

***Dubuque County Board of Health Special Meeting
Minutes of March 25, 2021***

Mr. Bechen called the March 25, 2021, Dubuque County Board of Health Special Meeting to order at 5:30p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present:	Tom Bechen, Diane Pape-Freiberger, Katie Jones, Adam Hoffman, Hendrik Schultz, Corey Young, Suzanne Stroud
Members Absent:	Dr. Bobby Koneru
Others Present:	Patrice Lambert, Dubuque County Health Department; Cori Burbach, City of Dubuque; Mary Rose Corrigan, City of Dubuque; Rick Steines, Dubuque Fire Chief; Ben Fischer; Ed Raber, Interim Board Executive Director; Ann McDonough, Chair to Dubuque County Supervisors; Harley Potthoff, Dubuque County Supervisor; Jay Wickham, Dubuque County Supervisor, Tom Berger, Dubuque County EMA; Bennett Goldstein, TH; Sharon Larson

Additional Notes: None

1. Roll Call

2. Public Comments

None

3. Approval of Agenda

Hendrik Schultz made the motion to approve the Agenda for March 25, 2021. Adam Hoffman seconded the motion. 5 Aye, motion carried.

4. COVID-19 Funding Requests

All proposal questions presented to the IMT from the BOH were answered in the Agenda Packet prior to tonight's meeting.

Tom Bechen notes that the cost of the proposal has changed to \$47,300 since it was last presented to the BOH. He then shares his screen to show a comparison between the proposal on March 17, 2021 and March 25, 2021. Originally, the total cost was estimated at \$55,000. Hendrik Schultz questions the estimated cost per day of the additional POD site. Tom comments that in the proposal on March 17, it states \$40 per hour per staff member.

Diane Pape-Freiberger comments that the questions she submitted were not fully answered in the FAQ sheet. She references #12 first and asks if fire fighters would be

working more overtime to staff the POD. She also references question #21 and asks if all current providers have been informed on the plans for the additional POD. With an increase in doses, how will that effect distribution to current providers?

Diane then asks how many vaccines have currently been allocated to the underinsured or uninsured in the County. Where is the best site to distribute vaccine to this population?

Rick Steines responds to Diane's first question (#12) by stating that the fire fighters are contracted with the City of Dubuque and are subject to mandatory overtime. Staff do not have a large capacity per hour, but that is because they will also be responsible for their daily work as fire fighters. They are looking a variety of staffing options to staff the POD while avoiding overtime and burnout.

Katie Jones asks if there has been any consideration of having volunteers provide vaccines at the POD as well. Rick responds that their medical director would have to sign off on volunteer work. It is possibly, just trickier for coordinating volunteers.

Hendrick Schultz asks if it is possible for the fire fighters to assist at other locations. Rick responds that it is possible, as they are approved vaccine providers by the State.

Diane asks if that would only be within city limits or if they can work out in the county. Rick responds that yes, it is within city limits, but if the city gives a different directive, they may be able to assist out in the county.

Patrice Lambert circles back to Diane's question #21 in the Agenda Packet. She comments that on a weekly basis, the IMT meets with all vaccine providers to discuss vaccination plans and capacity, in addition to many emails back and forth throughout the week. The additional POD site was discussed with the providers at the last meeting. The providers were very open in this discussion in saying that they can increase capacity if needed. Some have mentioned extending hours, adding staff, etc. to accommodate to a large increase. Patrice believes there is a concern among providers that things may change for them with the addition of an additional POD. Diane asks if the current providers are willing to be supplemented with fire fighter staff members. Hendrik believes that providers may fall short when it comes to staffing when vaccine allocations triple. This would be a good opportunity for the fire fighters to come in and support the current system. Patrice adds that the IMT does not know how much vaccine the county will be getting. This information is shared by IDPH on a week-to-week basis, making it difficult to plan. There are many unknowns that make it difficult to predict what will be needed from providers in the coming weeks.

