

**Kankakee County Health Department  
Regular Meeting  
June 11, 2020**

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

Members Absent: Mr. Michael Taylor, Dr. Simon Wu

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 5:02 P.M.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the June 11, 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. JohaneK to accept the May 14, 2020 Board of Health minutes, seconded by Mr. Byrne, the motion passed unanimously.

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

Mr. Bevis announced that we currently have one open position for a Client Service Representative, and we are in the process of interviewing candidates now.

DIVISION REPORTS

*Client Services*

NONE

## *Environmental Health*

NONE

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### *Financial Status*

Mrs. Weakley updated the Board on May 2020 financials, indicating that we received quite a bit of grant revenues from the Covid Crisis Grant, as well as some Case Management and PHEP Grant money. We are still waiting on \$414, 631.49 in outstanding Grant payments as well as property taxes. We are currently at 31.44% for revenues and 46.12% for expenses, and we should be at 50% for the year. Our cash on hand is at \$2,294,586.16. Mr. Byrne made a motion to approve May 2020 financials, seconded by Dr. Kurien, the motion passed unanimously.

## OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bevis announced that at our last meeting, we were at 874 cases of COVID-19. We are currently at 1,220 cases of COVID-19 with 60 deaths and 661 recoveries. We have had a lot more recoveries than new cases, and the school of thought is that cases may be slowing down. There is talk that the virus could have a second wave in the fall with schools starting up and making the decision to get back together could cause an uptick in cases. This could also be the eye of the storm; we are unsure what will happen next based on holidays and the urge to see family and friends. Most of us are in support of getting people back to work and part of that goal is putting together information for local businesses so that they can get back on track safely. As businesses get ready to reopen, we will continue to try and educate the public on following proper guidelines and put out as much information as possible so that everyone is informed. Mr. Bevis indicated that he has continued to do weekly interviews with the radio as well as counsel city and village officials who are trying to plan for next steps as they make plans to reopen.

Our staff has also been actively involved with educating the public and has really done an amazing job of stepping up to go above and beyond tasks that they have had to do in the past. It is refreshing to see many departments working together, as well as develop a deeper understanding for what their role is at the Health Department. Our staff brought up a great point in our last meeting, indicating that they have formed new relationships by interacting with coworkers through this pandemic that they would never have had the chance to do in the past. Mr. Bevis indicated that he can't say thank-you enough to all of his staff who have stayed late, been available on the weekends, and tirelessly put the health of our community first.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Bevis indicated he would need to go into executive session. Mr. Byrne made a motion to approve executive session, followed by Dr. Kurien, the Board entered executive session at 5:25 P.M.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bevis introduced our Women's Health Policy, which is a requirement of our Women's Health Grant. It was designed to encourage and educate women on the importance of routine and ongoing well-woman visits. Mr. Byrne made a motion to approve the Women's Health Policy, followed by Dr. Akintilo, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Bevis then announced that Mr. Johaneck, Mr. Byrne, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Gustafson are currently up for renewal of their term on the Board of Health. Mr. Johaneck, Mr. Byrne, and Mr. Gustafson all indicated that they would like to continue to stay on the Board of Health. Mr. Bevis then indicated that their next steps would be to contact Kelly Bylak at the county to fill out their application renewals and if there were any issues to reach out to Nicole for help.

Mr. Bevis shared that we recently found out that the Kankakee County Health Department qualifies for 2.8 million dollars for the Covid-19 Contact Tracing Grant. This means that anyone in the county who tests positive is then contacted by a member of our contact tracing team to determine who their recent contacts were and to track symptoms until they are released. Our nurses have currently been handling all our contact tracing up to this point, but it has been an overwhelming task based on the amount of staff we currently have. The Contact Tracing Grant is designed to allow us to hire personnel contractually so that we can have a dedicated team and allow our nurses to get back to the other services that we provide the community. The Contact Tracing Grant will also allow us to reach out to local hospitals to provide testing in the community and then we can reimburse them directly if necessary. We will also be able to help individuals who test positive and need assistance with room and board. We have submitted our budget to the State and once approved we should receive \$700,000 up front to start hiring for these contractual positions.

## ADJOURNMENT

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