

**MCDONOUGH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2021**

The McDonough County Board of Health special meeting was held in the board office on Wednesday, February 24, 2021. The regular meeting was called to order at 7:02 by Dr. Amy Waschull, President.

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

Members Absent: none

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

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

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 by President Dr. Amy Waschull.

NEW BUSINESS

UPDATE FROM DR. WASCHULL ON MEETING WITH COUNTY BOARD CHAIRMAN AND MACOMB MAYOR

Dr. Waschull met with Scott Schwerer, Mayor Inman and Brian Dietz-MDH CEO on concerns with the health department's Covid response. Dr. Waschull asked for specific concerns and ideas we could act on to work together. Collaboration and communication were highlighted and a list of things to work on. First was opening communication between BOH, health department and community partners. Get the Incident Command restarted and requested that the health department have a representative. Ben Thompson is attending the current meetings. The hospital is working on a mass vaccination plan. Getting the vaccine is what is holding this up. They are looking at other options but there are not many options to get more vaccine. We need to continue with news reports and accurate information. On the Community Partners' call on Wednesday they would like more specific information versus what they can get elsewhere. They would like numbers on vaccine received, number of vaccinations given, number of vaccine left on hand and the number of appointments scheduled.

EMPLOYMENT-ADMINISTRATOR'S FY 21 CONTRACT

Lynnette turned in a letter of resignation effective March 18th, 2021. She stated that there are numerous Administrator positions open across Illinois. Multiple administrators are leaving their position. Currently there are 182 positions available. It will probably be hard to find a replacement. Lynnette has left a job description, ad, and BOH/Administrator responsibilities list. The Schuyler County Health Department contract runs through November 30, 2021. Last night at the SCHED BOH meeting they noted the shortage of administrators. We may need multiple administrators over both departments. Schuyler is willing to help find one. Lynnette is available to help us find places to post ads, etc. There is a manual for new administrators.

