

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

April 5, 2022

The meeting was called to order by President Dr. Craig Miller at 6:32 p.m.

Board members attending: Dr. Miller, Tracy Fox, Dr. Larson, Dr. Samuelson and Dr. Pedavoli.

Staff members attending: Dr. Holm, Sandy Dunfee, Danielle Burck, Dean Schmidlapp, Sonya Lawrence, and Karen Janus.

Dr. Larson made a motion to accept the minutes as presented, seconded by Tracy Fox. Motion carried.

HEALTH OFFICER REPORT:

Things are running smooth and Covid has slowed down compared to where it was.

ADMINISTRATOR/ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT

House Bill 1245, which starts July 1st, takes power away from the Health Department and makes it much easier to get septic/well permits. If an engineer, soil scientist or installer finds it can repair or put a system in, they can override our inspection report. We are still in control of the fees and inspections. We can write in the county inspection report our findings if it does not adhere to code, but that is all we can do. Regional Sewer District can petition to not pay tap in fees after July 1. Grace period increased to 20 years. We have petitioned IDEM and they will schedule hearings and to get a final determination. We have not written an objection – we pushed through Health Managers Assoc. to get it stopped but to no avail. The engineers, soil scientists and installers should follow code but some will not due to money. Inspection does not go past county level. The state only involved in commercial sites. We need to track trend lines, failed inspections, etc. Faith will talk with Attorney Clevenger regarding options.

The opioid settlement is part of one of the commissions and we will need to work together to initiate treatment, access to treatment and prevention programs. We are in the process of partnering with Dustin's Place and Community Corrections to get Narcan out. Still needing final direction from the state and FSSA to set the parameters we need to meet. Bowen Center is pushing for more family practitioners in the area to treat opioid use disorder and prescribe Suboxone. We need access to services in Marshall County.

NURSING REPORT:

Covid vaccination administration is still going on. We are down to one day to week and appx 20-30 vaccinations. Our test site is now 3 days a week – Monday, Wednesday and Friday and one Saturday a month. Test site will remain open until the end of June. If we still have grant money remaining, we will remain open past June 30. We are the only county left in the area still testing. There is a new website, Covid.gov, to assist people with testing and test to treat. The website shows community levels as well.

We held immunization clinics at the schools in the county to help increase our immunization rates. We are in the process of trying to get back to STD testing and applied for Lead Grant. School nurses in other counties have been reaching out to us for assistance because they are not finding the support they need. We would like to do a training this summer to help the nurses work together to resolve questions or issues. Pre-Covid we had about 10 lead cases per year – we only hear about cases when it is over the state-set threshold. WIC is looking to see if they can send referrals to us.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS REPORT:

In early March, the state held a workshop that covered sections of the emergency operation plan as well as some guidance on how to begin developing the multi-year training and exercise plan. I am hosting a meeting with our ESF-8 partners to discuss emergency preparedness training and exercises for that plan as well as the after-action report which will cover strengths and areas of improvement regarding covid. The Training and Exercise Plan and After Action Report aren't due until late June.

FOOD REPORT:

Things are getting back to normal. Getting ready for the summer season/festivals. Don't know when Culver's will open. We have been getting applications for Blueberry Fest.

NEW BUSINESS:

No New Business.

OLD BUSINESS:

Blue Zones – Trying to solicit support for funding sources for when we apply for Ready Grant. Ready Grant funding requires a 20% match from outside sources beyond the state. Requesting towns set aside ARP funding to support the needed funding as a match. Culver committed \$75,000.

There are two phases – 1st phase is 1-2 million, 2nd phase 6 million. Looking at 1st phase and have some investors that are interested in getting Blue Zones to Marshall County. As the Ready Grant applications come out in early summer, we will have an opportunity over the course of the summer to apply and hope that our project makes it into the Ready mix. A letter of support for pursuing Blue Zones project from the Board to the Marshall County Commissioners would be helpful. The Commissioners have a say in what projects to consider. Blue Zones are interested in Marshall County because when they visited us, they thought we had a very good infrastructure. We could be the first Blue Zones in the state and it would attract businesses and families. The Board agreed to a letter of support.

Dr. Pedavoli discussed fluoride in the county's water. Culver discussed taking fluoride out due to costs but are no longer considering it. Plymouth and Culver still have fluoride and Argos and Bourbon do not. When communities are looking to remove fluoride due to costs, he provides articles of support that shows the positive impact and the benefit of keeping it in.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 28, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Dr. Pedavoli made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tracy Fox. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Janus.