

**MCDONOUGH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021**

The McDonough County Board of Health regular meeting was held in the board office on Wednesday, May 11, 2021. The regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 by Dr. Amy Waschull, President.

Members Present: Dr. Tim Fitzgerald, Dr. Amy Waschull, Dr. Nancy Parsons, Terra Litchfield, Dr. Karen Blakeley, Christy Foster, Roger Ward, Gwynne Worthington and Dr. Richard Minter

Members Absent: none

Staff Present: Kerri Allen, Kathy Cleer, and Ben Thompson

Visitors Present: none

Call to Order:

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

Minutes:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CHRISTY FOSTER AND SECONDED BY DR. TIM FITZGERALD TO APPROVE THE APRIL 14, 2021 MCDONOUGH COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH REGULAR MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

**DR. KAREN BLAKELEY-YES
CHRISTY FOSTER-YES
DR. AMY WASCHULL- YES**

**DR. TIM FITZGERALD- YES
TERRA LITCHFIELD- YES
ROGER WARD-YES**

**DR. NANCY PARSONS- YES
DR. RICHARD MINTER-YES
GWYNNE WORTHINGTON-YES**

Claims:

**ROGER WARD MADE A MOTION; SECONDED BY DR. RICHARD MINTER FOR THE APPROVAL OF CLAIMS FOR THE PERIOD OF APRIL 1, 2021 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2021 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$139,617.85. MOTION CARRIED.
ROLL CALL WAS TAKEN:**

**DR. KAREN BLAKELEY-YES
CHRISTY FOSTER-YES
DR. AMY WASCHULL- YES**

**DR. TIM FITZGERALD- YES
TERRA LITCHFIELD- YES
ROGER WARD-YES**

**DR. NANCY PARSONS- YES
DR. RICHARD MINTER-YES
GWYNNE WORTHINGTON-YES**

Reports:

Board of Health- Dr. Waschull reported that she was part of a multi-agency group that has met once so far. The group included ESDA director Edgar Rodriguez, Dr. Waschull, Kerri Allen, Ben Thompson and MDH staff Adrian and Wanda. Dr. Waschull stated that the people that are vaccinated need to encourage the people that aren't to get their vaccination.

County Board- Terra Litchfield said spoke with MDH CEO Brian Dietz and he was pleased with the vaccine clinics. Terra asked if we have heard anything the County Clerk's office about the payroll taxes and we haven't. She said she would check with them to see where they are with the process.

Directors Reports-

Environmental Health Division

Chris Adams, Environmental Health Director

Chris reported that EH staff have been doing inspections for festivals, farmers' market and amusement rides. They are also back to doing well and septic inspections as well as inspecting restaurants.

Community Health Division

Kerri Allen, Community Health Director

Kerri reported that we are continuing to see people for Health Check and Bionex testing and appointments are filling up. We are seeing our WIC participant numbers decline. The USDA runs the WIC and Farmers' Market programs and is extending the voucher dates so clients have more time to get them used. Kerri is currently working on IPLAN which is due August 28th. The due date on this has already been extended once already. We are having difficulty getting mentors to attend the meetings. The county is seeing an increase in drug use. Sue Tisdale came and did a training on drug abuse and Narcan. If we wish to have more meetings with Sue Tisdale we just need to give her a call to get them set up. We do have a Narcan grant of \$3000 which is just strictly for the purchase of Narcan. Kerri reached out to the Sherriff's Department to see if they needed any and he felt that they had plenty. Lifeguard would like to have some Narcan on hand.

Administrator's Report

Kerri Allen, Interim Administrator

Kerri reported that she applied for an extension on the Contract Tracing grant. The extension runs through December 31, 2021. The month of May and June there will be an increase in the amount of spending to spend out the remaining funds on the grants that end on June 30, 2021. The funds will be used for supplies, staff time, equipment, and stipends. The WIC grant was \$104,000 this year and with much of the staff time being spent in Contact Tracing grant, Kerri adjusted money to supplies. Kerri is currently working on the Tobacco Grant since it is due Friday. WIC is due next week and she is waiting for the Comprehensive Health Program Grant which covers Food, Water, Sewage, Communicable Disease, West Nile/Vector, Tanning, Body Art, Childhood lead, and VFC compliance programs.

Building updates: The new phone system is internet based. We will be updating the message soon. The cabling the needs to be done in the building is under \$20,000 and we will be doing this soon. This was figured into the Contact Tracing Grant. We got a quote on the Microsoft 365 software. The new computer require the purchase of this program in order to use any Microsoft programs and currently we are paying for it monthly. Computer Masters got us a quote. The business premium would be \$3600 per year, the 2019 Professional package would be \$6930 per year and the cloud based program would be \$5089 per year.

Kerri asked the board about changing the meeting dates back to every other month as long as we don't have any business to conduct and they were okay with that. As long and nothing comes up in June, our next meeting will be in July.

