

**JEFFERSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**Physical Location 405 Main Street, Hillsboro, MO 63050**  
**Recorded Broadcast available VIA: YouTube**  
**@<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCACuytmq2kUAI65z3AYsmYw>**  
**December 21, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Diehl called the annual meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Jefferson County Health Department to order at 3:00pm

**ROLL CALL**

Dennis Diehl, Chairman - Present  
Dr. Amber Henry, Vice-Chairman – Present  
James Prater, Secretary-Treasurer – Present  
Tim Pigg, Member – Present  
Susan (Suzy) Davis, Member – Present

**OTHERS ATTENDING** (x indicates present)

- Kelley Vollmar, Director
- Richard Tufts, Assistant Director
- Steve Sikes, Operations Manager
- Jennifer Pinkly, Admin. Services Mgr.
- Steve Heinle, IT Manager
- Christi Coleman, Counsel
- 

Others in attendance:

**VISITORS AND GUEST REMARKS**

None

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Dr. Henry motioned to amend the agenda, moving the item "Consideration of extension of expiration of Health Director Order 20-11-25-11 to January 28, 2021" currently under New Business to immediately follow the approval of the agenda. Mr. Prater seconded. Chairman Diehl opened the floor for discussion. Mrs. Davis suggested leaving the agenda as is because she had information to present that may influence how members vote on the issue. Chairman Diehl put the motion to vote. The motion passed 4 to 1 with Mrs. Davis dissenting.

Mr. Pigg motioned to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Prater seconded. Motion carried 4 to 1 with Mrs. Davis dissenting. Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed and the agenda was approved.

### **Consideration of extension of expiration of Health Director Order 20-11-25-11 to January 28, 2021.**

Mr. Prater noted the date in the order states January 21, 2021. Chairman Diehl clarified the order would be extended to January 21, 2021 (instead of January 28<sup>th</sup>). Mrs. Davis moved to rescind the order (not to extend the order). Mr. Prater seconded. No discussion needed. The motion died with Chairman Diehl, Dr. Henry, and Mr. Pigg dissenting. Chairman Diehl announced the motion failed.

Mr. Pigg moved to accept the extension of the order as written. Dr. Henry seconded. Chairman Diehl opened the floor for discussion. Mrs. Davis expressed extending the order was uncalled for, declaring the data does not support the need for the order, and community members are demanding the order be dissolved. Mr. Pigg called for immediate question. Chairman Diehl put the motion to vote after no other requests for discussion were made. The motion carried 3 to 2 with Mr. Prater and Mrs. Davis dissenting. Chairman Diehl announced the motion passed and the order would be extended until January 21, 2021.

Mr. Prater brought to the attention of the board that some local businesses are stating that they would be fined if patrons refused to follow the order while at their establishment. Mr. Prater and Chairman Diehl both clarified no such consequence was written in the order.

## **November 23, 2020 MINUTES**

Mr. Pigg made a motion to approve the 11/23/2020 minutes. Dr. Henry seconded. No discussion needed. Motion carried 4 to 1 with Mrs. Davis dissenting. Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed and the minutes were approved.

## **November 25, 2020 MINUTES**

Mr. Pigg made a motion to approve the 11/25/2020 minutes. Mr. Prater seconded. No discussion needed. Motion carried 4 to 1 with Mrs. Davis dissenting. Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed and the minutes were approved.

### **November 2020 EXPENDITURES**

Mr. Pigg motioned to approve the November 2020 expenditures for \$190,116.03. Dr. Henry seconded. Mrs. Davis requested information regarding contract tracing by Maximus. Mr. Pigg called point of order stating there was a motion on the floor and that information did not pertain to the November budget or expenditures. Motion carried unanimously and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

### **November 2020 APPROVAL ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS**

Mr. Pigg motioned to approve the electronic payments for November 2020 for \$429,183.13. Dr. Henry seconded. No discussion needed. Motion carried unanimously and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

### **January 2021 PRE-APPROVAL ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS**

The list of vendors for pre-approved electronic payments for January 2021 was presented to the board with an estimated amount of \$486,213.25. Mr. Prater motioned to pre-approve the January 2021 Electronic Payments. Mrs. Davis seconded. Motion carried unanimously and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

Mr. Pigg requested Mrs. Vollmar answer the question previously posed by Mrs. Davis regarding the contract with Maximus. Mrs. Vollmar reported that they have been a tremendous help to the agency and have been able to provide needed support for contract tracing. Later in the agenda it is being asked that the board vote in favor of extending the contract with Maximus. Chairman Diehl requested Mrs. Vollmar provide a detailed report dated as of the end of December regarding the work of Maximus. Mrs. Davis requested information detailing exactly what Maximus does for the agency and how they assist with the COVID efforts. Mrs. Vollmar explained Maximus contacts new cases providing education and follow-up in terms of how long a positive case should isolate, and what they need to know while battling COVID. They also provide investigative and contact tracing services to help reduce the spread of the virus. Maximus provides the manpower for 100 people a day to be served when previously on 30 people a day were being served. Additionally, their service reduces the response time, meaning people are being contacted and self-isolating faster which slows the spread.

