

***Dubuque County Board of Health Meeting
Minutes of September 15, 2021***

Mr. Bechen called the September 15, 2021, Dubuque County Board of Health Meeting to order at 6:00p.m.

Roll Call:

Members Present: Tom Bechen, Diane Pape-Freiberger, Adam Hoffman, Sandra Larson, Hendrik Schultz, Katie Jones

Members Absent: Amy Crow Sunleaf

Others Present: Patrice Lambert, Dubuque County Health Department; Samantha Kloft, Dubuque County Health Department; Stacey Killian, VNA; Ben Fischer; TH; Ann McDonough, Chair to Dubuque County Supervisors; Candace Eudaley-Loebach; Food Policy Council, Danielle Stowell, Food Policy Council; Dave Snider

Additional Notes:

1. Roll Call

2. Public Comments

3. Approval of Agenda

Diane Pape-Freiberger made the motion to approve the Agenda for September 15, 2021. Hendrik Schultz seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Sandra Larson made the motion to approve the Minutes for August 11, 2021 with the proposed changes. Diane Pape-Freiberger seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.

5. COVID-19 Update

Samantha Kloft shares her screen to display a presentation led by Patrice Lambert. Patrice gives the BOH a brief update on COVID-19 vaccinations in Dubuque County. She shares that Dubuque County remains at a community transmission level of high. Patrice also shares the following updates:

- Individuals age 29 and under make up almost 50% of all positive covid-19 cases in Dubuque County in the last 7 days.
- Since the start of the 2021 school year, positive COVID-19 cases have increased among school age individuals.
- Dubuque County currently ranks 6th in the state for highest vaccination rates.

- Those 65+ and/or immunocompromised are able to get a third dose of the Pfizer vaccine 8 months after receiving their second dose.

Diane Pape-Freiberger shares that 2 weeks after testing positive for COVID-19, an individual is able to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Diane also asks if there is a number of individuals considered “infectious” in Dubuque County. Hendrik Schultz and Samantha Kloft explain that there are many reasons it is difficult to report this number. There is not a clear representation of this number of the DOMO dashboard.

Diane asks if the hospitals are reporting the number of “infectious” patients they are seeing. Hendrik Schultz responds that those numbers are not easy to access and will not tell much. Numbers are lower than November of last year but there is also a staff shortage of nurses nationwide. Therefore, reporting capacity is complex. Katie Jones also adds that the number of hospitalizations reported is for Dubuque County residents, not necessarily all COVID-19 hospitalizations in Dubuque County hospitals. Patrice comments that the IMT does meet with the hospitals on a weekly basis to ensure hospitals are able to continue working and treating patients effectively.

Hendrik Schultz comments that at risk groups and those being hospitalized has slightly changed since last year. With high rates of RSV, hospital beds are now filling with children. This was not the case last year.

Diane would also like to the public to know that you are now able to get the COVID-19 vaccine with other vaccinations like the flu shot, rather than spacing them out.

Diane also asks how long it takes for positive cases in the schools to hear from the VNA with further guidance. Patrice responds that with different methods of testing, some positive cases are received by IDPH and reported later than others. She adds that contact tracing should be done within the first 72 hours of the reported positive.

Only positive cases are contacted by the VNA. It is up to the positive individual/family to reach out to any close contacts.

The VNA works with the schools on a daily basis to discuss positive cases/outbreaks.

Sandra Larson asks if there is anything the BOH can do to assist with vaccinations and testing. Patrice responds that personal testimony has been proven helpful in increasing vaccinations. She also adds that additional supplies for rapid testing would be helpful, though it is difficult to find those supplies in the US. Patrice also adds that the IMT advertises that individuals wishing to get tested for COVID-19 should consider the at home test kits rather than visiting the ER unless it is an emergency. This helps prevent the healthcare system from being overburdened.

Patrice also shares that some colleges offer the at home test kits as well. They continue to work with the Health Department to access those.

6. Food Policy Council Report

The Food Policy Council has received funding to hire two staff members this year. These staff members, Danielle Stowell and Candace Eudaley-Loebach, introduce themselves and share their goals and objectives for working with the Food Policy Council over the next fiscal year. The four main areas they are working on include:

1. Administrative and organizational support
2. Relationship and capacity building
3. Policy Review
4. Demonstration project – this is related to food production, processing or distribution and will be done through gardens and education within schools.

Diane Pape-Freiberger asks if this work with the schools will address increasing concerns of childhood obesity. Candace responds that healthy food and childhood obesity are high on the list of project needs among the Food Policy Council.

Katie Jones and Hendrik Schultz feels this is very needed in Dubuque County and they share their excitement for this work.

Adam Hoffman asks how the schools responded to this project. Candace shares that the teachers at this school have been trying to get this started for years so it was received very well by both teachers and families.

7. Country View Estates Plat Approval

The Dubuque County Board of Health is presented with a plat approval for Country View Estates. Samantha Kloft shares that at the pre-plat meeting earlier this week, it was decided that additional work is needed before a final plat is ready for approval.

Dave Snider is also on the call to answer questions from the BOH and explain the reasoning for delay in receiving the final plat.

Diane Pape-Freiberger made the motion to table this plat approval until a final plat is presented. Hendrik Schultz seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.

8. BOS/BOH Liaison Comments

Supervisor Ann McDonough shares that the BOS has discussed the Country View Estates plat as well and she encourages the BOH to get education on plat approvals.

She also adds that people in the Dubuque County Court House who have been vaccinated against COVID-19 are becoming infected with COVID-19. She urges that the BOH

recommendations need to be amplified. She would look voluntary masking to be taken more seriously.

Ann also comments the BOS has also asked the IMT and Health Department what else they need to assist with vaccinations, testing, and water testing.

9. Next Meeting Date – October 20, 2021

10. Public Comment

Nichole Wolf-Murphy – Shares her concerns about keeping track of COVID-19 breakthroughs in Dubuque County. She feels this should be recorded and shared with the public. She also asks if PowerPoints can be shared prior to the meeting to allow the public more time to view them.

Wayne Kinniker – Asks if the BOH has considered the affects of hospitals and business mandating vaccinations and large amounts of staff resigning.

LaVonne Larson – Reminds everyone that mandates are not law.

11. Adjournment

Hendrick Schultz made the motion to adjourn at 7:36pm. Katie Jones seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.