

**Kankakee County Health Department  
Regular Meeting  
February 11, 2021**

Members Present: Mr. Rodney Gustafson, Dr. Olatunji Akintilo  
Dr. Abraham Kurien, Mrs. Neelie Panozzo  
Mr. Jim Johaneck, Dr. Simon Wu

Members Absent: Dr. Syreeta Jones, Dr. Jeffrey Long

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

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

Others Present:

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Wu at 5:00 P.M.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 agenda was made by Mrs. Panozzo, seconded by Dr. Kurien, the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Gustafson to accept the December 17, 2020 Board of Health minutes, seconded by Mrs. Panozzo, the motion passed unanimously.

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

Mr. Bevis announced that we have made an offer to Shelby Shiver for our new Health Promotion Coordinator. We also had a Client Service Representative resign, and we are currently interviewing for that position.

## DIVISION REPORTS

### *Client Services*

We are continuing to serve clients through our curbside pickup for WIC appointments. We have now opened our clinic up for immunizations and are trying to get caught up with the number of children that require mandatory immunizations for school. We have also seen a rise in our county's HIV and Syphilis cases; therefore, we felt the need to open our STD clinic back up one day a week. We are also actively vaccinating groups 1A and 1B during our onsite clinics that are hosted in our conference room and that has kept our staff extremely busy.

None

### *Environmental Health*

Mr. Bevis indicated that guidance currently states that you can have up to 50 people or capacity for indoor dining, groups up to 10 people, with tables spaced 6 feet apart. Complaints have significantly decreased, and we are hopeful that it will stay that way moving forward.

### *Administrator's Report*

Mr. Bevis explained that our staff have been working tirelessly to get the vaccine out to as many people as we possibly can. Our greatest obstacle now is supply. We are not receiving enough vaccine to hold mass vaccination events; therefore, we are trying to work with our community partners and distribute it to Riverside, Meijer, and Jewel so that everyone can try and vaccinate people in our county. Another obstacle we are dealing with is not knowing how many doses we will receive and then trying to plan county wide with how many doses we can accommodate. The state has said they will try and give us more notice when sending out our allotment, however, that has not yet been the case. We were just told that we will receive 300 doses total for the county, which is disheartening, however the state told us that it is based on supply and factors like the weather. We have explained we will take anything they can give us, specifically Pfizer, because they were at a point where nobody could store Pfizer. We can work with Riverside, who has been hosting clinics with Pfizer, therefore, we made it clear that we can handle as much as they can send out. The process has been frustrating, primarily for planning purposes, as well as trying to explain to our county that we just don't have enough vaccine to pour into the community yet. Mr. Bevis also explained that our staff of 32 people has been inundated with phone calls and complaints because of the supply shortage and we are continuously trying to explain the process and why it seems as though we don't have enough vaccine to go around.

Mr. Bevis announced that Senator Joyce and Jackie Haas were part of a meeting in Springfield to voice their concern and help streamline the process. Our main frustration is that we aren't receiving the full amount that the state tells us we should receive and that snowballs into us communicating that to Riverside, Meijer, and Jewel that they also won't receive the supply. Therefore, it creates havoc when trying to plan clinics. This has been a very challenging process, but we have been reassured that things should improve as the state gets more organized and our vaccine supply should increase. To date, our county has vaccinated 12k first doses, and just about 3k full doses. That's 2.6% of our population vaccinated in a little over a month. We have not wasted any of our vaccine and if we had more to give out, we would be ready for it. Mr. Bevis then reviewed our process with the Board in which you register online with your phone number,

occupation, and other health factors so that we can contact you when you are eligible for your vaccine based on IDPH guidelines. Mr. Bevis also announced that he will be part of the NAACP online Town Hall event on February 16, 2021 in which we help educate the African American and Hispanic communities on the benefits of the vaccine because they are among the most apprehensive group to get the vaccine. Mr. Bevis then reiterated that our best effort is being made to make the vaccine available to everyone.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### *Financial Status*

Mrs. Weakley updated the Board on November 2020 financials reports indicating that we ended at \$3,099,988.52 total cash on hand for the year. Any revenues from Opioid, WIC, Case Management, and Property taxes can go back into November per the Auditors. Mrs. Weakley indicated that the budget has not been entered yet, therefore no vote is needed and we will have December 2020 and January's 2021 financials ready for next month.

## OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Bevis updated the Board regarding the Contact Tracing contract we were trying to pursue. Ultimately, the company that we wanted to use had not used Salesforce and the State did not want us to use them because it would require both IT departments to work together. Therefore, we decided that it was not going to be a possibility and we will continue to utilize our contractual staff. We did make some changes to the amount of full time Contact Tracers we had on staff in relation to the case loads decreasing. This was performance based and seems to be going smoothly based on our grant deliverables.

Mr. Bevis also indicated that we were not able to secure hazard pay for our staff in relation to the Local Cure Support Program. We were able to come up with a plan B for the allocation and use it for approved purposes within the program in relation to our budget and staffing needs.

## NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bevis explained that we have applied for a Vaccination Grant for a total of 275k that will allow us to complete vaccinations throughout the county. The grant also allows approved overtime, as well as supplies like carts, coolers, and screens that are necessary equipment for vaccinating.

Mr. Bevis stated that we have reapplied for the Adolescent Health Grant, however we have not received any word yet if that has been approved.

Mr. Bevis announced that we have received our annual SKDO Audit Engagement Letter, and it is not up for bid this year with the county. We would like to continue to use SKDO as they have always performed our audits along with the county and are familiar with our process. Dr. Akintilo made a motion to approve using SKDO, seconded by Mrs. Panozzo, the motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Bevis announced that there was potential threat of an arbitration based on a past grievance. At this point, we have not heard anything further.

ADJOURNMENT

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