### **DIRECTORS REPORT – MRS. KELLEY VOLLMAR**

Mrs. Vollmar provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the current data for the county and region. The data was provided by the St. Louis Pandemic Task Force, SLU, and Wash U. In summary:

- Jefferson County and the metro area are seeing a large number of admissions.
- Jefferson County was ranked as 4<sup>th</sup> in the number of new admissions per 100,000.
- Last week Jefferson County had 64 new admissions, which is a rate of 28.53/100,000, ranking Jefferson County just under St. Charles and St. Louis City.
- The cumulative totals of admissions/100,000 during the time period of 9/15/2020 to 12/8/2020 ranked Jefferson County 4<sup>th</sup> with 608 admissions (a rate of 271.01/100,000).
- The 7-day rolling average for Jefferson County as of December 17<sup>th</sup> was 69/100,000. This places Jefferson County in line with St. Charles County which has one of the highest rates of spread in the state.
- The new deaths in the St. Louis area have continued to grow since June, with a significant increase since the holidays beginning just after Halloween.
- The reproduction number (RO) for the past week (as of December 17<sup>th</sup>) was 0.91. It should be noted the RO changes daily.
- There is a difference between the Harvard numbers and the White House numbers. The Harvard numbers are measuring a 7-day rolling average of number of cases per 100,000 people per day, in which Jefferson County is at 66.86 as of week 51. Per the Harvard metrics 25 is the threshold for being in the red, and Jefferson County is well above that threshold.
- Per the White House Pandemic Task Force, for week 51 Jefferson County had 1,053 positive COVID-19 cases/100,000 which is well above the White House's level red threshold which is 468/100,000.
  - Mrs. Davis interjected a statement regarding the calculation of the White House's metrics. Mr. Pigg restated Mrs. Davis' statement as a question to clarify what each of the metrics were measuring, to better understand why the Harvard and White House metrics were not comparable.
  - Mrs. Vollmar clarified Harvard's metrics for determining level red is by calculating rolling average of daily positive cases/100,000. The White House's metrics for determining level red is by measuring the total number of new cases/100,000 per week and the percent of positive cases compared to the number of total tests administered (aka the positivity rate). Based on the White House's metrics for week 51 Jefferson county has a 34% positivity rate which means the ratio is 1 out of 3 tests were positive.
  - There is a lot of confusion regarding the positivity rate in that the assumption is the more testing that is completed the higher the positivity rate; however, the opposite is true. The more testing completed the lower the positivity rate. In short, limiting testing to those exposed or showing symptoms will increase the positive numbers. By providing community wide testing more people without COVID would be tested thus providing a more accurate measure of the positivity rate.

- To demonstrate this point Mrs. Vollmar provided a comparison between week 50 and week 51's positivity rates. Week 50 the total number of tests administered was 4,008. Of that 946 came back positive, which is a 23.6% positivity rate. Week 51 there was a significant decrease in the number of tests administered, 2,635. Of that 896 came back positive, which is a 34% positivity rate.
    - Mrs. Davis interjected her objection to the data stating it was inaccurate.
  - Mrs. Vollmar noted that all of these different measurements are providing pieces of a puzzle that provides a greater understanding of how the community is being impacted by COVID. Both the Harvard and the White House metrics has Jefferson County as being in the red for multiple weeks.
- Mrs. Vollmar explained probable COVID-19 deaths were not included in the number of COVID deaths reported. Of the 31 pending COVID deaths, 13 of those are probable. Cases that were based on antigen tests are not counted in the total number of COVID deaths, meaning a person can test positive for COVID, but COVID is not considered the cause of death.
- Earlier during COVID JCHD had access to the death certificates and could confirm COVID was on the death record for individuals. However, the process has changed and now death certificates go to the National level and the information is filtered down to JCHD through the state. The current process can take 4 to 6 weeks, which means the death data presented today is reflective of 4 weeks ago.
  - Mrs. Davis asked for clarification on the data to which Mrs. Vollmar replied that the numbers are a snapshot of a point in time, and they continually change as test results come in and people's health and living statuses change.
  - Further discussion was held regarding how data was calculated. Mrs. Vollmar provided further explanation of how the Harvard and White House data was calculated. As well as how the positivity rate was calculated. It was noted that there are two different percentages regarding positivity rates: 1) the first is the actual positivity percentage (which is the number of positive PCR tests divided by the total number of PCR tests collected; and 2) the second is the percentage of change in positivity rate (e.g. has the percentage of positive tests increased or decreased compared to previous weeks?). It should be noted the percentage of change in positivity rate does not determine the county's level status.
- Mrs. Vollmar provided slides of color-coded maps of Jefferson County depicting hospitalizations of COVID-19 patients per 100,000 people per zip code, ICU transfers of COVID-19 patients per 100,000 people per zip code, and the deaths of COVID-19 patients per 100,000 people, per zip code.