OLD BUSINESS

REVIEW OF COVID COMPENSATION –OVERTIME AND HAZARD PAY

Lynnette reviewed the contract tracing grant compensation for over time and hazard pay. She told the BOH how some other departments did and what was allowable. Dr. Fitzgerald said he had over 40 complaints on the January 15th newspaper article. People are misinterpreting the hazard pay. They wanted to know what was so hazardous about a 4 day work week and the doors are closed. The Elms called their hazard pay a bonus which totaled \$200,000 where the health department's was \$95,200. The article in the paper was wrong. We only got \$5600 in hazard pay and the rest was overtime. Lynnette said the BOH should step up to people complaining and correct them. We have had people spitting on Kerri, Facebook harassment, etc. There has been no time off, working on weekends, working from home and on holidays. People are getting burned out. Dr. Waschull stands behind her vote for the bonuses/hazard pay for staff and Lynnette. Lynnette had not been invited to the county board meeting when the information for the article in the paper was shared. Terra asked if the money in the grant could have been used to hire more staff. Lynnette replied that we did hire people with the grant money. Terra said she knows of nurses that have applied to volunteer and have not been called. Marcia Moll commented that given the mental health issue that this is something we haven't dealt with before and we're learning. Lynnette said the health department is the lead in the mass vaccination and we have been planning. Terra commented that other counties' clinics seem to be running much smoother than ours. Lynnette said you can't compare us to Adams County. Adams has received way more vaccine than us. They have received 5000 doses in comparison to our 200-300 doses. Last week no one got any vaccine. We have complained with other counties about the vaccine distribution being unfair. Lynnette doesn't think we will see mass vaccine because vaccine is now going to Hy-Vee, Walgreens, etc. Our plan to setup a mass vaccination clinic are in place and plans are submitted and approved by state annually. State hasn't made vaccine available to do it. Terra asked why on Monday first responders couldn't get vaccine. Lynnette said the clinic was scheduled but no vaccine came in and they should have been notified by email. Three staff members made calls, sent emails and texts to notify people that were scheduled for appointments and they still had 40 people show up for the clinic. Dr. Waschull asked what went right/wrong and we need to brainstorm on ideas to fix it. Dr. Parsons asked Gretchen DeJaynes if she had what she needed. Gretchen said she did not. She said she needs the signed/authorized amounts but has only has a spreadsheet. Lynnette said the signed/authorized pay sheets were emailed on February 17 & 23. Lynnette physically handed the copies to Gretchen and she said she has never seen those before. Dr. Fitzgerald asked about the salaried employees and Lynnette is the only salaried person. All other employees are hourly. Lynnette was concerned with the amount of comp time the employees were accruing that we wouldn't be able to pay it out later without the contract tracing grant. Gretchen said that government entities are the only ones allowed to accrue comp time. An employee can be paid out comp time anytime. The employer can pay it out but that is not the issue. Dr. Fitzgerald asked how many pages to the Covid grant? He wishes that they had exposed to the grant earlier. Lynnette said they had been. She reviewed the tape recordings and it had been covered. Dr. Blakeley asked who decided to do 1099s. Lynnette and Kathy decided to do it that way. We reached out to one of our auditors in January when it was brought to our attention that there was a problem. Gretchen DeJaynes explained how they are going to have to go about fixing the problem. She said they will have to open last year's payroll, net a zero check, add income and refile the 941's. It will be a minimum of 6 to 12 months before penalties and interest are assessed. The IRS is a year behind on penalty assessment. The employee will have to pay the IMRF and taxes. It was an employer error so the employee will have a year to pay it back. The W-2s that were mailed out are incorrect. There is not an instant fix and it will take some time to correct. Dr. Fitzgerald wanted to know if we were still paying out overtime. Gretchen said it is up to the employer how you want to pay. It is an employer/employee decision. Chris and Kerri were asked how they would prefer to be paid and Chris said that they splitting hairs. He felt it should be paid out in a timely manner. Chris expressed frustration with the public, complaints, calls, conspiracy theories, etc. Kerri is frustrated with the board not giving enough support. Terra said she is frustrated with the lack of communication from the health department. She feels like we are hiding something. Dr. Waschull said that we need to support the health department. Chris said that the PIO position is new and that person started in December. She is wanting to start weekly media updates. Terra said that the media updates need to be more than once a week. Scott said that he wants the vaccine cancellations there, the press releases and the updates. The Monday clinical no vaccine wasn't listed. Lynnette showed the website with all the information. She sends information to KHQA, WIU, newspapers and they don't run it. Lynnette said the information is out there. It changes fast. Terra asked when we found out no vaccine was coming and Lynnette said we found out Monday

morning from state that it was not coming. Dr. Waschull wants each board member to check the website and see what information is missing.

AMENDMENT TO ADMINISTRATOR'S FY 20 CONTRACT

The issue appears that we discussed approving Lynnette's comp time payout in closed session and it was approved out of closed session and not documented properly. Dr. Waschull commented and said we need to fix this. Lynnette said that the contract needs to be amended. Dr. Parsons said she needs to provide written information on what was discussed. Terra commented and said the employees are hourly and nonexempt and Lynnette is salaried. Marcia Moll said it needs to be phrased properly to make it right. Gretchen said Lynnette's FY 20 contract states that she is not eligible for overtime and that the contract needs to be amended. The FY 21 contract has the comp time clause added back in. The State's Attorney needs to be contacted to ask how this needs to be corrected.

PUBLIC COMMENT PER LETTER OF INTENT

Scott Schwerer said he received a letter from a Patricia Phelps from Plymouth, Illinois. She stated in her letter that the process to get a vaccine is a joke, the staff is not wearing masks, they don't act like they care, we are all crammed in a room, and there is no follow-up for scheduling next appointment or how to do it. Scott said when he went out to observe at the clinic that the staff was wearing masks. Scott also wants exact numbers provided on number of doses provided.

Adjourn:

MARCIA MOLL MADE A MOTION AT TO ADJOURN AND WAS SECONDED CARRIE PEDIGO AT 8:40P.M. MOTION CARRIED AND ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN.

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

DR. TIM FITGERALD- YES
TERRA LITCHFIELD- YES
DR. KAREN BLAKELEY-YES

DR. NANCY PARSONS- YES

Kathy Cleer
Business Office Manager/CFO

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