

Weber-Morgan Board of Health
Minutes of Meeting
April 27, 2020

The Weber-Morgan Board of Health held its regular meeting by
conference/teleconference call on April 27, 2020
in the Health Department auditorium at 477 23rd Street.
The meeting is called to order at 4:06 p.m. with Neil Garner presiding.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Neil Garner	Frank Brown	Ken Johnson	Gage Froerer
Donna Chapman	Jennifer Bodine	Tina Kelley	Kevin Eastman
Ali Martinez	Leonard Call	Cole Brinkerhoff	Jer Bates

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Roland Haslam

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Brian Bennion	Brian Cowan	Amy Carter	MaryLou Adams
Michela Harris	Jesse Bush	Lori Buttars	Cathy Bodily
Michelle Cooke	Summer Day	Scott Braeden	Melissa Freigang
Colleen Jenson	JoAnn Wengreen		

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chris Crockett

Welcome and Introductions-Neil Garner

Neil Garner calls the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. and welcomes those in attendance.

Approval of Board of Health Minutes of January 27, 2020 Motion Passes

A **MOTION** is made by **Ken Johnson** and **SECONDED** by **Gage Froerer** to approve the minutes as written. The **MOTION** passes unanimously.

Friend of Public Health Award – Todd M. Hillhouse- Information Only
Lori Buttars

Lori Buttars introduces Todd M Hillhouse, Director of the Neuroscience Program at Weber State University. Dr. Hillhouse was nominated by Weber-Morgan Health Department's Tobacco Prevention and Control staff for his groundbreaking research and studies on the addictive effects of e-cigarette use and nicotine vapor. Two studies have been completed and are awaiting publication and it is exciting to see this happening in our own backyard. The goal of the research is to provide accurate information about why people are vaping, what makes e-cigarettes so addictive, and the overall impact on people's own health. For this effort, he is truly a Friend of Public Health. **Ken Johnson** says he is impressed with his work and expresses appreciation for what he has done at Weber State.

COVID-19 Update-Amy Carter/Michela Harris/Brian Cowan Information Only

Amy Carter updates board members with information on the COVID-19 pandemic. Utah has 4,233 lab confirmed cases at this time with 349 of those cases requiring hospitalization. There have been 45 COVID-19 associated deaths statewide. Weber-Morgan health district case number is at 148 lab confirmed cases (Morgan County having 9 and Weber County having 139) with 93 of those individuals considered recovered and 18 needing hospitalization. Weber-Morgan health district has better percentages than the state average for current positivity rate and recovery rate. The highest count of cases are between 25-44 year olds with slightly more males than females. There have been at least 12 clusters or smaller outbreaks within Weber and Morgan counties with 4 or 5 originating in a business, care system, or long term care facility. The biggest risk factor that our health district is seeing is contact with a positive case. Testing capacity has increased across the state with Weber-Morgan Health Department hosting a mobile testing site. The purpose of antibody tests are for prevalence testing only, not as a diagnosis of COVID-19. She highlights steps the health department is taking to increase capacity for handling case investigations and monitoring as well as contact tracing and encourages board members to visit the health department website at webermorganhealth.org for more information. **Michela Harris** updates board members on Environmental Health staff efforts to help businesses during this time. Staff has been out giving guidance and educating businesses to help them continue operating if possible. Staff has visited or contacted long term care facilities, daycares, short-term nightly rentals, restaurants, and continues to follow up on complaints. Permits with expiration dates have been deferred until June and late fees are being waived in an effort to help these businesses. **Brian Cowan** invites board members to review Governor Herbert's task force plan, Utah Leads Together 2.0, which identifies the four levels of risk by color: Red, Orange, Yellow, and Green. The four milestones to evaluate transition between levels is disease prevalence, disease growth, disease monitoring, and health system capacity. Weber-Morgan health district has seen a plateau in the prevalence and growth of COVID-19, is well below the capacity of the healthcare system, and believes moving to the Orange level is reasonable. The health department is tracking all expenses for COVID-19 response with total expenses of about \$300,000 so far, 95% of that being salaries and benefits for staff. Received \$354,000 from the state with an additional \$100,000 to help with senior related expenses. Several grants have approved a portion to go towards COVID-19 response as well.

Health Promotion Presentation-Jesse Bush

Information Only

Jesse Bush explains ways the Health Promotion (HP) Division is stepping up to help where needed. HP staff has been working in the Joint Information Center (JIC) fielding calls since March 12. They have received around 4,000 calls which typically take a lot of time as information changes quickly, often, and can be confusing. Staff wants to be as consistent as possible with answers in an effort to keep the community from becoming more frustrated. Received approval to invest \$4,000 in a social media campaign by buying gift cards to help support our local restaurants in a Bingo Giveaway on Facebook as a way to interact and stay connected with the

community. To address the mental health of our community, the community is encouraged to give ideas on how they are coping during this time (200 submissions so far) and emphasizing physical distancing and not social distancing. There have been 57,000 hits, 426 comments, and 333 shares. HP staff has also been trained on helping the nurses with Active Monitoring and Contact Tracing. Although it sounds easy to make contact with positive cases and their contacts, it is very time consuming as well as frustrating to get correct information from those involved. More staff will be trained in anticipation of an increase in cases as more businesses begin to open up. He says he has gained a deeper appreciation of our nursing staff. He explains the new resources on the Weber-Morgan website. Safe Kids Day will be a virtual event through a social media platform.

2019 Annual Report-Brian Bennion

Information Only

Brian Bennion goes over the 2019 Annual Report and highlights accomplishments such as Dogs on the Patio, Diesel Emission Testing, Online Restaurant Inspections, Immunization Regulation, Online Nutrition Classes, and Naloxone Trainings. He expresses thanks to the Board for their continued support.

IGP Update-Melissa Freigang

Information Only

Melissa Freigang gives an update on the Intergenerational Poverty Initiative. She is currently working with 35 families and highlights 94% of the adults now have access to health services, 100% of homeless families are housed, and 16 participants have been enrolled in higher education. She has worked with partners to get food and necessities to those in the program during Stay Home, Stay Safe. The legislature has given support with this initiative with funding for the next two years.

Director's Report-Brian Bennion

Information Only

Brian Bennion explains the Weber-Morgan Health Department Public Health Order expires on May 1 and is expecting the Governor's direction to move from high to moderate risk. The health department has been developing guidance for businesses to help them reopen but there will still be restrictions. A spike of cases is expected to follow and it is extremely important to protect the hospital capacity.

Chair's Report-Neil Garner

Information Only

Neil Garner asks that although May's meeting falls on Memorial Day to keep in mind there may be cause to schedule a virtual meeting. He thanks board members and comments that given the current event how important it has been to have the key players that are on the board in place. He expresses appreciation for those in healthcare and to all the citizens in the community who are doing the things being asked of them. He encourages board members to continue to get the message out as restrictions are eased and to be sure to get information from a reputable source. He commends Brian Bennion and staff on the Annual Report and comments on diesel testing tampering, online restaurant reports, nursing Target Case Management, and WIC.

The meeting adjourns at 5:50 p.m.