- New Admissions have decreased; however, they have plateaued at a very high number. While new admissions has decreased hospitalization rates are still high, which indicates people are being admitted, but they are not being discharged (going home). Additionally, the death rate continues to rise. Mrs. Vollmar noted that the peak showing on the graph is from 4 weeks ago, so this is not indicative of the most current death rates. It was also noted that this data indicates people are getting sicker with COVID-19 for longer periods of time, and more people are dying from it. Mrs. Vollmar asked the board to not lose sight that this data is more than just numbers, it represents individuals and their families and the impact this virus has on the emotional well-being and family structure for those most impacted. Lastly, it was noted that not everyone leaving the hospital are going home some are leaving in caskets.
  - Mrs. Davis provided her perspective on the current COVID trends suggesting it was not as bad as the data indicates.
  - Mr. Pigg made a request to move on with the agenda.

#### **OLD BUSINESS—CHAIRMAN DENNIS DIEHL**

##### **1. Approval of 2021 Budget**

Mr. Prater questioned the increase in telecommunication costs. Mr. Heinle explained it was due to updating outdated devices and upgrading to software that will enhance communication internally as well as externally. Dr. Henry questioned the indirect administration costs. Mrs. Vollmar and Mrs. Pinkley confirmed it was indicative of a grant. Mr. Pigg motioned to approve the 2021 budget. Dr. Henry seconded. Motion carried unanimously and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed and the budget was adopted.

##### **2. Approval of Table of Organization**

Mr. Pigg moved to accept the updated table of organization. Mr. Prater seconded. No discussion needed. The motion carried unanimously, and Chairman Diehl announced the motion passed and the updated table of organization was adopted.

#### **NEW BUSINESS-- CHAIRMAN DENNIS DIEHL**

##### **1. Consideration of amendment to Board Resolution 20-07-28-01 to require masks on JCHD property to allow for religious or health exemption for board members**

Mrs. Davis motioned to accept the amendment to Board Resolution 20-07-28-01 to allow for religious or health exemptions for board members. Ms. Coleman provided legal guidance based on the American Disabilities Act which allows for agencies to set rules for who may enter the building based on the health considerations of their clients. Requests for exemption to the rules based on religious or health related concerns may be made, and the board would be required to decide on a case-by-case basis. Regarding those attending the board meeting and asking for an exemption, an alternative means of attending via virtual meetings has been established in the existing resolution. In short if a board member does not want to wear a mask for health or religious reasons it is

allowable for that person to attend the meeting virtually per the Attorney General's definition of "reasonable accommodations". Mrs. Davis disagreed and provided her perspective on the constitution. Further clarification was provided by Ms. Coleman. Mr. Pigg seconded the motion and called for an immediate vote. The motion died with Chairman Diehl, Dr. Henry, and Mr. Pigg dissenting. Chairman Diehl announced the motion did not pass.

**2. Approval of Lease of real property**

Chairman Diehl noted it is being requested that the board approve the lease of rental property for a year so that some staff members may move their offices to the rental space in order to improve social distancing among staff. Dr. Henry moved to approve the lease. Mrs. Davis seconded. Mr. Prater questioned if this was reflected in the 2021 budget that was just passed, to which it was clarified, "yes, it was." The motion carried unanimously, and Chairman Diehl announced the motion passed.

**3. Consideration of change of duration of quarantine recommendations for positive cases.**

Mrs. Davis moved to adopt CDC's recommendations regarding shortening the isolation period to 7 days. Dr. Henry clarified that the board already voted to follow CDC's guidelines. Mrs. Davis withdrew her motion.

**4. Consideration of elimination of quarantine recommendations for probable cases.**

Mrs. Davis moved to eliminate quarantining probable cases. Mr. Pigg seconded. Mrs. Davis stated her goal was to get students and faculty back into school. Mrs. Vollmar provided clarification regarding terminology. Probable cases are defined as having been in direct contact with a positive case and meet the clinical criteria for symptoms of COVID. A Case Contact is defined as someone who has been in direct contact with a positive case but is not showing symptoms of COVID—Contact cases are not presumed positive. Mr. Prater noted the school boards set the rules regarding whether or not to be open. Mr. Pigg called for immediate question. The motion died with Chairman Diehl, Mr. Prater, Dr. Henry, and Mr. Pigg dissenting. Chairman Diehl announced the motion failed.

