

DUBUQUE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

DATE: Wednesday, January 20, 2021
TIME: 6:00 p.m.
PLACE: Dubuque County Health Department Board Room
1225 Seippel Rd.
Dubuque, IA 52002
(Due to the current COVID-19 situation Board Members and public should attend through ZOOM – link is included at the bottom of this agenda))

Agenda

1. Roll Call
2. New member welcome
 - a. Hendrick Schultz, MD
 - b. Adam Hoffman
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
 - a. December 16, 2020
5. COVID-19 Update
 - a. Current counts
 - b. Vaccine education/distribution
 - i. action
6. Member term expiration dates
7. Meeting format
8. Budget work session
9. Election of officers 2021
 - a. Chair
 - b. Vice-Chair
10. Meeting schedule
11. Public Comment

At this time, anyone may address the Board on matters of which are of concern to that person and which are NOT agenda items. Please go to the podium, state your name and home address. Please be aware that the Board is limited in their ability to respond to such inquiries and Iowa Code prohibits the Board from deliberating or acting on items not appearing on the agenda. Please limit your comments to two minutes.

12. Adjournment

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/9090167418?pwd=NIhpSndvL2p3emRxZ3N0NFNYMk54QT09>

Meeting ID: 909 016 7418

Passcode: 011350

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Dubuque County Board of Health

Minutes of December 16, 2020

Mr. Bechen called the December 16, 2020, Dubuque County Board of Health Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present:	Tom Bechen, Diane Pape-Freiburger, Tim Daly, Lynn Sutton, Suzanne Stroud
Members Absent:	Corey Young, Dr. Bobby Koneru, Dr. Valerie Peckosh, Katie Jones
Others Present:	Patrice Lambert, Dubuque County Health Department; Samantha Kloft, Dubuque County Health Department; Stacy Killian, VNA; Collin Dolphin, Dubuque County Health Department; Chuck Isenhardt, Iowa State Representative; Ed Raber, Interim Board Executive Director; Dave Baker, Dubuque County Supervisor; Harley Pothoff, Incoming County Supervisor; Ben Fischer, TH, Gail Weitz, David Harris

Additional Notes:

1. Roll Call

2. Approval of Agenda

Tim Daly made the motion to approve the Agenda for December 16, 2020. Diane Pape-Freiburger seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes

a. November 9, 2020

Diane Pape-Freiburger made the motion to approve the Minutes for November 9, 2020. Lynn Sutton seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.

b. December 2, 2020

Suzie Stroud made the motion to approve the Minutes for December 2, 2020. Diane Pape-Freiburger seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.

4. COVID-19 Update

Samantha Kloft shares her screen to display a COVID-19 update presentation led by Patrice Lambert. The presentation goes over updated zip code data and COVID-19 statistics for Dubuque County. It also provides an update on convalescent plasma donations in Dubuque; BioLife Plasma Services is no longer taking donations and Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center does provide compensation for donations in the form of Amazon gift cards. The presentation also provides a COVID-19 vaccine update to the BOH, and includes more detailed information on expected vaccine allocations and priority groups.

Patrice Lambert also shares that through the County EOC, requests can be made to hire additional nursing staff through a Statewide Nursing Contract as needed, though the number of available nursing staff is limited. She also includes that the Alternative Care Site is still being investigated by the IMT.

Patrice adds that there is a new rapid testing site in Dubuque at the NW Arterial Hy-Vee. Tests cost \$100 and you can receive your results in 1-2 hours. She also informs the BOH that vaccine promotion and communication to the public has become a new focus for the IMT. The Team is working with Randy Gehl to potentially have mass mailings of COVID-19 vaccine information sent to all Dubuque residents to prepare for the vaccine's arrival.

Lastly, Patrice shares that two additional vaccine groups have been created to assist with planning for the COVID-19 vaccine. These are 1. Local pharmacies and 2. COVID-19 vaccine providers. Meetings between these groups will continue in preparation for vaccine distribution.

Stacey Killian – In the past week, the VNA has received 344 new cases and 379 calls and contacts from the community, making it a total of 31,187 contacts since the start of the pandemic. The VNA continues to work with 14 facilities on a daily basis to assist with COVID-19 including schools and long-term-care facilities. Starting December 9, all positive cases will be called 28 days after testing positive to be informed about donating convalescent plasma. The VNA also plays a part in planning and allocating the COVID-19 vaccine throughout Dubuque County. In the future, the VNA plans to also administer the vaccine throughout the community.

