

Moore County Board of Health
September 14, 2020

Members Present: William Mang, PharmD, Chair
Louis Gregory
Paul Kuzma, MD
Max Muse, RN, ME
Kamron Monroe, DDS
Tony Price
Leo Santowasso, PE, PLS, Vice Chair
Benjamin Wacker, OD
Robert R. Wittmann, MPH, Secretary to the Board

Members Absent: Mark Brenner, MD; Betty J. Goodridge, MHA, CMA

Call to Order and Introductions:

The meeting of the Board of Health was held at the Moore County Agriculture Center. Chair Bill Mang called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Health Department staff present were: Teresa Forrest, Administrative Officer; Melissa Fraley, Nursing Director; Jeanie Garcia, Administrative Assistant; Matt Garner, Health Educator; Miriam King, Health Educator; and Jennifer Wallace, Administrative Officer. Ward Medlin, Deputy County Attorney, was present for the meeting. Board members introduced themselves and Robert Wittmann introduced the staff.

Oath of Office: Jeanie Garcia swore in the three new members of the Board: Benjamin Wacker, Paul Kuzma and Tony Price.

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: Max Muse made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Kamron Monroe. All were in favor and the motion carried.

New Business:

- **Motion to Allow Public Comment at this Special Meeting:** Leo Santowasso made a motion to allow public comment at this special meeting. Max Muse seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.
- **Motion to Amend the 2020 Board of Health Meeting Schedule:** A meeting on Monday, November 2nd was added to the 2020 schedule. Kamron Monroe made a motion to approve the amended schedule. Leo Santowasso seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

- **Resolution Supporting the 3W's and 3M's:** Robert Wittmann read the resolution supporting, as effective control measures for COVID-19, the 3W's (wear a cloth mask over your nose and mouth; wait six feet apart and avoid close contact; wash your hands or use hand sanitizer) or the 3M's for the Spanish language. Max Muse made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Tony Price. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Public Comments:

Keith Clark attended the meeting and offered public comments.

Presentations: COVID-19 Update:

Robert Wittmann addressed the Board. The Health Department's goal in the response to COVID-19 is to prevent deaths, which involves: protect the most vulnerable population; slow the spread of the disease; and assure the integrity of our healthcare system. Strategies include: establish an incident command structure for projects (for example: community testing and public information); disseminate information to the public and community partners; assure long term care facilities (LTCF) and medical providers have NC Department of Health and Human Services and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and requirements; work with partners and the public to identify resources; assure LTCF have access to testing and have plans in place to isolate residents and staff who test positive; assure the elderly population is cautioned to shelter at home; assure community testing is available; provide case investigation and initial contact tracing; and assure on-going contact tracing. The Health Department has increased its communications with partners; developed and maintained a dashboard with statistics and information on COVID-19; worked with County government on its hotline; issued regular news releases; gave interviews; briefed elected and appointed officials; posted information on social media, the Department website, and outdoor advertising; and met with media to request promotion of the 3W's. In addition, Board member Paul Kuzma has worked through the Health Department to publish a series of articles addressing the disease process, as it relates to COVID-19.

Matt Garner presented the latest statistics on number of cases, recovered and active case breakdown, hospitalized numbers, deaths and percent of positive test results. The information is available on the Health Department's dashboard, accessed on its website. He noted that the Department's messaging and education revolves around the 3W's (wear, wait and wash), as well as the State's new campaign "Get Behind the Mask", which further promotes wearing a mask. A video for this campaign was shown and the public was urged to send messages, via the website or the Department's Facebook page, on how and why they are wearing their mask. The Department has hosted several mask distribution events. We are partnering with Miss Moore County, Karolyn Martin, on a promotional campaign "Together We are Moore". She will be posting a video each week on Facebook and the Department's website. Matt Garner recognized Miriam King, Health Educator. Miriam King is the face of Moore County Health Department, hosting our Facebook events and video updates, which will be posted each Friday. He noted that LTCF baseline testing was completed. Staff in LTCF are tested bi-weekly per mandate, with testing for symptomatic residents. In the case of an outbreak, all residents and staff are tested weekly. Moore County Schools have students with a combination of on-site and

