

**MCDONOUGH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021**

The McDonough County Board of Health regular meeting was held in the board office on Wednesday, January 13, 2021. The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Dr. Amy Waschull, President.

**Members Present:** Dr. Tim Fitzgerald, Carrie Pedigo, Dr. Amy Waschull, Patty Smith, Dr. Nancy Parsons, Marcia Moll, Terra Litchfield, and Dr. Karen Blakeley

**Members Absent:** none

**Staff Present:** Lynnette Cale, Chris Adams, Kathy Cleer, Ben Thompson and Kerri Allen

**Visitors Present:** Scott Schwerer, Edgar Rodriguez, and Gretchen DeJaynes

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**Call to Order:**

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President Dr. Amy Waschull.

**Minutes:**

**A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARCIA MOLL AND SECONDED BY CARRIE PEDIGO TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 9, 2020 MCDONOUGH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**

MARCIA MOLL- YES

DR. TIM FITZGERALD- YES

DR. NANCY PARSONS- YES

CARRIE PEDIGO-YES

PATTY SMITH- YES

TERRA LITCHFIELD- YES

DR. AMY WASCHULL- YES

DR. KAREN BLAKELEY-YES

**Claims:**

**DR. TIM FITZGERALD MADE A MOTION; SECONDED BY PATTY SMITH FOR THE APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR THE PERIOD OF DECEMBER 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$149,712.99. MOTION CARRIED. ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN:**

MARCIA MOLL- YES

DR. TIM FITZGERALD- YES

DR. NANCY PARSONS- YES

CARRIE PEDIGO-YES

PATTY SMITH- YES

TERRA LITCHFIELD- ABSTAINED

DR. AMY WASCHULL- YES

DR. KAREN BLAKELEY-YES

**Reports:**

**Board of Health-** none

**County Board-** Terra Litchfield introduced herself as our newly appointed Board of Health member from the County Board.

**Directors Reports-**

**Environmental Health Division**

Chris Adams, Environmental Health Director

Chris reported that his division is working on case work. He just recently had the 2019 food review and we passed. In addition, we are gearing up for tier 2 which does allow for indoor dining. We have had complaints about restaurants being open for indoor dining and they have been sent a second notice. Those have also been sent to the State's Attorney.

### **Community Health Division**

Kerri Allen, Community Health Director

Kerri reported that her division is focusing on administering vaccine. They have done 230 vaccinations and 370 that are scheduled to be done. They are still working on level 1a and are starting to do some 1b. She was on a conference call about setting up a call center to schedule appointments. Kerri said her division is starting to schedule other service appointments such as WIC, blood draws and immunizations. McDonough County has had 2092 Covid-19 cases, 19 new cases, 56 active with 14 cases being newly recovered, and 48 deaths. Schuyler County has had 587 Covid-19 cases with 6 new, 32 active, 3 newly recovered and 15 deaths.

### **Administrator's Report**

Lynnette Cale, Administrator

Lynnette reported that we are slowly trying to start existing programs. We have requested a second extension for IPLAN to finish working on it. It is audit time and Kathy is busy working with them for WIC audit, DHS County audit and our FY 20 audit with Sikich. Lynnette has been working on the DCEO money and the Covid-19 spending.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **COVID-19 UPDATES**

Lynnette updated the BOH members on the Covid-19 numbers. We have two new state programs. Salesforce is a voice over internet program with a 312 number. Many people don't answer the call since they think it is a Chicago number calling them. Ben Thompson is our tech person for the program. They are constantly trying to update and improve the program. At first the staff didn't want to learn the program but are fine with it now. Kudos to the staff for learning a new program during the pandemic. We have shifted more experienced nurses and contact tracers into contact tracing and case investigations. We have heard of people traveling during the holidays. We are finding that people are being increasingly more difficult about giving information. Big kudos to the staff for working on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day. We still have staff working seven days a week on cases. Team A and B will all be returning to work on January 19<sup>th</sup>. We got to order vaccine today. We get a one day notice before it's delivered and we don't know how much we will get. Once you start using Pfizer you have six hours to use it and it is only good for 5 days once it is unfrozen. Moderna you have a longer time frame to get it used. Pharmacies are taking care to the long term care facilities and MDH is taking care of the front lines and healthcare workers. We are also trying to fill in the gaps. We have a closed clinic on Monday for police and 1a people. There is a new software program for the vaccinations called EMTrack. The State of Illinois has used this program before. EMTrack allows you to schedule clinics, preregister for a date, time and location, and check out. It gives you a QR code that you take with you to your appointment and they scan it to check you in. Once you check into your appointment, it allows you to track the person in the process until they are discharged. We had some issues with the program but contacted a tech and got things fixed. You can also scan the back of their driver's license and it prefills the forms. This program also reports to the state and ICARE when we give a vaccine and also takes it out of our inventory. It reminds them of their appointment and when they are close to needing their second dose. Some people don't have an email so we have created an email account at the health department for the information to be sent to. There have been very few reactions with the vaccines. We have epipens on hand in case of a reaction. Health Services I has an empty spot that we can use free of charge for a clinic. We are working on graphics and communications for

