

***Dubuque County Board of Health Meeting
Minutes of April 7, 2021***

Mr. Bechen called the April 7, 2021, Dubuque County Board of Health Meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present:	Tom Bechen, Diane Pape-Freiburger, Katie Jones, Adam Hoffman, Hendrik Schultz, Corey Young,
Members Absent:	Suzanne Stroud, Dr. Bobby Koneru
Others Present:	Patrice Lambert, Dubuque County Health Department; Samantha Kloft, Dubuque County Health Department; Stacey Killian, VNA; Ben Fischer; TH Ed Raber, Interim Board Executive Director; Ann McDonough, Chair to Dubuque County Supervisors; Harley Potthoff, Dubuque County Supervisor; Jennifer Erickson; Wayne Kenniker; Michaela Freiburger; Chris Corken, Community Foundation for Greater Dubuque

Additional Notes: The BOH starts the meeting with a display video thanking the Dubuque County Health Department for their work over the past year, as this week is National Public Health Week.

1. Roll Call

2. Public Comments

None

3. Approval of Agenda

Corey requests to add Key City Pride to the agenda.

Diane Pape-Freiburger made the motion to approve the Agenda for April 7, 2021 with the addition of Key City Pride as item #9. Hendrik Schultz seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Diane Pape-Freiburger made the motion to approve the Minutes for March 17, 2021 and March 25, 2021. Hendrik Schultz seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.

5. Board of Supervisor / Board of Health Liaison Comments

Supervisor Ann McDonough shares that it may be helpful for the BOH to know about the water sampling being done throughout Dubuque County. Adam Hoffman could potentially speak to this with the BOH.

Ann also shares her thanks to the Health Department during this week. She appreciates the work being done while being overtasked throughout the past year.

The BOS did sign a memorandum of understanding to move forward with the additional POD site at the Grand River Center led by the City of Dubuque and the Dubuque Fire Department.

At the BOS meeting on Monday, there was conversation about the completion of Phase 1B vaccinations and where this leaves the county-wide mask mandate. She urges the BOH to discuss this at the next meeting. Tom Bechen responds that when the resolution was passed by the BOH, there was a plan to re-visit the mandate at the end of April. This will be on the next meeting agenda.

6. COVID-19 Update

Samantha Kloft shares her screen to display a presentation led by Patrice Lambert. Patrice starts by sharing statistics of where the Dubuque County currently is with COVID-19 cases, deaths, and vaccination rates. At this time, 48.5% of residents 16+ have been fully vaccinated or are in the process of completing their 2-dose vaccination series. Additionally, 85% of residents 65+ have been fully vaccinated or are in the process of completing their 2-dose vaccination series.

Patrice also shares that a limited number of J&J vaccinations are coming to the state of Iowa and that there could be a decrease in Dubuque's J&J allocation moving forward.

The new SleevesUp call line has been activated this week and they are currently helping Dubuque County residents schedule vaccination appointments. This will benefit all providers who have access to this list of callers.

The IMT is also working on a plan to vaccinate college students before the start of summer break. Additionally, plans are in the works to get those at the county jail vaccinated in the coming week. J&J would be an ideal vaccine for both populations; however this may not be possible.

Patrice shares the IMT's At-Risk Population Plan. This full plan was sent to the BOH, but she highlights the following:

The Equity Immersion Team meets on a bi-weekly basis since January 11 to implement the following strategies:

- Translated marketing messages in Spanish and Marshallese to address limited English ability.
- Use social media and short bursts of information to address misinformation, concerns, and information overload.
- Distribute information through trusted messengers to address distrust.
- Include information on transportation options to points of distribution.
- Provide information on SleevesUp Dubuque for people who do not have a healthcare provider.
- Encourage people to speak with their employer regarding time off for vaccination.

Patrice also shares that the billboard campaign to promote COVID-19 vaccinations will start on April 12, 2021. On the screen, there is a display of sample billboards to give an idea of what the messaging will be. These billboards will be places throughout the county.

Patrice then shares the current financial status of the vaccine POD at the Kennedy Mall. The budget is displayed on the screen and she assures the BOH that all costs are covered by grant funds other than maintenance/repairs through Mr. Rooter. These costs will be paid via CARES \$.

Lastly, Patrice shares that the new SleevesUp call line number is (563) 690-MAKE or (563) 690-6253. This call line is for residents needing vaccinations, boosters, or help navigating appointment schedulers.

Diane Pape-Freiburger clarifies that this SleevesUp number will be the answered by City of Dubuque employees. Patrice also adds that this number will be promoted on all billboards. Diane then asks if callers are first scheduled to go to the mall clinic or another location. Patrice responds that this is still being worked out. At this time, anyone who calls in is put on a waitlist and all providers call in to receive referrals. In the following weeks, this will change so that city staff can schedule appointments for callers to go directly to the POD.

Diane asks for a definition of fully vaccinated. Patrice responds that you are fully vaccinated 2 weeks after the booster shot is given. This means that some in Phase 1B will not be “fully vaccinated” for another few weeks. Hendrik Schultz adds that the single dose already offers a good amount of protection and there can be a prolonged wait between the 2 doses and the vaccine will still be effective.

Diane also asks why there is a difference in positive cases between DOMO and IDPH reports. Samantha Kloft responds that she has not had a chance to ask IDPH but plans to at the Friday webinar. In the past IDPH has attributed this difference to a lag in data reporting.

Diane asks who is doing contact tracing in Dubuque County. Stacey Killian responds that the VNA and IDPH partner together to do contact tracing.