remote learning. The Health Department has a weekly meeting with school administration, although Melissa Fraley, Nursing Director, addresses questions and concerns on a more frequent basis. The schools have a great plan and are doing a good job, with a low incidence of cases. They post a table on their website, which shows the number of cases for each school. The Health Department has partnered with Goshen Medical Center to offer several drive-through testing events, with more scheduled. There is no cost for the public and a doctor's referral is not needed. The Health Department continues to utilize the COVID-19 Community Team Outreach (CCTO) contact tracing initiative, developed and staffed by the State, for all contact tracing beyond the initial information provided during the case investigation. Bill Mang thanked the staff for the weekly Facebook updates, since the community has expressed interest in having this. He also thanked the Department for providing testing events. Robert Wittmann stated that all Health Department staff, in addition to pandemic response efforts, also continue to offer the services provided prior to the pandemic. Tony Price asked how comfortable the Department was with contact tracing. He stated that people who tested positive had called him and said that their close contacts were not contacted by tracers. Melissa Fraley stated that contact tracing has been an evolving process. The Department inputs data into the system and the State follows up. Bill Mang asked Melissa Fraley to provide a contact tracing update at the next meeting. Louis Gregory stated that the public is constantly calling the Commissioners, asking for information. He stated the Commissioners need this information in a way that they can help and can answer questions that they are asked. He stated that the public needs an opportunity to express concerns. He thanked the Board and Robert Wittmann for their work. He recommended that the Board of Health add to their meeting agenda an opportunity for each Board member to speak and ask questions. Robert Wittmann noted that daily COVID-19 updates are emailed, with a comprehensive situation update on each Monday. He stated that he appreciated the Board of Commissioners appointing very highly qualified citizens to the Board of Health. Paul Kuzma asked how the Health Department got information on positive cases, via labs or the State. Matt Garner stated that the labs enter the information into the State system. Melissa Fraley stated that Moore County information should come to the Health Department first. Sometimes the Health Department has to enter information into the system if the lab doesn't. Also, the State needs to vet the information before posting. Everyday, there are cases that are from another county that have to be cleared up. The numbers we report are actual positives that are calculated in-house. Paul Kuzma stated that sometimes people get multiple tests. Melissa Fraley stated that, depending on what the person getting tested reports, if the information matches close to 100% then the system will merge the results or ask the local department to review. Paul Kuzma stated that people ask him if they should get tested or, if they were near someone positive, what they should do. He asked if there is a Moore County Health Department resource for these questions. Melissa Fraley stated that the Health Department gets similar questions everyday and these are routed to the nursing office. One phone line, 910.947.4516, is dedicated to COVID-19 calls and questions are answered by nursing staff. Tony Price asked if the Health Department was pushing information down to primary care for people testing positive. He stated that sometimes his clinic does not know if their patients are getting tested. When they do know, they can track and call, etc. Melissa Fraley stated that we have not gotten to that level. A lot of times, people seek their primary care provider for advice on testing. If money is an issue, they can be referred to CVS or Goshen for no-cost testing.

With CVS, their lab (Lab Corp) feeds information into the State system. Other than that, there is limited information available. There is more information from the FirstHealth testing sites. Tony Price stated that it would be great to close the loop somehow. Robert Wittmann stated that he would contact the Goshen representative and set up a conference call to address this issue.

Approval of Consent Agenda: Consent agenda contained the minutes for the July 13, 2020 meeting. Kamron Monroe made a motion to approve the minutes. Leo Santowasso seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion carried.

Old Business: There was no old business.

Bill Mang stated that he was stepping down as Chair. Leo Santowasso, Vice Chair, will take over Chair duties for the remainder of this year and next year. He opened nominations for Vice Chair. There were none and he asked to table the nominations till the next meeting. Robert Wittmann stated that it would be taken up at the next meeting. He asked Board members to think about someone to nominate and come prepared to make a nomination. Leo Santowasso stated that he welcomed anyone to step up and he would hope for someone with experience. Robert Wittmann stated that the only requirement to be Vice Chair is that you be a current member of the Board of Health. Robert Wittmann stated that he will talk to Ward Medlin prior to the next meeting regarding the procedure.

Adjourn: Bill Mang made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Max Muse. All were in favor and the motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 7:33 pm.