

Weber-Morgan Board of Health Minutes of Meeting September 27, 2021

The Weber-Morgan Board of Health held its regular meeting on September 27, 2021 in the Health Department auditorium at 477 23rd Street. The meeting is called to order at 4:03 p.m. with Frank Brown presiding.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Frank Brown	Ali Martinez	Alex McDonald
Commissioner Gage Froerer	Jer Bates - Virtual	Dr. Kenneth Johnson
Mayor Leonard Call	Neil Garner - Virtual	Tina Kelley

Donna Chapman - Virtual

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jared Andersen Kevin Eastman

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Cowan	Amy Carter
Bryce Sherwood	Lekelsi Talbot
Scott Braeden	Stella Martinez

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brandan Quinney - Virtual

Welcome and Introductions-Frank Brown

Frank Brown calls the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m. and welcomes those in attendance.

Approval of Board of Health Minutes of August 23, 2021 Motion Passes

A **MOTION** is made by **Bonnie Wahlen** to continue approval of the minutes to the next meeting as not all board member were able to review them prior to today's meeting. **MOTION** is **SECONDED** by **Tina Kelley**. The **MOTION** passes unanimously.

Approval of Tentative 2022 Budget Motion Passes

Brian Cowan presents the 2022 Budget and indicates that the Finance Committee was not able to review this budget prior to this meeting. Copy of summary of 2022 budget give to all board members. Summary already submitted to the Weber County Commission for approval. Budget is divided into the five divisions within Health Department. Administration, Nursing, Environmental Health, Health Promotion, and Women, Infant, and Children program (WIC). **Brian Cowan** explains the breakdown of the summary. WIC subsidy money is pass thru money directly to WIC participants. Tax dollars received from Weber County are included. Reviews revenue sources. Majority of Nursing's revenue comes from insurance payments for vaccination and other services offer. Environmental Health's revenue come from eighty percent of fees collected. Majority of Health Promotion's revenue comes from Tobacco programs. Excess is COVID related and for staff being hired. Expenses are salary & wages, training and travel, current operating expenses, equipment & debts, and interdepartmental charges such as IT and Weber County Attorney's office. All Weber County employees received a two dollar an hour raise which will cost the Health Department \$581,400 + \$24,000 in benefits. This raise was not calculated into these numbers. It is estimated that \$80,000 will be taken from the Fund Balance to help cover those expenses. Explanation of 2021 Fund Balance activity. There are \$566,000

restricted for specific activities. It is estimated at the end of 2021 the Health Department will contribute \$679,000 to the Health Fund. Health Department has requested a budget change from Weber County to transfer \$1.2 million from Health Fund to cover expenses to complete second floor of Annex. This is a high estimate. Health Department requested \$1 million in ARPA funds however no decision has been made. Health Department anticipates a COLA increase for employees and \$1.2 million to complete Annex in 2022 budget. If funds are not replaced that will leave a balance of \$4,683,330 at end of 2022. This leaves the balance for this fund at a decent number as to use the money efficiently and effectively to run the Health Department. Health Department staff to meet with Weber County Commissioners tomorrow. Tentative budget for Entire County will be released for public comment and then adopted by end of year.

Dr. Kenneth Johnson questions who owns Annex building. Annex is owned by Weber County and Health Department has 50 year contract. Any maintenance and remodeling is paid by the Health Department. Provisions in lease if Health Department is required to vacate. **Dr. Kenneth Johnson** wants it to be clear that Health Department funds are being used to pay county expenses.

