

Adams County Board of Health

Minutes

July 22, 2021

The following members were present:

Richard Wright, DDS
Ann Reich, RN, BSN
Harry Ruth, MD, MHA
Chris Larson
Mark Peter
Jan Poulter, RN
Becky Campbell, MSN, RN, CPNP

Others present:

Jerrod Welch, Public Health Director
Cori Moore, Director of Fiscal and Administrative Services
Ellen Vonderheide, Director of Public Health Programs
Josh Jones, Assistant States Attorney
Dr. Jim Daniels, Medical Director
Sid Wilson

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.

The agenda was amended to add new business –to suspend business rules and open the meeting for public comment then motion to resume. Motion to approve the amended agenda was made by Chris Larson. Motion was seconded by Jan Poulter. Motion Carried

Motion was made by Ann Reich to approve the minutes from the April 2021 and May 18th meeting as written. Motion was seconded by Mark Peter. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Chris Larson to suspend business rules and 2nded by Mark Peter.

Public Speakers were Nikki Buehler and Krista Tenhouse in regards to COVID mandates. Each speaker was given 5 minutes to share their information with the board.

Motion was made by Ann Reich to resume the meeting. Motion was seconded by Chris Larson. Motion Carried.

Review Engineering Proposals

3 engineering proposals for the replacement of the HVAC system were received and remained unopened until this meeting. They were opened and the meeting was paused so that copies could be made for the board to review. Each proposal was discussed as well as past issues. Motion was made by Mark Peter to select BRIC. Motion was Seconded by Becky Campbell. Role call vote was taken with 7 yes votes, 0 no votes and 2 absent. Motion carries.

Director of Nursing

Deb Laird is no longer with the Health Department she has moved back to Michigan to be close to family. This has left a vacancy in our clinical division. The department has undergone a slight restructuring and Dental is now under the supervision of Ellen. This will move Maternal Child Health under the new director and create a Director of Nursing Position. This position was advertised, and Emily Hendrickson has been hired to start in late August.

COVID Update

Jerrod Welch presented a covid update. Dr. Daniels and Ellen Vonderheide also provided updates.

About a month ago, COVID operations were scaled down. However, since late June there has been an uptick in cases. We are currently seeing hospital numbers rise. Positivity rate is holding at just under 8%. The department continues to contract trace and try to manage outbreaks.

The department is currently accepting walk-ins for COVID vaccine. Adams county is currently at 41% fully vaccinated.

Adams county is seeing breakthrough cases, however local data shows that vaccine is 87% effective. There have been some questions of Boosters as of late. The health department isn't giving those until it is approved by the FDA. There have been some Physicians giving orders for additional doses, but those are being referred back to the provider. Some people that have received J & J are requesting something else.

The department is working on sequencing and possibly starting to look at wastewater samples to see what variants are around.

Several questions from the public were brought up including when Nursing homes can reopen for visitors and discussion around Recommendation and Court order quarantines.

Outreach clinics and back to school events will offer the covid vaccine. There is also a state team that is available to assist with vaccination – one of the most pressing places will be the Welcome Inn.

Financial Packet

The board reviewed the financial packet. Normally at the July meeting the budget is reviewed, it has not been written yet, but will be soon. Motion to approve the financial packet was made by Ann Reich. Motion was seconded by Chris Larson. Motion carried.

Other Business

Business reports were reviewed. The department continues to return to normal. Back to school vaccines have increased and in late July/August the department will be heavily involved with getting kids back to school with the shots they need. WIC visits are still curbside, hopeful for state guidance to resume indoor soon. There will be a household hazardous waste collection even October 9.

Motion to adjourned the meeting was made by Ann Reich. Motion was seconded by Becky Campbell. Meeting was adjourned at 8:38.