

Dubuque County Board of Health

Minutes of January 20, 2021

Mr. Bechen called the January 20, 2021, Dubuque County Board of Health Meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Tom Bechen, Diane Pape-Freiberger, Suzanne Stroud, Dr. Bobby Koneru, Dr. Valerie Peckosh, Katie Jones, Hendrik Schultz, Adam Hoffman

Members Absent: Corey Young

Others Present: Patrice Lambert, Dubuque County Health Department; Samantha Kloft, Dubuque County Health Department; Stacy Killian, VNA; Ed Raber, Interim Board Executive Director; Harley Pothoff, County Supervisor; Ben Fischer, TH, Ann McDonough, County Supervisor; Mary Rose Corrigan, City of Dubuque

Additional Notes:

1. Roll Call

2. New Member Welcome

a. Hendrik Schultz, MD

Hendrik Schultz is originally from Germany and moved to the US in 2003. He is now the Chief Medical Officer for Medical Associates Clinic and Health Plans. His wife is a physician at Loras College and they have two college-age sons.

b. Adam Hoffman

Adam Hoffman moved to Dubuque in 2011 and teaches at the University of Dubuque. He focuses on chemistry and has a special interest in water quality. His wife is a special education teacher at Roosevelt and they have two young sons.

3. Approval of Agenda

Diane Pape-Freiberger made the motion to approve the Agenda for January 20, 2021. Valerie Peckosh seconded the motion. 7 Aye, motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

a. December 16, 2020

Diane Pape-Freiberger made the motion to approve the Minutes for December 16, 2020. Suzie Stroud seconded the motion. 7 Aye, motion carried.

5. COVID-19 Update

Samantha Kloft shares her screen to display a COVID-19 update presentation led by Patrice Lambert. Patrice introduces the Dubuque County Incident Management Team (IMT) to the new Board of Health members. The presentation goes over updated zip code data and COVID-19 statistics for Dubuque County. It also provides an update on the County's vaccination plan and includes more detailed information on vaccine allocations and priority groups within Phase 1A and 1B. To date, Dubuque County has received 5,050 COVID-19 vaccines and all have been put into arms. The IMT predicts that Phase 1A will be complete at the end of next week. Patrice also informs the BOH of a flyer that will be mailed to all residents of Dubuque County. The flyer includes information on the COVID-19 vaccine and where to go for more information. This is sent out in an effort to reduce the numbers of calls and questions coming to the Health Department and VNA.

Stacey Killian – In the past week, the VNA has received 976 calls and contacts from the community, making it a total of 32,922 contacts since the start of the pandemic. There are on average over 100 calls a day asking for more information on the COVID-19 vaccine. The VNA still provides all long-term-care facility follow ups and daily calls as well as daily assistance to 14 other facilities. 1,037 calls have been made to encourage positive COVID-19 cases to donate convalescent plasma as well. The VNA has played a prominent role in vaccine distribution throughout Dubuque County. They manage vaccine allocations and contacts with those already receiving the vaccine. VNA staff have also been able to assist with 596 COVID-19 vaccinations in the last few weeks. The VNA sees their role with vaccinations increasing in the coming weeks.

Diane Pape-Freiburger thanks the IMT and local health care providers. She mentions that while attending another county's EOC meeting, she found that Dubuque is doing a much better job in pandemic response and coordination with health care throughout the County.

Diane Pape-Freiburger asks who is reporting vaccinations into IRIS. Stacey Killian responds that all health care providers who are allocated vaccine through the VNA use IRIS to report vaccinations. Diane clarifies that all providers now have the interface to enter immunizations that weren't being put in before.

Diane Pape-Freiburger asks if the local colleges have a plan for bringing students back to campus after the winter break. She adds that she heard about campus testing for all students. Patrice Lambert answers that the IMT is meeting with higher education every other week and that they have not heard of on-campus testing at this time. All campus nurses have been vaccinated.

Tom Bechen asks if IRIS is specific enough to show who has been vaccinated and who has not. Stacey Killian replies that she can only see how many doses each provider has left, which is changing constantly throughout the day. Diane believes

that that data can be seen by the State. Stacey adds that she will ask if there are any helpful reports like that available through the State.

Tom Bechen adds that the action item under the COVID-19 update was for the flyer being mailed out. However, that is now being funded fully through a grant and no longer needs Board attention.

6. Member Term Expiration Date

Tom Bechen starts the discussion by stating that three members where added to the Board of Health were added with differing term dates. It is Tom's understanding (through communications with the IDPH representative and the County Attorney) that as long as everyone is okay with these term dates, they are allowable.

Suzie Stroud has received a two year term and she states that she does not have an issue with the assigned term dates. She does wonder how the term dates were decided.

Ed Raber and County Supervisor, Ann McDonough, provide input on why and how the 1-year, 2-year, and 3-year terms were decided. This was done to avoid large amounts of member terms ending at the same time and potentially losing a forum.

Diane Pape-Freiburger stresses that Iowa Code states all Board of Health members will serve for 3 years. She believes that going against Code will create issues in the future for mask mandates and/or other rulings that follow Iowa Code.

Corey Young is another member serving one of these terms. This topic has been tabled until input from Board member Corey Young is available.

7. Meeting Format

Tom Bechen asks the other Board of Health members how they like the current format of the Board meetings, and if there are any suggestions for how to change it.

Diane Pape-Freiburger suggests adding a public comment section to the beginning of the meeting in order for community members to provide input on current agenda items.

Tom Bechen suggested chat stay turned off, as in a in-person Board meeting, chatting throughout is not allowed. Suzie Stroud also adds that she appreciates that chat is off during the meeting to avoid side conversations that are missed in the Minutes.

The Board agrees on the following proposed meeting format:

- Include a public comment section at the beginning of each meeting for topics related to the agenda.
- Continue to have the chat function turned off during all public meetings.

- Include a public comment section at the end of each meeting for topics unrelated to the agenda.

Suzie Stroud made the motion to approve the proposed meeting format as stated above. Valerie Peckosh seconded the motion. 8 Aye, motion carried.

8. Budget Work Session

Chair Tom Bechen informs the Board that on January 25 at 4:00pm there will be a budget work session between the Board of Health and Board of Supervisors to approve the proposed FY22 budget. All Board members are welcome to attend, however it is not mandatory.

9. Election of Officers 2021

a. Chair

Suzie Stroud nominated Tom Bechen as Board of Health Chair, 2021. Tom Bechen accepted the nomination and no other nominations were made. Katie Jones seconded the motion. 8 Aye, motion carried.

b. Vice-Chair

Katie Jones nominated Diane Pape-Freiburger as Board of Health Vice-Chair, 2021. Diane Pape-Freiburger accepted the nomination and no other nominations were made. Valerie Peckosh seconded the motion. 8 Aye, motion carried.

10. Meeting Schedule

Diane Pape-Freiburger suggests meeting twice a month during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in the wake of vaccinations.

The Board members agree to continue meeting on the first and third Wednesday of each month at 6pm via Zoom. The Agenda will be posted the Friday prior to each meeting.

11. Public Comments

County Supervisor Ann McDonough – Welcomes the new Board of Health members and adds that many community members applied for the Board of Health this year. In their applications, many public health issues were brought to attention that may not be on the forefront of Board members minds during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as substance abuse and brain health. She asks that attention be brought back to these issues in the coming year.

12. Adjournment/Next Meeting

Diane Pape-Freiburger made the motion to adjourn at 7:52 pm. Suzie Stroud seconded the motion. 8 Aye, motion carried.

The next Board of Health meeting is scheduled for February 4, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom Meeting.