

Moore County Board of Health
April 5, 2021

Members Present: Leo Santowasso, PE, PLS, Chair
Betty J. Goodridge, MHA, CMA
Paul Kuzma, MD
Max Muse, RN, ME, Vice Chair
Kamron Monroe, DDS
Tony Price
Robert R. Wittmann, MPH, Secretary to the Board

Members Absent: Janice Baker, DVM, MS, DACVPM; Mark Brenner, MD; Louis Gregory;
William Mang, PharmD; Benjamin Wacker, OD

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 6:07 p.m. Health Department staff present were: Teresa Forrest, Administrative Officer; Melissa Fraley, Nursing Director; and Matt Garner, Health Educator. Ward Medlin, Deputy County Attorney, was also 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: Kamron Monroe made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by BJ Goodridge. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comments:

No one signed up for public comments.

Presentations: None

Board of Health Education/Staff Reports:

Board of Health Committee Reports:

1.) Communications Committee Report: Tony Price stated that the Committee met on March 24th, with Kamron Monroe, BJ Goodridge, Tony Price and Matt Garner present. The Committee

identified three major agenda items that were to be addressed in this meeting: a long term care facility (LTCF) update; update on reaching out to marginalized communities about the vaccine; and reporting on deaths.

2.) Vaccine Committee Report: Paul Kuzma stated that the Committee did not meet and had nothing to report.

3.) COVID Committee Report: Leo Santowasso stated that there was no report from the Committee.

COVID-19 Update: Matt Garner updated the Board on the latest statistics and information regarding the Department's COVID response.

Department's Third Quarter Activity Report: Robert Wittmann stated that the numbers for Communicable Disease needed to be corrected. He said that he would send out a corrected report to the Board. He noted that, even in the middle of a pandemic, the Health Department is still providing regular services: adult health, family planning, maternal health, immunizations and sexually transmitted disease treatment. Care coordination services are now allowed to go out to clients' homes again.

FY 21 Third Quarter Fiscal Report: Robert Wittmann noted that the Department's expenditures are less than anticipated for this time of year and revenues are more than anticipated.

Department's Performance Measures: Robert Wittmann reviewed the performance measures.

Nursing Director's Report: N/A.

Health Director's Report: Robert Wittmann noted that he had emailed a LTCF report from Tamiko Gland. The percentage of LTCF staff vaccinated for COVID-19 ranges from 100% to a low of 25%. All staff have had the opportunity to be vaccinated but the government does not require that the staff be vaccinated. However, as these are privately run facilities, the corporations in charge may require that their employees be vaccinated. Vacant positions in the Health Department include two WIC nutritionists, one being a supervisor. The WIC Office is still contracting for nutritionist services. The State announced that the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine will be added to base allocations beginning April 12th. There is some local vaccine hesitancy. To address this, the Health Department has been working with local community leaders to produce youtube videos supporting vaccination. Moore County Schools are now open K-12 for full time in-person learning, as are many daycares and preschools. The Department continually

evaluates the need for community vaccination events. Previously, there were requests for vaccinations for independent living communities. As supply has increased, we have been working with group administrators to ensure that their residents get vaccinated. Some have their own transportation vans and some residents have their own vehicles. If no vans are available for the group, we have been in touch with Moore County Transportation, to utilize their services. Administrators have been asked to group appointments to make transportation easier. Currently, everyone is eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination in Moore County, with appointment registration through 947-SHOT. Direct appointments, as opposed to preregistration, for vaccinations are working very well. However, even though it is open to all 18 and older (16 and 17 if accompanied by a parent/guardian), the supply is overtaking the demand. We are coming to a saturation point of the willing. The Department has been stepping up our vaccine education campaign. Videos have been recorded and placed on our website. We are also purchasing space on several billboards in the County. We are working on getting posters professionally printed to be placed around the community in areas with high public access: such as grocery stores, laundromats, restaurants, beauty shops, and County property. Nationwide, about 1/3 of the population has had at least 1 vaccine dose and the 'wait and see' group continues to shrink. In Moore County, 1/3 of the residents have been vaccinated. Leo Santowasso asked Tony Price if the Communications Committee questions had been answered. Tony Price stated that he would like to hear more about outreach to the disadvantaged population and the Board of Health strike team. He noted that marginalized communities included more than minorities, such as the uninsured and people without transportation and television access. Robert Wittmann stated that COVID grant funds have more monies than can be wisely spent. DHHS continues to accept long-term grants with expectations to strengthen public health infrastructure at State and local levels. Public Health Week is April 5-11. Regarding marginalized communities, videos addressing vaccine hesitancy have been sent to our community partners. There is an educational campaign for the County, which will be addressing all areas. We've picked the posters and expect to distribute them in the next couple of weeks. Leo Santowasso asked about the training for the Board strike team. Robert Wittmann stated that he had been communicating directly with the people on the team. April 10th had been designated as a day for CVMS training for the strike team members. Since there is a COVID clinic already scheduled, strike team members could also shadow Health Department clinic workers. Kimmie Dowdy, Moore County IT liaison, has already processed requests to get strike team members access to CVMS. Robert Wittmann polled Board members about their availability for the training. Leo Santowasso was available and Tony Price stated that he would try his best, although he had a conflict. No other Board members were available for the scheduled CVMS/clinic training on April 10th. Robert Wittmann stated that Kimmie Dowdy could possibly offer group remote training on another day.

Approval of Consent Agenda: The consent agenda contained the minutes for the March 1, 2021 meeting. Kamron Monroe made a motion to approve the minutes. Tony Price seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Leo Santowasso asked for a motion to resume in-person Board of Health Meetings as soon as possible. Paul Kuzma made the motion, seconded by Max Muse. Board member discussion followed. Robert Wittmann noted the current restrictions for social distancing required by the Governor. The Health Department Board Room would not allow enough space for social distancing for the Board or any members of the public. The community room at the Rick Rhyne Public Safety Center is probably the best option for social distancing and audio requirements. Another good choice would be the community room at the new Board of Elections office. The Agriculture Center is not an option because the Health Department is conducting COVID-19 vaccination clinics there. We need to confirm if May 3rd is available for a meeting at the Rick Rhyne Center of the Elections Office. The Board of Health needs a motion to have the caveat that an appropriate facility, complying with current COVID-19 guidelines, must be available for an in-person meeting. Leo Santowasso asked for a motion to return to in-person Board of Health meetings at an appropriate location where we can respect all necessary protocols, with masks, social distancing, etc. starting on the next regularly scheduled meeting on May 3rd, 2021. Paul Kuzma made the motion, seconded by Tony Price. Ward Medlin asked for a roll call for the vote. BJ Goodridge, Paul Kuzma, Max Muse, Kamron Monroe, Tony Price and Leo Santowasso all voted in favor and the motion passed.

With no other items to discuss, Kamron Monroe made a motion to adjourn. This was seconded by Paul Kuzma. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.