

**JEFFERSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**405 Main Street, Hillsboro, MO 63050**  
**LIVE BROADCAST AVAILABLE VIA – YouTube**  
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**December 21, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Diehl called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Jefferson County Health Department to order at 3:03pm .

**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**

- Kelley Vollmar, Executive Director
- Steve Sikes, Deputy Director Operations
- Jennifer Pinkley, Deputy Director Admin.
- Christi Coleman, Legal Counsel

Others in attendance:

Katelyn Mary Skaggs, Leader Publications Jeana Vidacak, Public Health Preparedness Supervisor Kirstin Firle, Comptroller Brianne Zwiener, PIO
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**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chairman Diehl made a motion to amend the agenda to move Item #2 under New Business to after Closed Session when we return to Open Session. Mr. Pigg seconded. Hearing no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

**APPROVAL OF November 19, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Pigg made a motion to approve the **November 19, 2021** special meeting minutes. Mr. Prater seconded. Hearing no discussion, the motion carried and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

**APPROVAL OF November 30, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Pigg made a motion to approve the **November 30, 2021** meeting minutes. Mr. Prater seconded. Hearing no discussion, the motion carried and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

#### **November 2021 APPROVAL EXPENDITURES**

Dr. Henry motioned to approve the November 2021 expenditures in the amount of \$185,560.96. Mr. Pigg seconded.

Ms. Davis asked for the floor noticing on 11/10/21 Weiland Insurance for the Mobil Units, she asked Ms. Vollmar how many mobile units we have? To which Ms. Vollmar replied we have three larger units and three smaller units. Ms. Davis continued so the net was for \$10,120 so it is on record that this is Senator Weiland's insurance company and I'm just wondering if that might be a conflict of interest.

Ms. Davis states "On 11/18/21 Sandberg Phoenix for legal services \$17,125 for the month of November understand that we did need to defend ourselves, then there was another \$2000 from Sandberg phoenix as well, I'm very concerned that anything we do align ourselves in with anything else is going to cost a lot and this is a good example of what it can cost us and so I just want the board to consider that again how important it is to be careful with our counties money."

Ms. Vollmar stated following up to the expenses on our legal bills is one of the issues that has been an ongoing expense has been the sunshine request as well as lawsuits that have been brought in opposition to the Health Department best practice and recommendations and just stating that the need to defend ourselves might not necessarily have been great, but if we had all of our board members supporting our agency policies and best practices those might have been unnecessary expenses.

Mr. Prater called the motion to question. Ms. Davis continued to argue her point to which Chairman Diehl called her out of order.

Hearing no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Davis being the only dissenting vote Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

#### **November 2021 APPROVAL ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS**

Mr. Prater motioned to approve the electronic payments for November 2021 in the amount of \$476,779.76. Mr. Pigg seconded.

Ms. Davis states that she noticed we are paying about \$253,000 in salaries and United Healthcare is about a fourth of amount, so a good \$60,000 is being spent on just health care, she thinks in the future it would be a good idea to look into possibly seeing what we can do to get a better price.

Motion carried and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

## **January 2022 PRE-APPROVAL ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS**

The list of vendors for pre-approved electronic payments for January 2022 presented to the board with an estimated amount of \$584,364.25. Mr. Prater motioned to pre-approve the January 2022 Electronic Payments. Dr. Henry seconded. Motion carried and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT – KELLEY VOLLMAR**