setting up that site. The second dose of Pfizer just came in to the health department. MDH will begin administering those doses in the next couple of days. For the Pfizer vaccine, Ben has to go to Peoria with a police officer to pick that up. The Moderna vaccine is direct shipped to us. Ben has completed his EMT training and is now an EMT. IDPH is planning on have a testing site at WIU Q lot on January 15<sup>th</sup> and January 17<sup>th</sup>. They will also have a testing site at First United Methodist Church in Rushville on January 13<sup>th</sup> and January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Schools have either gone back into session or will be going back this week. We should be moving out of tier 3 on January 15<sup>th</sup>. IDPH will be extending the contact tracing grant but we will receive no additional money. DCEO grant has also be extended. We will be receiving some additional funds for vaccination costs. Kathy is working with Megan at Sikich on the stipends and over time on what is needed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

NONE

## **PUBLIC COMMENT PER LETTER OF INTENT**

Scott Schwerer said he is glad to see we are going to partner with MDH for a call center. He suggests reaching out to the Sheriff's Department for vaccinations. He also feels the Board of Health should consider moving the health department back to a five day work week. He knows we are overwhelmed. Scott said he has seen nothing in our press releases on how the vaccination program works or how to sign up. He wants to know how many vaccinations the health department has done here at the health department not at MDH. Scott also mentioned that the payroll/stipend issue could be quite costly in fees and interest charges and could hamper some of our grants. He feels the Board of Health members should investigate that. He feels we should reach out to people for help. He also commented about Lynnette not getting back to people in a timely manner. Lynnette responded that we have reached out to the Sherriff's department about vaccinations already. We are already working seven days a week since March. We have reached out to Megan about the payroll issues. We have reached out for help to the EOC about a call center. We have partnered with MDH and other groups as far as vaccine. We have hired some excellent PRN's who have decades of experience. We did give the vaccination numbers earlier in the meeting and she said she would go over them again if he would like. As far as the penalty and interest charges, Megan has made no mention of that but she would update the board if she hears differently. Edgar Rodriguez commented that he wanted to clarify that he wasn't tasked setting up a call center on January 4<sup>th</sup> that didn't happen until Monday. He feels we are failing to communicate with the community. It is not conducive to reach the population through Facebook or online. The age group we are trying to reach, 65 and older, are not technology savvy. He stated we need to reach out through the media. He has had great success using that. He knows we are only hiring people with a medical background to run the call center. He suggested making a list of commonly asked questions for a script so it is easier to answer questions. He feels most calls will still come to the health department. He also suggested having a list of everyone who can be vaccinated under the present category. Dr. Parsons commented on the need for having more information on how to get the vaccine and the public is frustrated because they aren't getting calls back on the information. She commented on West Prairie losing their water for 4 or 5 days and the lack of information or communication on that. Patty Smith commented that we all need to try to work together and support each other instead of being critical. Marcia Moll commented that she heard a conversation about the very things we are discussing here. There is a lot of chaos and much that IDPH has to work through in order to get through to all the people that need to be vaccinated. This is all over the state and it's still confusing. We need to patient and work together. She wanted to thank the health department for the phenomenal job that they are doing. Terra Litchfield commented that Edgar can push out that information quickly and effectively as to who and when people can get a vaccine.

## **Adjourn:**

**MARCIA MOLL MADE A MOTION AT TO ADJOURN AND WAS SECONDED BY DR. NANCY PARSONS AT 8:44 P.M. MOTION CARRIED AND ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN.**

MARCIA MOLL- YES  
CARRIE PEDIGO-YES  
DR. AMY WASCHULL- YES

DR. TIM FITZGERALD- YES  
PATTY SMITH- YES  
DR. KAREN BLAKELEY-YES

DR. NANCY PARSONS- YES  
TERRA LITCHFIELD- YES

Kathy Cleer  
Business Office Manager/CFO

***NOTE: The next BOH meeting will be Monday, February 10, 2021 at 7 pm.***