize lag time and address changes in quarantine guidance and other challenges that contribute to slower response times. More discussion followed. Jarvis stressed there are many moving parts to the process of collecting and reporting data. Rose responded to questions about the temporary restraining order issued by a federal judge blocking enforcement of mask mandating penalties and how school boards can benefit from the ruling. She stressed the situation with the University and oversight from the Board of Regents will not change. Rose addressed lawsuits related to May mandates by Governor Reynolds which violate the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 Rehabilitation Act, and The American Rescue Plan. These lawsuits remain open. She discussed other cases related to similar violations, effects of those decisions and how they relate to this lawsuit.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Update – Director Pettit-Majewski reported on proposals to be presented to the BOS relating to staff relief and additional respite support. She anticipates additional funding to focus on health equity issues. Pettit-Majewski stressed the need for JCPH to be flexible and nimble in addressing issues and consider the best way to use funds strategically. Pettit-Majewski will continue to update the BOH. She also commented on workspace needs in response to Pollock’s concerns in the last BOH meeting.

- **Reviewing Changes to BOH Agenda/Program Activity Reports** – Pettit-Majewski met with Rose to discuss changes to the BOH Agenda format. She met with division managers to outline changes which will identify trends and include more pertinent data. Bechtel and Lacina are working with Pettit-Majewski to finalize the new format.

- **Immunization Trend Report** – Klefstad presented the Immunization Trend Report and highlighted data and demographics related to the large number of immigrants and refugee families without vaccinations or without their vaccination records and the challenge to update IRIS with this information to reflect this population. Currently IRIS does not include modified schedules JCPH uses to bring this population up to date on vaccinations in their data.

ACTION ITEMS

Expenditures Over \$3,000: None

Applications, Contracts and Agreements:

- **Local Public Health Services (LPHS) Contract:** Danielle Pettit-Majewski to become Project Director for LPHS contract.

Motion by Wallace to approve Pettit-Majewski as Project Manager for LPHS Contracts. The motion passed unanimously.

OTHER

- **Signatory Authority:** Board of Health to grant Danielle Pettit-Majewski signatory authority.

Motion by Bosch to grant signatory authority to Pettit-Majewski, JCPH Director, seconded by Rubin. The motion passed unanimously.

Reports / Inquiries:

County Attorney: Rose reported on Federal and State court orders and pending lawsuits. She informed BOH members of a pending state case brought by a parent from Council Bluffs and filed in Polk County naming Governor Kim Reynolds and the Head of the Iowa Department of Education as defendants. Rose explained the lawsuit was seeking a temporary injunction to block enforcement of the anti-mask mandate, which was denied by Polk County Court because it did not meet all of the requirements under the Iowa rules of civil procedure. Two other pending requests in the lawsuit involve constitutional claims for evaluation similar to the claims heard in the federal case. It also asks for a Writ of Mandamus issued by the court, which is legal jargon for an order by the court to appoint a government actor to carry out the government actor's duty. In this case, the writ being sought is an order directing the head of Iowa's State Department of Education to enter a mandate requiring masks in all K-12 schools in the State of Iowa. Rose explained the legal theory supporting the lawsuit is based on the head of the Department of Education not being subject to Iowa Code Section 280.7 (the code section preventing mask mandates now suspended by Federal order) because the head of the Department of Education is not a member of the school board or district. Rose added the date for this argument has not been set. She also stressed the importance vaccine availability for children will factor into these arguments.

Members, Board of Health: Rubin reminded BOH members and JCPH staff that September is Public Health Laboratory month. Bosch asked if there was a way of clarifying vaccine booster information. Wallace commented on constantly changing guidance as an issue. Discussion regarding misinformation about vaccination, breakthrough cases, and ways to ease confusion followed. Pettit-Majewski will be attending a meeting to address vaccine booster information.

Director: Pettit-Majewski reported Lacina sent a press release reporting a positive West Nile carrying mosquito was identified in Johnson County. Lacina was interviewed by the Daily Iowan concerning response to the West Nile presence and the Mosquito Surveillance Program. This is the first occurrence in five years of monitoring. She also commented Community Health continues working with vaccine providers serving populations with barriers to access and other issues. JCPH management attended a one-day Iowa Public Health Association (IPHA) training related to COVID-19 and stress in the Public Health workplace last month. Speakers from that training Dr. Erin Ulrich, Associate Professor of Social and Administrative Sciences at Drake University; and Jason Haagland, MS, CADC, Recovery Iowa have been invited to the JCPH All Staff retreat on October 15, 2021.

Wallace reported he and Rubin reviewed Sam Jarvis evaluation as the JCPH Acting Director and paperwork has been submitted awarding him a merit raise for his service.

Wallace adjourned the meeting at 5:26 pm.

Approved by Board of Health Action on

October 20, 2021

Signature on File

Date

Peter D. Wallace, MD, MS, Chair

Submitted by:
Susan Denny
Secretary II