We continue to see increases within the Eastern Region we are not necessarily seeing the same types of increases in our cases as the Northwest and Kansas City areas as they have seen some tremendous growth and their caseloads over the last couple of weeks. We anticipate as we move into the holidays with having both Christmas and New Year's one week apart, we definitely are going to be seeing some higher case rates after people are home and gathered over holidays. One of the things we currently are looking at is this is at the end of last week it is from the Saint Louis Coalition, and they were looking at our percent positivity rate for testing Jefferson County as well as Franklin County are showing the highest rates right now in our region. New cases, bed occupancy and admissions in the hospitals in the past twelve months and then we can see again our case rates have been increasing we're starting to see similar trends, like last year in terms of reports ICU beds continuing to increase even higher than our inpatient beds. Another item I wanted to point out is the state has started designating county hotspots and as I've looked at these they have looked mostly at overall county grades but have started to look into smaller areas at zip code analysis and one of the things that they have consistently found on the right side of the Saint Louis metropolitan area and up along the High Ridge, Arnold, House Springs area has consistently shown on the hotspot areas for Jefferson County. Across the state most cases of right now are being seen Kansas City and Northwest and then now we're starting to see just along highway 70 corridor and again High Ridge, House Springs and Arnold continued to be announced hotspot areas for high case rates. The percent remaining unvaccinated, as we look at our adult population those who are eligible for the vaccine the majority have received the vaccine so you don't have a significant or a large gap which is majority of Jefferson County you are seeing that's an area where we have larger vaccination gaps meaning that of those who are able to get the vaccine there are a lot who still have not been vaccinated what we're seeing is again it's corresponding to those areas where we're seeing hotspot issues and continued increases in case rates. Pulled from the state COVID dashboard before we came in today it is looking at the last seven days, we have 733 new cases which comes out to 326 per 100,000 so again that continues to keep Jefferson County and the red status, our case positivity rate went up from even what we were looking at last week, week 49 we were looking at a 14.5% positivity rate as of today the state is reporting 16.2%.

Dr. Henry asked if it is difficult to get COVID test? Ms. Vollmar replied that it is difficult to get home test, but you can get COVID test at the Health Department, Urgent Cares, or Physician offices.

Jeana, Public Health Preparedness planner and supervisor to the CD Team is here to talk about Public Health's Role in Preventing Communicable Disease

What we do

#### American Public Health Association

Public health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play.

While a doctor treats individual people who are sick, those of us working in public health try to prevent people from getting sick or injured in the first place. We also promote wellness by encouraging healthy behaviors.

PH has been doing this since 1878, when the US started putting policies in place to prevent the spread of things like Cholera, Smallpox, Plague, Yellow Fever and other diseases. There is a system in place, and when done well, most people do not realize all that goes on in the background to protect them over these last ~144 years. We are thankful the systems work so well, but realize we need to do a better job informing the public about what we do. Covid-19 shined a spotlight on PH, but still did not show the full picture.

#### Essential Public Health Services (Revised, 2020) CDC

We may not have discussed this lately, but There are 10 Essential Public Health Services that provide a framework for public health to protect and promote the health of *all people in all communities*.

1. Assess and monitor population health status, factors that influence health, and community needs and assets
2. Investigate, diagnose, and address health problems and hazards affecting the population
3. Communicate effectively to inform and educate people about health, factors that influence it, and how to improve it
4. Strengthen, support, and mobilize communities and partnerships to improve health
5. Create, champion, and implement policies, plans, and laws that impact health
6. Utilize legal and regulatory actions designed to improve and protect the public's health
7. Assure an effective system that enables equitable access to the individual services and care needed to be healthy
8. Build and support a diverse and skilled public health workforce
9. Improve and innovate public health functions through ongoing evaluation, research, and continuous quality improvement
10. Build and maintain a strong organizational infrastructure for public health

## How we do it-

**Through case management and contact tracing. Through mitigation strategies such as isolation, quarantine, social distancing, masking, good hand hygiene, pre and post vaccinations.**

- There are systems in place in MO, and across the United States for providers and laboratories to report positive results to the state health dept, based on the State of Mo 19 CSR 20-20.020 which lists all diseases and conditions that are mandatory to be reported.
- Botulism, Plague, Rabies, Hep A, Measles, Mumps, Pertussis, Polio, TB, Syphilis, STI's just to name a very few. Watch old westerns and the depictions of some of these diseases that were once prevalent, debilitating and often fatal. Think about Doc Holiday in Tombstone
- These diseases haven't disappeared because we live in this modern world. Most still exist but because of the implementation of case management we have been able to prevent the spread.
  - Example: Measles was considered eradicated in 2000, meaning it is no longer constantly present in the country. However, we do have cases and outbreaks associated with travelers.
- Each disease or condition has its own set of "rules"
  - Council of State and Territorial Epi (CSTE), CDC and DHSS all play a role in writing the rules of the disease or condition and how to respond.
    - Covid- infectious for 10 days, 6ft 15 min = exposure and 14-day incubation.
    - Measles-Contagious 4 days before to 4 days after rash, 7-14-day incubation, unvaccinated are considered exposures, spread through droplets that can "float" in the air for up to 2 hours.