Hendrik does not have concerns that people will not pull together if/when a large allocation arrives to ensure no vaccine is wasted, he is worried though that this large increase will not come for a while.

Diane asks if the IMT knows how many vaccines the county will be getting next week with the increase the state is getting. Patrice responds that the IMT does not know this. A state increase does not necessarily mean there will be an increase in Dubuque County.

Diane also asks how the last meeting with vaccine providers ended. Patrice responds that the IMT thanked providers for their openness and flexibility. The IMT also encouraged providers to reach out to BOH members if they are concerned about the additional POD site. Patrice admits that maybe this should have been brought to the providers sooner. Diane comments that we are where we are today because of these providers.

Patrice also comments on questions about the location of the additional POD site by saying that the IMT has reached out to many county mayors to assess if there are alternative locations to provide the vaccine. The IMT is also looking at different avenues to reach vulnerable populations.

Mary Rose Corrigan adds that POD planning is all contingent on allocation increase and capacity of staff. This additional POD is not the only place that needs focus when thinking about equitable vaccine distribution. The IMT is working on more creative ways to get the vaccine to all Dubuque County residents. Suzie Stroud is glad to hear this and adds that there are many people who do not go to the current vaccination sites that will fall through the cracks. It is encouraging to hear that there are discussions happening to address this population. Diane adds this ties in to staff concerns.

Katie Jones asks if the Equity Committee has plans in place for this population to get vaccinated. This includes home visits and parks. Mary Rose Corrigan responds that the Committee's report can be shared at the next BOH meeting. The IMT has been working with these groups to ask for opinions on where the best place would be to provide the vaccines. As more vaccine becomes available, these different "pop-up" vaccination sites can be further explored and activated. Diane asks if it is possible to conduct home visits. Mary Rose adds that this is a possibility if the funding this there to do this. This is something that Crescent is exploring. Suzie also adds that as the weather gets better, more if this outreach may become a greater possibility. Patrice comments that some of our vaccine providers have already gone to locations such as the shelters to provide vaccine to many of these populations. As far as having a plan for those who are homebound, the IMT is not there yet, but it is something that will be discussed.

Katie comments that this is the first time she has heard of this committee and she is wondering if there is a way to be more connected with this group. Patrice responds that Mary Rose is the IMT representative for that committee and Patrice will add that information into the weekly updates. Suzie receives the information from the committee as well and is willing to share it.

Tom Bechen circles back to a comment made by Hendrik earlier. He adds that there may not be a need for an additional 4-month POD as many county residents are already being vaccinated quickly. Diane adds that she interpreted Henrik's comment as meaning staff need to be used in the most impactful way. She does not necessarily believe that a second POD will accomplish that.

Katie Jones comments that she would not like to see current providers lose their current allocations due to the addition of another POD. She believes that the second POD should not be activated until current providers and the POD are at capacity. Katie, Diane, and Hendrik express their desire to see the fire fighters assisting at the current POD site.

Adam Hoffman draws attention to question #7 and asks how much would be spent at the POD initially. Would the call center and all software be immediate payments? Rick Steines replies that the call center/software would be paid monthly at a maximum cost of \$15,000. If the cost goes above that, the county would not be responsible for paying. Cori Burbach adds that the software contract is at least 3-months long and they would like to start April 5. The team is researching other software programs as well. She also adds that with the contract at the Grand River Center, we are first priority for the space and they are very flexible.

Rick Steines asks the BOH to consider the fire fighters staffing the additional POD as that is the directive from the City. He does not want to overextend staff's ability to help at other sites at this time.

No action was taken by the BOH on this proposal, as no motion was presented.

5. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting is set for Wednesday April 7, 2021 at 6:00pm via Zoom.

6. Public Comment

None

7. Adjournment

Diane Pape-Freiburger made the motion to adjourn at 6:37pm. Katie Jones seconded the motion. 7 Aye, motion carried.

The BOH will hold their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday April 7, 2021 at 6:00pm via Zoom.