Diane asks if it was ever discussed to put flyers with vaccine information in the food boxes. Patrice responds that she did pass that idea along to Kelly Larson but has not yet heard back. She will check on this.

7. Brain Health Chris Corken

Chris Corken presents on behalf of the Community Foundation for Great Dubuque and brain health work done through this organization. This work is funded with grants awarded by the Dubuque County Supervisors. The Foundation currently holds monthly meetings with stakeholders about various brain health issues throughout the county and asks providers how they are doing and what they need, especially during covid. With law enforcement, they continue to work with Dubuque police to connect them with mobile crisis workers. Officers also received crisis intervention training (CIT) and they continue to train other staff. Every shift is covered by a CIT officer, as well as at the two hospitals. With the sheriff's office, mobile crisis is more difficult, but there is a plan to have a mental health professional imbedded in the department who will be called out with the sheriff when there is an incident in the county. Smaller police departments throughout the county are also getting involved.

In the jail, the Foundation has been able to implement a jail psych nurse who is designated to focus on brain health issues, including substance abuse. They also coordinate this information with medical providers. The psych jail nurses are now working 15 hours per week.

After 30 days in jail, you lose Medicaid. After 90 days you lose eligibility for federal housing vouchers. The Community Foundation for Great Dubuque provides services where these gaps occur for inmates through home health wrap around services with Hillcrest to assist with getting these individuals reestablished. This allows people who are in jail to have existing wrap around before they leave. There is also a cohort in the jail that commit low-level crimes, often because of the brain health issues they may have. The Foundation is working to move this group through the system faster. Once an individual enters the jail system and is classified as having a brain health issue, the judge is notified, and they are placed on a "brain health docket" that ideally allows them to move through the system faster. Because of COVID-19 this has been in hiatus but getting started up again.

The children's brain health working group was started about a year and a half ago by the Community Foundation for Great Dubuque. They are tasked with projects and create relationships with the school systems to assist students. They are currently working to develop these three programs:

1. Peer to peer support groups
2. Explaining the mentoring program
3. "Baby Labs" – A program for 0-5 infants and parents working on brain health issues

Two grants were also secured throughout the past year that will help fund more social emotional support activities and programs for facilities providing childcare at St. Marks and The Dream Center.

Chris then mentions “listening sessions,” in which staff have visited with families throughout the county to ask questions like: What do you need to address your brain health issues and how can we support? This listening model has been applied to other areas of work such as elder brain health.

The three areas that the Community Foundation for Great Dubuque is currently working to improve are:

1. Telehealth – a gamechanger during COVID-19
2. Substance abuse evaluations within the jail
3. Brain health work throughout the county, not just within the City of Dubuque. More specially, work among the agriculture community.

Lastly, Chris comments that the brain health impact of COVID-19 is going to last beyond this pandemic and stresses the importance of enhancing this work moving forward.

The BOH thanks Chris for coming to speak on behalf of the Community Foundation for Great Dubuque. Tom Bechen comments that he needs time to process all this information and brainstorm where the Board can fit into this work or assist with what is already going on in the community.

Diane Pape-Freiburger also comments that while the basis of brain health issues are the same, the response today needs to be different as there are more resources to access. Hendrik Schultz and Ann McDonough also thank Chris for coming to speak and share their thoughts on the need for brain health work in Dubuque County.

The BOS will be appointing a new BOH member next Monday, and they will keep in mind this brain health component that is needed within the Board.

8. Food Policy Council

Tom Bechen reminds the BOH that in the agenda packet there are a list of grants being proposed by the Food Policy Council. The first seven grants on the list pertain to the BOH. Tom entertains a motion to recommend the approval of these grants and move it along to the BOS.

Michaela Freiburger notes that all grantees are aware of these steps and that funds will not be released until the start of FY22. Additionally, Michaela thanks the Community Foundation for Greater Dubuque, as they have been able to assist with funding 7 of the 14 projects of the Food Policy Council.

Katie Jones made the motion to approve the grant proposals and pass them on to the BOS for final approval. Hendrik Schultz seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.

9. Key City Pride

Corey Young starts the conversation by stating that there will be a Key City Pride conference April 22nd and 23rd in Dubuque County. Corey, along with Suzie Stroud have requested this to be on the Agenda to ask for sponsorship of the event. Tom Bechen was advised by the County Budget Director that this not be added as any requests for money from outside agencies needs to be made to the BOS, not the BOH.

Diane asks if it is possible for the BOH to go on record stating their support for this event and equity and diversity throughout the county. Hendrik supports this idea and adds that as a BOH, they are for the health of all county residents, including those in the LGBT community. Hendrik wonders if Corey can assist the Board with addressing needs of this community moving forward. Corey agrees and stresses the need for the BOH to support this group in the community.

Katie Jones wonders if the BOH could take out an ad in the conference packet to promote COVID-19 vaccines.

Corey shares his screen to display the flyer of the event for meeting attendees who are interested in registering, sponsoring, or funding an ad in the packet.

Ann McDonough comments that she will reach out to the County Budget Director to see what can be done for the Key City Pride Conference through the BOS.

10. Next Meeting

April 21, 2021 at 6pm via Zoom. At this meeting there will be a discussion about the mask mandate resolution as well as county water testing with Adam Hoffman. Diane adds that the Food Policy Council will be bringing an RFP to the BOH on April 21 as well. The Agenda will be published on Friday, April 16, 2021.

11. Public Comment

None

12. Adjournment

Diane Pape-Freiburger made the motion to adjourn at 7:45pm. Hendrik Schultz seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.