

**Weber-Morgan Board of Health**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
**August 31, 2020**

The Weber-Morgan Board of Health held its regular meeting on August 31, 2020 by conference/teleconference call in the Health Department auditorium at 477 23<sup>rd</sup> Street. The meeting is called to order at 4:01 p.m. with Ken Johnson presiding.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Ken Johnson	Gage Froerer	Donna Chapman	Jennifer Bodine
Tina Kelley	Kevin Eastman	Ali Martinez	Leonard Call
Jer Bates	Roland Haslam	Cole Brinkerhoff	

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Neil Garner	Frank Brown
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**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Brian Bennion	Brian Cowan	Amy Carter	MaryLou Adams
Michela Harris	Lori Buttars	Michelle Cooke	Bryce Sherwood
Skyler Pyle	JoAnn Wengreen		

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jeremy Shinoda

**Welcome and Introductions-Ken Johnson**

Ken Johnson calls the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. and welcomes those in attendance. He reads the Authorization to Conduct an Electronic Meeting Without an Anchor Location document.

**Approval of Board of Health Minutes of June 22, 2020**

**Motion Passes**

A **MOTION** is made by **Leonard Call** and **SECONDED** by **Tina Kelley** to approve the minutes as written. The **MOTION** passes unanimously.

**Introduction of new Epidemiologist and Emergency Services Manager-Brian Bennion**

**Information Only**

**Brian Bennion** introduces Skyler Pyle as the new Emergency Services Manager. She worked with Ogden School District as the Emergency Management Preparedness Advisor. **Skyler Pyle** says she is excited for the opportunity to serve in Weber and Morgan counties. **Brian Cowan** excuses Zach Heuscher and says he comes to us from Colorado where he was at the National Institute for Safety and Health. He has his Master's Degree in Environmental Epidemiology. **Brian Bennion** says he is pleased with these new employees and is looking forward to what they will bring to the health department.

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

**Brian Bennion** explains how over the past 2 months, daily cases in the health district have gone from 30-40 a week, to 96, and then up to 413 before plateauing at 149 cases per week. The health department was able

to build capacity by hiring 23 part-time case investigators through CARES Act funding along with continued support from National Guard and the state health department. Weber-Morgan has over 3,300 total confirmed cases. Weber County has had 29 deaths. The Governor challenged us as a state to stay under 400 cases per week and as of today, we are at 388. The state also has \$80 million grant to help fund public health. Statewide hospitalizations are presently at 125 which has improved since July. **Amy Carter** shares how health department employees have been asked to work on covid-related responsibilities and that some are now starting to transition back to normal tasks due to hiring 23 temporary employees through CARES Act funding. These temporary employees each have a health department mentor and hold regular meetings and trainings. They have helped ease the load of case investigations and contact tracing. She points out that developing a Worksite Team and a School Team to give guidance and support during outbreaks has resulted in better communication. The state is working on a school dashboard to show which schools have cases and how many. **Michela Harris** reports on businesses and schools. Plans are sent in for review, then guidance or recommendations are given by the health department. There are no mass gathering permits issued at this point but some events have been able to comply with needed modifications. She stresses there has not been a lot of enforcement within any one industry or business. She answers questions about food trucks and states there have been few complaints and they are one of the few food businesses able to stay up and running during this time. **Brian Bennion** expresses how proud he is of the staff, how well they are working together, and how they continue to have a desire to help even in such a high-stress point in time. He mentions there was a need in the Ogden School District and how the health department partnered with Weber Human Services and Midtown Clinic in donating over 3,000 art supply items.

**Budget 2020/Projected Budget 2021-Brian Cowan** **Information Only**

**Brian Cowan** presents board members with a mid-year budget. Revenue values are about 50% or consistent with each division for this time of year. Funding has been received through state grants and Weber County for help with COVID-19 response which includes a full-time epidemiologist and temporary employees to help with case investigations and contact tracing. Weber County has set aside \$1M of Weber County CARES Act money for the health department to use to cover expenses. Currently using \$45,000 of the health fund balance for 2020. Total for associated COVID-19 expenses is at \$935,000 which is about 64% of the money received from the state. **Gage Froerer** suggests getting with the county as soon as possible if additional funding needs are expected.

**Annex Update-Brian Cowan** **Information Only**

**Brian Cowan** reviews the progress in finishing the second floor of the health annex building. A request for proposal went out in January with the expectation of housing staff from the health department, Weber Human Services, and the Prosperity Center of Excellence. Progress stopped at the beginning of the pandemic and the two other agencies determined their

needs would be better met elsewhere. The health department would like to move forward in finishing the annex second floor as the current main building is fully occupied and will be paid off at the end of 2023. An architect had previously been selected with a contract ready to sign. Board members give their support to resume this project.

**Director’s Report-Brian Bennion**

**Information Only**

**Brian Bennion** reports the eWIC pilot program starts tomorrow and runs for six weeks. Clients will use electronic benefit cards (debit cards) instead of paper vouchers making transaction much quicker. A Community Assessment for Public Health Emergency Response (CASPER) survey will be sent out to 3,000 random households. The first 400 surveys returned will receive a \$10 gift card. This will complement the Community Health Assessment (CHA) in identifying gaps in our community in regards to public health. Weber-Morgan Health Department will receive \$300,000 grant money from the e-cigarette excise tax to fund community agencies with projects addressing youth use of e-cigarette, marijuana, and other drugs. A review committee will be created with a representative from the Board of Health being asked to participate. The #MaskUpWeber campaign ended Friday which included a press release, billboards, and flyers sent out to businesses to encourage mask use. Morgan County was offered templates to use with their logo.

**Chair’s Report-Ken Johnson**

**Information Only**

No comments.

**Public Comment**

**Roland Haslam** will reach out to Morgan School District to see what support the health department could offer. Board member **Tina Kelley** announces the September UALBOH Conference has been cancelled and are planning for next year.

The meeting adjourns at 5:12 p.m.