OLD BUSINESS

COVID-19 UPDATES

Ben reported the McDonough County has 2821 confirmed cases, 44 active, and 2720 recovered and 57 deaths and Schuyler County has 725 confirmed cases, 19 active, and 689 recovered cases and 17 deaths. Two weeks ago the contact tracers wiped out the work load quickly. We are one of the fastest counties to get contact tracing completed. They have the option to email or text instead of having us call them. If the people don't do their health assessments, it escalates their case. Anaiah Payne, our EH program assistant, calls during the week to find out how people are doing. As of today, we have vaccinated 8,892 people this includes us, the hospital, long term care, Walgreens, Walmart and Hy-Vee. According to IDPH, 9,412 residents in McDonough County have been vaccinated. We currently have 6000 doses of vaccine on hand. This would be half Jonson & Johnson and half Moderna. All of the Johnson & Johnson expires at the end of June. We will transfer that out to another county that can get it used so it isn't wasted. The health department and Lifeguard have given out 10,000 shots. He plans on doing pop up clinics so if the board members know of any places they think would be good to let Ben know. IDPH approved Pfizer for 12 to 15 year old use. We have clinics setup at Bushnell Prairie City schools, West Prairie and Macomb schools. Macomb plans to bus the kids where they need to be in order to get their shots. The first dose will be administered at school and the second dose will be administered in the summer. A new program called the Shield Program is being setup. It is a saliva based test for COVID-19 and is being pushed to high schools and middle schools. There is a public assistant grant available from FEMA that we can apply for to recoup costs that aren't covered by any other grants. This would also help pay for using the Farm King building and the space at the hospital.

APPROVAL OF CONCRETE PADS, ELECTRICITY AND FENCING ON EAST LOT

Kerri went over the bids we received. As for the fences, we can't get another bid from Carnahan because of the rising costs of wood. We have a couple of bids on the concrete and on the electric. The board decided to hold off on the fencing for the time being until wood prices level off. The company Ben has spoken with will move the pods for \$375 but he doesn't have a quote. The board approved Cox Electric for the electricity and Carnahan for the concrete.

NEW ADMINISTRATOR SEARCH

Dr. Amy Waschull spoke with Miriam Link-Mullison. She is a retired from Murphysboro Health Department as administrator for 33 years. She does some consultant work. She said putting the job ad out and knowing the steps to do is something that HR or someone at the hospital or university could help to do since she doesn't do that type of thing. Miriam Link-Mullison said the bigger issue is to look at the strategic plan, look at our vision, and come up with a job description of what we are looking for in a leader for the health department. Also do some contract review to see how does it measure up what we have written up, not for the legality but what we're offering, what we're expecting, what our benefits are, and how does it measure up to other health departments that are similar to ours. She said she felt that the most important thing that a consultant could bring to the table was looking at if we need somebody with really mad public health skills to be the leader or someone with management skills. Rarely do you find someone with both skills. Part of that is interviewing the staff to see where their strengths and weaknesses are and what she thinks the staff needs and also to talk to the board to see what their experience has been. There has been a lot of change over the last year and a half and seeing where we imagine where we might be going in the future. Miriam felt this is something she could help us with. She has a wedding to attend in Madison, Wisconsin at the second weekend in June and she would be willing to come to Macomb for three or four days and meet with people. She would do some preplanning by looking at some of our stuff, meeting with the board, staff and community partners we think would be important. Coming up with a formal idea of her recommendations based mostly on the staff and the board by the end of June. She usually charges \$60 an hour but she felt it would be done in less than 100 hours. She would come up with a proposal that we could talk about it and sign at that point. There was a person from Peoria Health Department that showed some interest in the job. Dr. Waschull didn't feel like it would be a good match due to size of community and different needs. There was also someone that works at the state health department that lives in Schuyler County that was interested but she doesn't feel we should have the same

person that is doing the consulting also apply for the job. Dr. Waschull will share Miriam's cd and proposal when she has it. Miriam will be here the week of June 17th. Dr. Waschull feels we should contact Schuyler County Board members so a couple of their members could be a part of those meetings to give their input.

2020 ANNUAL REPORT APPROVAL

DR. TIM FITZGERALD MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT AND WAS SECONDED BY GWYNNE WORTHINGTON. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN AND MOTION CARRIED.

**DR. KAREN BLAKELEY-YES
CHRISTY FOSTER-YES
DR. AMY WASCHULL- YES**

**DR. TIM FITZGERALD- YES
TERRA LITCHFIELD- YES
ROGER WARD-YES**

**DR. NANCY PARSONS- YES
DR. RICHARD MINTER-YES
GWYNNE WORTHINGTON-YES**

NEW BUSINESS

BOARD MEMBERS UPCOMING EXPIRING TERMS

Board members Dr. Nancy Parsons and Dr. Tim Fitzgerald have terms expiring at the end of June. Neither member plans to renew their term so we will need to find replacements. Andrea Ratermann has expressed an interest in being on the board. Other persons that were suggested were Paige McCord from Bushnell or Dr. Maureen Bezold from WIU. The board members were asked to send any suggestions to Kerri.

PUBLIC COMMENT PER LETTER OF INTENT

NONE

Adjourn:

ROGER WARD MADE A MOTION AT TO ADJOURN AND WAS SECONDED DR. RICHARD MINTER AT 8:16 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Kathy Cleer
Business Office Manager/CFO

NOTE: The next BOH meeting will be Monday, June 9, 2021 at 7 pm.