

Moore County Board of Health
December 7, 2020

Members Present: Leo Santowasso, PE, PLS, Chair
Janice Baker, DVM, MS, DACVPM
Mark Brenner, MD
Betty J. Goodridge, MHA, CMA
Paul Kuzma, MD
William Mang, PharmD
Max Muse, RN, ME, Vice Chair
Kamron Monroe, DDS
Tony Price
Benjamin Wacker, OD
Robert R. Wittmann, MPH, Secretary to the Board

Members Absent: Louis Gregory

Call to Order and Introductions:

The meeting of the Board of Health was held via Webex and dial in. Chair Leo Santowasso called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m. Health Department staff present were: Teresa Forrest, Administrative Officer; Melissa Fraley, Nursing Director; Lora Denning, Administrative Assistant; Matt Garner, Health Educator; and Jennifer Wallace, Administrative Officer. Ward Medlin, Deputy County Attorney, was present for the meeting.

Invocation: Robert Wittmann gave the invocation.

Secretary to the Board: Robert Wittmann read the following statement: *Does any Board Member have a conflict of interest concerning agenda items the Board will address in this meeting?* None were noted.

Approval of, and/or Adjustments to, Agenda: There were no changes to the agenda.

Public Comments:

Albertina McGirt offered public comments. Robert Wittmann stated that these questions would be answered.

Presentations: COVID-19 Update:

Matt Garner reviewed the COVID-19 current situation with the Board. He noted that cases were rising quickly, both locally and across the world. He stated that it was expected that travel and gatherings over the Thanksgiving holiday would cause increased cases. In addition, testing had increased. It was noted that the CDC has a priority listing of those people recommended to get the first doses of the vaccine, when it becomes available.

Board of Health Education/Staff Reports:

State of the County Health Report: Matt Garner gave the State of the County Health Report (SOTCH). This report is compiled each year between the full-scale Community Health Assessment (CHA), which is on a 3-year cycle. The SOTCH gives an update of data used in the CHA, along with an update on progress in addressing priority concerns. Emerging issues are also examined. MooreHealth oversees the process and the Board of Health is invited to participate. The SOTCH will be emailed to the Board of Health and the Board of Commissioners and will be posted on the Health Department website.

Board of Health Committee Reports:

- 1.) Communications Committee (BJ Goodridge, Kamron Monroe, Tony Price):** Tony Price stated that the Communications Committee met on December 2nd. Tony Price noted that FirstHealth has a huddle call, previously scheduled twice a week, which had just increased to five days a week. He said that the Board of Health needs someone on those calls. He stated that the Board of Health is getting a tremendous amount of email and asked that the Health Department make sure it's information that the Board really needs to know before forwarding. Tony Price noted that there was an article in the paper and the Committee wanted Robert Wittmann to correct the record with the Pilot regarding a delay in reporting deaths. He stated that the Committee would like to have Robert Wittmann reach out to long term care facilities (LTCF) in the County and set up a group call. Robert Wittmann stated that the new regional team was hired to go to all LTCF in Region 6. This team could facilitate a regular phone conversation with Moore County LTCF or with all LTCF in Region 6. He noted that LTCF are owned by different corporations and might not be comfortable discussing strengths and weaknesses as a group. Tony Price asked him to try to meet once a month. Tony Price stated that there would be more initiatives to come.
- 2.) COVID-19 Committee (Mark Brenner, Max Muse, Benjamin Wacker):** Max Muse stated that the Committee met on December 3rd. They discussed a mission statement. Benjamin Wacker spoke about the topic of wastewater testing to identify COVID-19 hotspots. Leo Santowasso asked for more information at the January meeting.
- 3.) Vaccine Committee (Janice Baker, Paul Kuzma, Bill Mang):** Janice Baker stated that the Committee was to meet the following week.

Nursing Director's Report: Melissa Fraley stated that the CDC had updated guidance regarding quarantine for contacts of positive COVID-19 cases. The recommended quarantine period has changed from fourteen days to ten days, with no symptoms. This recommendation is in line with the isolation time for a positive case.

Health Director's Report: Robert Wittmann stated that there are two nutritionist vacancies and one public health nurse vacancy. Press releases are available on our website. The Health Department has requested three full time-equivalent nursing positions to staff our case investigations. The Department is working to distribute seasonal flu vaccine to the homeless, jail, and uninsured populations. The uninsured and homeless will receive hygiene kits, first aid kits, access to clothing and a hot lunch as well. The Department is meeting with County

Emergency Management and FirstHealth about vaccine planning. The Pfizer and the Moderna vaccines might be approved by the FDA in the next weeks. The vaccines are expected to ship within twenty-four hours of FDA approval, directly to hospitals and local health departments. Vaccine will also be shipped directly to CVS and Walgreens, for use in vaccinating LTCF residents and staff. Robert Wittmann stated that we have our own radio frequency and repeater on the County radio tower.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Consent agenda contained the minutes for the November 2, 2020 and November 6, 2020 meetings. Max Muse made a motion to approve the minutes for the November 2nd meeting. This was seconded by Mark Brenner. All were in favor and the motion carried. Tony Price made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 6th meeting, seconded by Janice Baker. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business:

Resolution to Support Opening Moore County Schools: Leo Santowasso asked if there was any opposition to the proposed resolution to support opening Moore County Schools. There was none. Kamron Monroe made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Paul Kuzma. There were none opposed and the motion carried.

Adopt Board of Health Meeting Dates for 2021: Leo Santowasso asked if there were any changes or conflicts with the proposed schedule for 2021. There was one change – the listing for January of the following year needed to be changed from 2021 to 2022. With that change, Tony Price made a motion to approve the schedule. This was seconded by Paul Kuzma. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Adjourn: Mark Brenner made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Bill Mang. All were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:34 pm.