Commissioner Gage Froerer reports that there have been previous discussions in regards to the property and the decision was made to keep as county property. Majority of revenue for Health Department comes from property taxes. **Commissioner Gage Froerer** reports that the two dollar per hour increase was a market adjustment not a COLA. Weber County Commission will be making a decision on COLA and Pay for Performance in next few weeks. Health Department has anticipated that there will be a two or three percent increase with COLA and Pay for Performance. Weber County Commission does not have an issue with the Health Department using the Health Fund Balance to pay for completion of the Annex or other future expenses. **Mayor Leonard Call** questions why the two dollar raise was not included in the budget numbers. **Brian Cowan** clarifies that due to timing of the announcement of the two dollar increase it was not included in these numbers. **Dr. Kenneth Johnson** wants to clarify that only fifteen percent of the 2022 budget comes from taxes. **Dr. Frank Brown** inquires about any discontinued programs or budget cuts. **Brian Cowan** reports no discontinued programs or budget cuts. Most money is restricted for staff. Health Department will need to address 2023 and 2024 budget cuts for employees being hired now for COVID. Two positions have been identified during this pandemic response as crucial. An Epidemiologist and additional Public Information position. Epidemiologist needs be on staff at all times not just through COVID. Public Information employee needed to response to social media posts in timely manner. **Tina Kelley** clarified that the Health Department did have an Epidemiologist in the past however when that employee retired Health Department decided to not replace Epidemiologist. A **MOTION** is made by **Dr. Kenneth Johnson** to approve Tentative 2022 Budget and is **SECONDED** by **Neil Garner**. The **MOTION** passes unanimously.

Appointment of COVID Response Workgroup

Motion Passes

Dr. Frank Brown reports that a subcommittee is necessary to review COVID response issues that could meet with each other and Health Department staff in between monthly board meetings. **Ali Martinez** questions if recommendations would come back to full board. **Dr. Frank Brown** clarifies that it would an advisory committee to the board for recommendations. **Dr. Kenneth Johnson** clarifies this Workgroup would not have a quorum and no decisions will be made without the rest

of the board. **Brian Cowan** gives explanation on how this committee would work and how it has benefited the Health Department in the past. Workgroups allow board members and staff be engaged in Health Department programs and assist the full board in an informed discussion. **Dr. Kenneth Johnson** agrees with workgroup. **Ali Martinez** questions timing and how responsive the board can be to the community members. **Brian Cowan** indicates there are a few things to consider like mask mandate and schools' needs. Board members have questions the information given or lack thereof. This would not slow down any actions from the board, Health Department, or Health Officer. **Tina Kelley** questions Health Officer's time and availability to attend workgroup. **Brian Cowan** indicates that he can delegate responsibilities to staff when needed. **Dr. Kenneth Johnson** inquires if an emergency meeting can be called, if needed. **Brandan Quinney** indicates that is true with a 48 hour notice. **Dr. Frank Brown** solicits volunteers for this workgroup. **Ali Martinez, Alex McDonald, Donna Chapman, Tina Kelley, Dr. Kenneth Johnson** and **Commissioner Gage Froerer** volunteer to serve on the COVID Response Workgroup. A **MOTION** is made by **Mayor Leonard Call** to approve the appointed COVID Response Workgroup members and is **SECONDED** by **Ali Martinez**. The **MOTION** passes unanimously.

Annex Building Construction Update – Brian Cowan **Information Only**

Brian Cowan indicates that Ms. Harris is excused due to family emergency therefore he will present the Annex update. Request for Proposal was sent out last year, contractor has been selected, and approved. Colors selected for carpet and tile. Health Department anticipates creating 25-30 spaces for additional staff as there is no more room in the main abuilding. Many COVID Response employees are working from home due to space limitations. Request for Proposal contract to be signed soon. Weber County Commission to approve budget. Bid selected is for \$800,000 however \$1.2 million requested for safety measure. If contract gets signed in the near future, the contractor may begin in November. We anticipate to occupy the space by the spring. **Commissioner Gage Froerer** questions bid amounts and contingencies in contract. Contract being reviewed by Weber County Attorney's office. Wadman Corporation was selected. **Commissioner Gage Froerer** indicates the budget should be approved at tomorrow's meeting.

