

**Kankakee County Health Department
Regular Meeting
May 14, 2020**

Members Present: Mr. Rodney Gustafson, Mr. Jim Johaneck, 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 5:00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the May 14, 2020 agenda was made by Mr. Byrne, seconded by Dr. Akintilo, the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Byrne to accept the April 16, 2020 Board of Health minutes, seconded by Dr. Kurien, the motion passed unanimously.

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

Mr. Bevis announced that we had two resignations since our last meeting. We hired a Clinic Assistant, Junnah Gattermeir, and a Client Service Representative, Gabriele Hodge.

DIVISION REPORTS

Client Services

NONE

Environmental Health

NONE

Administrator's Report

Mr. Bevis confirmed there is nothing to report at this time, all discussion will occur under Covid-19 update.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Financial Status

Mrs. Weakley updated the Board on April 2020 financials, announcing that we have received \$68,000 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 May and June. We are currently at 24.91% for revenues and 38.88% for expenses, and we should be at 41.6% for the year. Our cash on hand is at \$2,30,740.51. Mr. Byrne made a motion to approve April 2020 financials, seconded by Mr. Johanek, the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bevis announced that since our last meeting, we have had an additional 600 cases of COVID-19. We are currently at 874 confirmed cases, 36 deaths, and 204 recoveries. About two days ago, we started posting the number of individuals that are hospitalized, and that number is currently 25. Covid-19 is prevalent all over the county. The Governor's plan is to increase testing to see what the positivity rate is and drive down the mortality rate. Two months ago, they were only testing individuals with symptoms. Now, they are letting everyone get tested. We are continuing to meet daily, and almost all employees are working overtime. We have also started accepting volunteers for calling patients. Our CD nurses have been working on initial calls, and volunteers and staff are making the follow-up calls that occur daily. We are operating by appointment only, and every employee is currently being screened twice a day.

Mr. Bevis also spoke about our partnership with the coalition started by Chairman Wheeler, in which we review what the restrictions are going to be moving forward and what the best option is to take for our county. We want to make sure that we use the health data in relation to what businesses need to know based on signage and language. The goal is to make sure that we have a safe and effective plan in place once we receive direction from the Governor on next steps for reopening. Mr. Bevis then noted that about 70% of our cases were long term care facilities. Our outbreak number is currently 459, of which more than two people and one location is considered an outbreak. As testing increases, there are many people that we are finding to test positive and be completely asymptomatic. Mr. Bevis explained that our job at the Health Department has been to do all the contact tracing, which entails documenting and tracking each case individually, as well as following up daily and reaching out and tracking the contacts that the positive case may have encountered and notifying them as well. This process is ongoing and is very time consuming for our Communicable Disease nurses.

Mr. Bevis was asked by some members if we were aware of any counties that were going

to be going against the Governors orders by opening. Mr. Bevis indicated that he had heard this might happen, but he has no knowledge of which ones. He then indicated that part of our plan with joining the coalition was to work towards an agreement in conjunction with the Governors orders and be ready when we are given the okay to reopen. The Health Department may investigate these instances of establishments opening, only if we have the staff to do so. At this time, we would not put our staff at any risk and will proceed cautiously. We are currently working with the States Attorney and the local police department regarding these issues. We also do not know what direction will be taken at this point, because that will depend on if the Governors orders are deemed unconstitutional. Mr. Bevis explained that he is currently focused on the public health work that we can and are doing.

Mr. Bevis then updated the Board on our latest communication with the Union regarding the FFCRA, indicating that we recently met with the Union. They presented almost the same proposal as the first time, which we were still unable to sign or agree upon. The phone call ended by the Union representative indicating that he would come up with a new proposal and be in touch with us. Mr. Bevis also indicated that we are still waiting on more information regarding a grant that could cover Hazard pay at a rate of 3-5% for our employees who have been deemed essential throughout the pandemic and required to work onsite and contribute overtime in relation to try and keep up with the Health Department's overwhelming role in this pandemic.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bevis explained that one of his goals for the year was to revise our policy and procedures to a more updated format. Mr. Bevis announced that we were able to start with our dress code policy and he introduced our dress code revision to the Board. Mr. Bevis then explained that we made some adjustments based on comfort for our employees and took their concerns into consideration when making these changes. We feel that we were able to encompass something for everyone and hope that the employees will be happier with this version. Dr. Kurien made a motion to approve the dress code policy revision, seconded by Mr. Johaneck, the motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Byrne announced that he brought a resolution to the County Board regarding the opening of local businesses within Kankakee County. He explained that he and other members were eager to get people back to work. Mr. Byrne indicated that there are currently four members working on the resolution and that they feel very strongly about this due to the mental and financial duress it has caused the county. This resolution would be for unincorporated Kankakee only.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

ADJOURNMENT

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