Diane Pape-Freiburger comments that the public is very anxious about the COVID-19 vaccine and she wants the public to know that they will be informed as there is more progress and changes moving forward. Patrice responds that she just received an Iowa Health Alert that Iowa will not be receiving the volume of vaccine that was anticipated. It may be reduced by as much 30%. Patrice adds that this type of information needs to be known through the public and when planning with Randy Gehl, this will be addressed.

Tom Bechen adds that this is a great example of how the BOH needs to be very careful with how this type of information is communicated to the public.

Stacey also adds that she did an interview earlier in the day with Mary Rose Corrigan to discuss the process of how the vaccine gets allocated throughout the County and what to expect as the vaccine arrives.

Diane asks what community partners can help get this information out to people who do not have access to mainstream media. Patrice responds that the City of Dubuque does have an equity group that is focused on this right now.

Tom Bechen asks how the mask inventory currently is. Patrice responds that only one city clerk has asked for masks. Tom Berger's last update was that there are roughly 20,000 masks left.

5. Finance

Samantha Kloft shares her screen to show the proposed FY22 budget that was shown at the last BOH meeting. Tom Bechen talks through the budget and asks the other Board members for any input or suggestions for changes to the proposal.

Diane Pape-Freiburger adds that more money should be allocated to immunization education and training to improve the vaccination rate in Dubuque County. She also adds that more money will be needed in the coming year to reach and assist all areas of the County.

Diane Pape-Freiburger made the motion to approve the proposed FY22 budget and move it to the BOS for further discussion. Lynn Sutton seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.

6. Convalescent Plasma Incentive

Diane Pape-Freiburger believes that this topic was already covered by Patrice earlier in the meeting. There is no more to add.

7. Well Variance – Thomas Houston, 9091 River Lane, Dubuque, IA 52003

Collin Dolphin from the Dubuque County Health Department explains the well variance proposal and shares a photo that gives the BOH an idea of the specific situation. Apple River Well and Pump did an inspection of the property. Gringerich Well and Pump started drilling when they received a call about a septic was 50 feet away from the location. An advisor through the Iowa DNR said that it would not be a problem to allow this variance but that there should be mandatory water testing once a year for this site.

Tim Daly approves of this well variance with the support of the Iowa DNR.

Tim Daly made the motion to approve the well variance for Thomas Houston. Diane Pape-Freiberger seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.

8. Reporting Relationships/Protocols

Tom Bechen begins the discussions by saying that Patrice Lambert reports to the BOH. He would like to talk about how that relates to others throughout the County.

Diane Pape-Freiberger adds that since the start of COVID-19, the BOH was second in getting communications from Patrice. The BOH has since been receiving reports after the BOS while they should be giving directive to Patrice and the Health Department. Tom questions the value of reporting to the BOS every Monday when time could be spent on vaccine planning and preparation. He suggests that Patrice submit a written report to the BOS each week. This would allow Patrice and the IMT more time to work rather than giving reports and answering questions.

Tim Daly agrees that if these reports are duplicates to the BOH, the BOS meeting is not necessary for Patrice. Diane agrees.

Suzie Stroud asks what the next step would be to make this happen. Tom responds that at Monday's BOS meeting/work session, it can be brought to discussion. Suzie supports Tom doing so at the next BOS meeting.

Diane adds that Patrice should be reporting to the BOH and the public, as well as BOS, will continue to be invited to the BOH meetings.

9. Next Meeting

The BOH agrees to meet again on January 6, 2021 to avoid meeting December 30, in the middle of the holidays. New Board members will be welcomed at the next meeting.

10. Public Comments

David Harris – On behalf of the sisters at Mt. St. Francis, he asks that the BOH consider them as a priority group for the COVID-19 vaccine, similar to other long-term-care facilities. These women are elderly and have already lost sisters due to COVID-19.

Gail Weitz – Asks the BOH to address one of their goals, access to medical and dental care for all ages, by supporting Medicare for All. 25% of Iowans are on Medicare/Medicaid. In light of the pandemic and its impact, this would help those in need.

Supervisor Dave Baker – This is Dave's last meeting with the BOH as a County Supervisor. He would like to thank the Board for all of their work and service to the citizens of Dubuque County. This volunteer service has turned into a full-time effort for many people during this time and it has not gone unnoticed.

It is also noted at this time that this is Tim Daly's last meeting as a member of the BOH. He will now be serving on the Watershed Board that is being created in Dubuque. He also extends his thanks to the BOH.

11. Adjournment/Next Meeting

Suzie Stroud made the motion to adjourn at 7:40 pm. Diane seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom Meeting.