Director's Report – Brian Cowan **Information Only**

Brian Cowan reports 39,083 positive COVID cases since February 2020. Weber-Morgan district has 2,659 active cases in last 14 days. This is decrease from last few weeks. The seven day average last week was 135 new active cases per day and this week are down to 118 per day. Small decline in trend as cases were in upward growth trend over last eight weeks. Weber-Morgan district has reported 274 deaths since February 2020. **Brian Cowan** reviews hospital numbers to include ICU beds, non-ICU beds, and ventilator usage in Weber County. Explanation is given on breakthrough numbers and how they continue to grow. Health Department's main focus right now is on schools and prevention of outbreaks. There have been 534 students test positive, thirty-nine teachers, and seventy-seven other staff since school started. Active cases in schools include 210 students, eleven teachers, and nineteen other staff over last fourteen days. This is a decrease from last week. Health Department continues to watch numbers for "Test to Stay" threshold. Threshold is schools with 1500 or more students is two percent, schools with less than 1500 is thirty students. No schools have reached that threshold. Only one school exceeds one percent of population or thirty students in Weber-Morgan. This is a good reflection of all of the other tools that have been implemented to minimize potential

for outbreak in schools. Health Department actively engaged in contact tracing and case investigations and are notifying parents when their student is exposed to a positive student. Parents and students have four options for quarantining. Student may stay home for ten days, student may stay home for seven days and obtain a negative test on day seven, student may return to school and mask for 10 days, or student may return to school with mask for seven days and a negative test on day seven. Schools initially reported resistance with quarantine or isolation however cooperation has improved. Health Department is working with Weber County Commission on joint message to parents, asking for cooperation with isolation and quarantine. That is the most effective tool in preventing an outbreak. Especially in elementary schools as those students are not eligible to get vaccinated. Health Department continues to watch COVID numbers in local schools. There is one elementary, two junior highs, and three high schools that are about half way to meeting their threshold. We have at least one positive case in each school in this health district. Six schools in Utah have gone to "Test to Stay" protocol. Meeting held with Utah Department of Health indicates that "Test to Stay" is working as case counts have significantly dropped the week after implementing the testing. Health Department continues to offer vaccinations as well as over forty partners in the community. The uptick dropped after third dose or booster dose released. The fastest growing age demographic receiving vaccine continues to be 12 to 18 year olds. Fifty-five percent of that age group has received at least one dose. Also, fifty-five percent of 19-29 year olds have received at least one vaccine dose. Third dose for qualifying individuals, 65 years and older and immunocompromised, are offered here and at community partners. There has been an increased demand for third dose. Health Department offering drive thru FLU clinic 10 am to 2 pm on Friday, October 1, 2021.

Dr. Kenneth Johnson inquires as to **Brian Cowan** and the Commissions meeting. Health Officer has been meeting weekly with the Weber County Commission providing updated local COVID numbers. Health Department is tracking school cases and managing them with the resources that are available. Appropriate steps will be taken if and when the threshold numbers are reached. Health Officer does not believe it is necessary to issue a Health Order at this time. Health Officer has also met with Morgan County Council. The Health Department has worked out an interlocal agreement with Morgan County School District to hire a part-time school nurse with some federal pass thru money. The primary purpose for this new position will be for student testing. Commissioner Gage Froerer reports that his office has been working closely with Davis County Health Department on a weekly basis tracking numbers as well with leadership from state legislature in regards to possible changes to statute that may be necessary in the future. **Commissioner Gage Froerer** commends Brian Cowan for keeping the Commission well informed. **Dr. Frank Brown** inquires as to what the role of the Board of Health is when a school reaches the "Test to Stay" protocol and availability of vaccine to 5-11 year olds. **Brian Cowan** indicates that the State will take the lead on generating testing capability. They have 14 mobile testing teams and contracted with NOMI

Chair's Report-Frank Brown

Information Only

Frank Brown reiterates value of attending the National Association of Boards of Health (NALBOH) and Utah Association of Local Boards of Health (UALBOH) meetings.

The meeting adjourns at 5:02 p.m.