

**Kankakee County Health Department  
Regular Meeting  
April 16, 2020**

Members Present: Mr. Rodney Gustafson, Mr. Jim JohaneK, Dr. Syreeta Jones  
Dr. Olatunji Akintilo, Mr. Jim Byrne, Dr. Abraham Kurien,  
Dr. Simon Wu

Members Absent: Mr. Michael Taylor

Staff Present: Mr. John Bevis, Mrs. Erin Weakley Ms. Nicole Finnegan

Staff Absent: Mrs. Amy LaFine, Mr. Keith Wojnowski

Others Present: None

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gustafson at 5:03 P.M.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the April 16, 2020 agenda was made by Mr. Byrne, seconded by Mr. JohaneK the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Byrne to accept the March 12, 2020 Board of Health minutes, seconded by Dr. Jones, the motion passed unanimously.

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

Mr. Bevis announced that we had two resignations since our last meeting, and we are currently interviewing for a Client Service Representative and a Clinic Assistant.

## DIVISION REPORTS

### *Client Services*

NONE

### *Environmental Health*

NONE

### *Administrator's Report*

Mr. Bevis updated the Board on the new HVAC unit that was replaced in the lobby. It was one of the oldest units that we had left in the building. We are happy to announce that the installation is complete, and the new unit is currently running well.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### *Financial Status*

Mrs. Weakley updated the Board on March 2020 financials, announcing that we have received \$147,000 in grant payments, but our clinical service dollars have begun to be reduced as expected during the Pandemic. We also expect almost no clinical money for April-May. We are currently at 22.06% for revenues and 31.70% for expenses, and we should be at 33% for the year. Our cash on hand is at \$2,424,609.30. We also have \$438,350.06 in outstanding accounts receivable due to us. Approximately 250K of that is from DHS (Case Management, WIC, Opioid, and Healthworks HRIF) and another \$150K from IDPH (the remainder of our smaller grants plus the Local Health Protection Grant, all the others included with the Comprehensive Grant). We also have another \$35K that is outstanding from DCFS and IPHA. Dr. Kurien made a motion approve March 2020 financials, seconded by Mr. Johanek, the motion passed unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bevis asked the Board if they had any questions regarding the current COVID-19 protocol and reviewed that at our last meeting in March, we were still at 0 cases and 0 deaths for the county. Currently, we are at 265 positive cases and 13 deaths, of which 180 are associated with long term care facilities. Mr. Bevis explained that our staff has been working very close with these facilities providing information on best practice and any tips we can provide to assist them in their efforts of stopping the spread. Our staff has also done a great job of updating our website, social media, including Facebook and Twitter, to keep the public informed as much as possible. Mr. Bevis then explained that our role as the Health Department is to be the front and center of all information so that there is a consistent message going out to the public. A recent request was asked regarding race and the amount of African American cases in the county. We are currently working on setting up testing in areas like Pembroke, so hospitals can go out and residents can receive testing. Mr. Gustafson asked Mr. Bevis if we had been asked for PPE and Mr. Bevis

explained our process for PPE and all the facilities that we have been supplying to. Mr. Bevis was then asked about Illinois re-opening plans and Mr. Bevis explained that he was unaware of specific dates at this time and we will have to wait for the Governor to unveil his plan. Mr. Bevis announced that Illinois recently sent out a grant through E -Grams for COVID-19 expenses and KCHD should receive \$73,343.00. We are hoping that is not the final amount based on the extra COVID expenses we have already taken on because there is still a lot of room for improvement.

Mr. Bevis also reminded the Board that his evaluation is currently on hold at this point until after the pandemic so that we can revisit the issue when there is time to reach out to the Executive Committee regarding a plan.

Mr. Bevis explained that Mr. Jurica gave his resignation and we were planning on trying to have a more formal exit party scheduled for him, however that is something that we will also have to revisit once things slow down.

Dr. Akintilo asked if the Health Department is currently doing any testing onsite for COVID-19 and Mr. Bevis explained that we are currently not a test site, however both hospitals are currently testing, as well as Midwest Express and Physicians Immediate Care.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bevis introduced the FFCRA Act and how it applies to our employees. Prior to this act going into effect, we were approached in March by AFSCME regarding a contract that they wanted KCHD to agree to for all Union employees. The contract would provide above and beyond what the FFCRA includes for employees and Mr. Bevis explained that we did not have the staff or resources to support this contract. The Family First Care Recovery Act was set up by the Department of Labor and specifically states that Healthcare workers can be exempt from the act because their services are needed to help during this pandemic. Mr. Bevis felt that due to our limited staff and size of our Health Department, we would qualify as being exempt from the FFCRA because we are the lead agency responsible for investigating every COVID-19 case in Kankakee County. Mr. Bevis then explained to the Board that after consulting with Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Kramer, he was confident that the only possible solution for us to continue providing the citizens of Kankakee County the best support would be to exempt the Kankakee County Health Department from the FFCRA Act.

Mr. Bevis then explained that he did still want to protect his employees and would still be willing to provide the 10 full paid days if they or a member of their household tested positive for COVID-19 so that it would not create a hardship for them using their own time or having to take unpaid time. Mr. Bevis explained that he would be doing this for all Non-Union employees, and it was his hope to be able to provide the same benefits for all Union staff as well. After presenting this to the Union, they did not agree to accept our proposal and instead presented an almost identical version of their first proposal including 100% pay for up to 10 weeks for employees and the first three days paid even if employees test negative for COVID-19 which could then be used an unlimited amount of times between now and December 2020. Mr. Bevis also explained that private businesses would receive tax credits for employees who need to use the FFCRA and government agencies would not receive any tax credits to help cover expenses for their employees. Mr. Bevis felt there was no other option than to try and offer Union staff the same 10 paid days because the Kankakee County Health Department can't afford the people or resources to keep up with the pandemic if we do not have employees to help with ongoing investigations and to continue

providing mandatory grant regulated services to the community.

Mr. Bevis reiterated that he once again offered the Union the same agreement that he will provide to his Non-Union staff and they declined to accept the agreement. Instead, the Union filled out a petition asking Mr. Bevis to accept their original proposal. Mr. Bevis explained that with the Board's approval it was his intent to present this to all staff at April Full Staff meeting the following day, with the understanding that until the Union agrees to our terms then he cannot provide anything to Union staff at this point. Mr. Bevis also explained that we have reduced the risk of illness to our staff by closing our doors to the public and only offering curb service pickup, as well as twice- daily temperature checks on all employees. Mr. Bevis also concluded that if we were to lose 3-4 people it could really impact our ability to continue operations, which would then affect our grants and cause severe hardship to the Health Departments funding and our ability to provide the citizens of Kankakee County with their much needed services.

Mr. Bevis expressed that he feels he has gone above and beyond to explain to the Union our position and how impactful we are in the community and the fight in this pandemic and we are trying to meet them halfway by providing the same benefits that Non-Union staff will receive. Dr. Kurien made a motion to stand behind Mr. Bevis' decision regarding exempting the Kankakee County Health Department from the FFCRA, however still providing employees with 10 paid days if they or their immediate household family members test positive for COVID-19. The motion was seconded by Dr. Akintilo and passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Dr. Kurien moved to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Mr. Byrne and passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Dr. Abraham Kurien, Secretary

Minutes reviewed by, Mr. John J. Bevis, MPH, Public Health Administrator

Minutes prepared by, Ms. Nicole Finnegan, Administrative Coordinator