

***Dubuque County Board of Health Meeting
Minutes of October 20, 2021***

Mr. Bechen called the October 20, 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, Amy Crow Sunleaf
Members Absent:	Katie Jones
Others Present:	Patrice Lambert, Dubuque County Health Department; Samantha Kloft, Dubuque County Health Department; Fischer; TH; Ann McDonough, Chair to Dubuque County Supervisors; Stacey Killian, VNA; Malissa Sprenger, MercyOne; Michelle Arnsdorf, MercyOne

Additional Notes:

1. Roll Call

2. Public Comments

3. Approval of Agenda

Diane Pape-Freiberger made the motion to approve the Agenda for October 20, 2021. Sandra Larson seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.

4. Approval of Minutes

Diane Pape-Freiberger suggested two changes to the Minutes. These are typos.

Diane Pape-Freiberger made the motion to approve the Minutes for September 15, 2021 with the proposed changes. Hendrik Schultz seconded the motion. 5 Aye, 1 Abstain, 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:

- Cases have continued to increase steadily since the start of the 2021 school year.
- Those age 0-17 make up the majority of COVID-19 cases in the last 7 days.
- Local testing providers report that they have an adequate supply of testing materials at this time.

- There has been a recent change to CDC guidance. Guidance previously stated that people who are fully vaccinated and exposed to COVID-19 should receive a COVID-19 test 3-5 days after exposure. This has now changed to 5-7 days after exposure.
- The FDA plans to meet on October 26 to discuss Pfizer's submission for pediatric vaccinations (ages 5-11). This will then move to the CDC ACIP Committee on November 2-3 for final approval.
- On October 14-15 the FDA approved booster doses for Moderna and J&J COVID-19 vaccines. The CDC ACIP Committee will meet on this on October 20-21 for final approval.

Diane Pape-Freiberger asks if the local pharmacies will receive vaccine for booster doses and pediatric vaccinations. Patrice responds that yes, pharmacies have been able to re-order vaccination similarly to the Health Department.

Diane Pape-Freiberger asks if transmissibility is the same for all COVID-19 variants. Dr. Hendrik Schultz responds that it is not usually for variants to develop over time. He adds he is not aware of variants being more transmissible or "worse" than the Delta variant. There is no variant at this time that has raised red flags the way Delta has.

Tom Bechen asks if there is zip code level data related to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases. Patrice responds that this can be included in the Friday update that is received by all BOH and BOS members.

Sandra Larson asks if it is fair to say children 12-19 years old are the lowest vaccinated age group. Patrice responds that it is difficult to tell as we do not have a good idea for how many people are in this age group. She adds that schools may have this number. Diane also adds that this number could be found through the VNA who already administers vaccinations for this age group.

Sandra Larson shares a personal story of a close friend who passed away this month from COVID-19. She was unvaccinated. Sandra wants to know what the IMT is doing to continue promoting vaccinations. Diane comments that messaging needs to change as people are not listening anymore.

Diane also shares concern for the lack of available rapid tests, especially for more vulnerable populations. She asks if Dubuque County can become a 24 hr. pickup site for the at-home test kits to increase turnaround time. Tom Bechen comments that the BOH must do everything possible to make sure people have access to testing. However, there are individuals who will not access these resources even when experiencing symptoms.

Sandra Larson asks if there is a plan for Dubuque County to purchase rapid testing supplies once they are more available. Patrice responds that there is not a plan at this time. Diane comments that there are over-the-counter antigen tests that could potentially be purchased. Patrice responds that these tests are not always the most accurate. Hendrik

Schultz comments that antigen tests provide quick, onsite results but there is a gray zone where it cannot detect early infection. This is due to the test's low sensitivity. Hendrik concludes that PCR and antigen tests both have pros and cons based on the overall goal of testing.

Patrice adds that the IMT has contacted schools, higher education, daycares, and city clerks to offer a supply of at-home test kits.

Diane asks if DOMO is reporting the number of booster doses being administered. Patrice responds they have not started reporting that as of today.

6. Receive and File
a. WIC Quarterly Update
b. VNA Report

Diane asks if there is any data from the VNA regarding vaccination rate comparisons over the years. Stacey Killian responds that the VNA is working to get this but does not have it at this time.

Amy Crow Sunleaf made the motion to receive and file the WIC Quarterly Update and the VNA Report. Hendrik Schultz seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.

7. MercyOne Mobile Unit

Malissa Sprenger and Michelle Arnsdorf from MercyOne provide the BOH with a brief introduction to the new mobile unit that will begin serving Dubuque County in November. This unit will be able to reach a wider range of Dubuque County residents who may not typically see a regular health care provider. Malissa and Michelle also see this unit being used to better address brain health concerns and COVID-19 vaccinations.

Hendrik Schultz shares his excitement for this mobile unit and its ability to close gaps in the community. Tom Bechen adds that the BOH looks forward to working further with MercyOne on this in the future.

8. BOS/BOH Liaison Comments

Supervisor Ann McDonough shares that MercyOne has applied for ARPA funds through the BOS to support this mobile unit. She adds this application came to the BOS with two strong letters of support from Dr. Gorden and Dr. Peroski.

Ann also shares that the State has now taken over brain health funding that will end December 1. The county will not have the capacity to fund brain health projects moving forward.

Ann thanks Amy Crow Sunleaf for her proposal for ARPA funds that addresses the need for Mental Health Court in Dubuque County. She emphasizes the importance of BOH input on this project.

Tom Bechen asks if there will be guidance coming from the finance department to make any adjustments related to brain health funding. Ann responds that there will be.

9. Next Meeting Date – November 17, 2021

10. Public Comment

11. Adjournment

Hendrick Schultz made the motion to adjourn at 7:10pm. Diane Pape-Freiburger seconded the motion. 6 Aye, motion carried.