**5. Consideration of elimination of quarantine recommendation for students and staff who wear masks.**

Mrs. Davis moved to eliminate quarantine recommendations for students and staff who wear mask. Mrs. Davis recommended that JCHD follow Governor Parsons' recommendations rather than the CDC's. Mr. Pigg stated the Governor made a recommendation to accommodate for the varying rates of COVID per county. Mr. Pigg called for immediate question. Chairman Diehl questioned the definition of "wearing a mask" stating that phrase was too vague. Mr. Pigg called point of order that he had called for immediate question. The motion died with Chairman Diehl, Mr. Prater, Dr. Henry, and Mr. Pigg dissenting. Chairman Diehl announced the motion failed.

**6. Consideration of elimination of quarantine duration recommendation for students and teachers who rapid test negative.**

Mrs. Davis made a motion to eliminate the quarantine duration recommendation for students and teachers who rapid test negative. Ms. Coleman clarified that this is covered under the CDC guidelines, which JCHD is already following. Mrs. Davis made a motion to require schools to do rapid testing. Mr. Pigg noted the health department does not have jurisdiction on this. Hearing no second the motion died.

**7. Consideration of requirement that PCR testing labs not exceed a 20-cycle threshold.**

Mr. Pigg questioned if JCHD had the ability to do this, to which the reply was, "no". Mrs. Davis moved to require the PCR testing labs not exceed a 20-cycle threshold. Clarification was provided stating just as with the school boards, JCHD does not have jurisdiction on this. Chairman Diehl asked if there was a second, and hearing none announced the motion died.

**8. Approval of extending Contact Tracing Contract between Maximus Federal Services Inc. and JCHC.**

Mr. Prater requested clarification on the length of the extension for Maximus, to which it was stated the extension would go through January 31, 2021. Mr. Prater motioned to extend the contract with Maximus for contact tracing through January 31, 2021. Dr. Henry seconded the motion. Chairman Diehl called for discussion. Mrs. Davis requested information regarding when the health department would end their contact tracing efforts. Mr. Pigg noted that contact tracing was a requirement from the state, and that no one had an answer for that yet. Mrs. Davis requested clarification regarding whether this was a recommendation or a mandate. It was noted that the state ordered for contact tracing to be provided. Of the \$1.6 million allotted for 3 months of contracted contact tracing services, to date less than \$600,000 has been spent on this. Mrs. Davis requested Mrs. Vollmar forecast the upcoming COVID trends and the states response. Mrs. Vollmar stated the only assurance anyone could give during a pandemic is there are no assurances. The only thing that can be offered is recommendations based on what measures have been proven to be most effective, and contact tracing is one of those measures as are, handwashing, face coverings, social distancing, and immunizations. However, at this time there is no way to predict what was to come. Dr. Henry noted this was why they continue to evaluate the situation and mitigation measures on a monthly basis. Mrs. Davis requested information regarding from where Maximus staff members were working. Mrs. Vollmar stated they were not working for JCHD's offices, rather they were working from satellite locations throughout the country. It was also noted that JCHD attempted to hire locally for these positions; however, they were unable to recruit enough people qualified to complete the required tasks, hence the need to outsource. Mrs. Davis asked for information regarding the contact tracing procedures. To which Mrs. Vollmar provided a walk through of the process. Further discussion ensued regarding the barriers and limitations JCHD was encountering and working through solutions. Mrs. Davis requested this contract go up for bid so that a local business within Jefferson County could provide this service. Mrs. Vollmar stated that was what JCHD preferred to do as well. Whenever possible every effort is made to reinvest in the community. However, this contract is held by the state of Missouri, and it was put out for bid. The state sent notifications and published announcements about the bidding opportunity and process; however, no one from Jefferson County placed a bid to the health department's knowledge. The state selected the businesses to which the LPHC's could contract with if they so choose. JCHD did not have any authority over the bidding or selection process. Additionally, onboarding workers and getting all of the logistics worked out with Maximus was a complicated and time-consuming task, switching companies would cause further delays in contact tracing and other such services. Mr. Pigg call for immediate question. Further discussion



ensued regarding the logistics and costs associated with putting the contract back out to bid for Jefferson County businesses. Chairman Diehl called for immediate question. The motion carried with only Mrs. Davis dissenting. Chairman Diehl announced the motion passed.

**CLOSED SESSION:**

Dr. Henry motioned to go into closed session pursuant to section 610.021 (1), (2), (3), (13), and (14). Mr. Prater seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was taken, and the results were as follows:

Chairman Diehl: Aye

Dr. Henry: Aye

Mr. Pigg: Aye

Mr. Prater: Aye

Mrs. Davis Aye

Nothing to report from closed session.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Prater motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Pigg seconded. Motion carried unanimously and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed. Meeting adjourned at 4:48 pm.



Secretary-Treasurer