Our role is to try to prevent the spread of a disease. We do this through investigations and interviews but also with administration of post exposure vaccinations or medications. Some question why this isn't left to our health care system, our hospitals. Health care treats the individual person (one-on-one), Public Health protects the entire community's population (large population of people all at once). We work together, but each have our own part to play. Worth noting-all communication between agencies is done through secure and encrypted channels. We maintain HIPAA compliance through this process, which is why we will never identify the positive case. We do not share PHI in order to maintain confidentiality to our cases.

### **The Process:**

- When our team is notified of a positive case, they respond utilizing those rules.
  - Our CD investigator, for us is a nurse, will interview case with a pre-designed set of questions, educate on the disease and the need to isolate based on the rules, collect information on anyone that may have been exposed based on the rules, and begin the process to notify each person.

They then provide that person with education, quarantine if needed, and possible testing and post exposure options.

- Hep A, unvaccinated are encouraged to begin their Hep A vaccination series to prevent illness. We can offer this at reduced or no charge.
- Our Epi takes the information gained from the CD nurse and builds reports and epi curves to give us the broader picture of what is happening, where we are forecasting to go, what is the trend, where in the epi curve we are (using the rules to know where in the cycle of the disease or condition we are) How many incubation cycles we have completed. In addition to working forward, our Epi's work backwards to try to trace a disease back to the original case...and then work back out again to capture any unidentified cases.
- In addition to receiving the positive case information, we also receive information on "travelers"
  - Travelers are folks entering the US from countries that are currently in outbreak status.
    - Just like with positive cases, there are systems in place to identify potential risks. Locations and risks are assessed by federal agencies who will issue travel alerts. Airlines and border check points have notification systems in place to identify if someone is entering the country from a high-risk area, based on the alert.
    - This information is then passed to the county of residence or visitation of the identified person.
      - This could be someone coming back from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In 2021 there have been alerts concerning travel from the area due to Ebola outbreaks.
    - Our CD nurse or Epi will follow up with all persons identified.
      - Just like before, there are rules for each disease or condition. Each will have its own set of interview questions and risk assessments.
      - Example: Ebola, there is a risk assessment to determine appropriate response. A person traveling to attend a 1<sup>st</sup> birthday party has a lower risk than someone attending a funeral for an Ebola victim. A high risk could be a health care worker working in an Ebola clinic. Each risk level has a set of rules. The birthday attendant may need to self-monitor for the incubation period, but the health care worker may need to quarantine within their home for the full period.
      - This is a practice that has served the country well. We have had known Ebola cases within the US but have prevented transmission and outbreaks.
- During all of this, there are also reporting structures and checks and balances. All the work we do at the local level, following all the rules and guidelines, are evaluated, and questioned. For us, the MO Eastern District Epi's, look over our



case management and reports to make sure we followed the rules, and they audit our response. All that information is then passed to the CDC for further analysis and input. In larger or unusual cases, we all work together.

- o This information and data that is shared with CDC plays a part in how the rules are established. As we learn more about each disease, by vetted scientific research, the rules may change. We have seen this during the progression of the Sars-CoV-2 Pandemic. When changes occur to the rules, we adjust our response to follow.

To sum it all up: There are systems in place to identify communicable disease and conditions, or the risk thereof, and to notify appropriate agencies. There are rules and guidelines established to work by and systems to audit and evaluate the response. This is a nationwide system, and much bigger than our LHD.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Approval of Final 2022 Budget**

Kristin Firle, Comptroller explained changes to the final 2022 budget \$507,000 more available in revenues due to acquiring 3 funding sources which increased the budget by 6.2%, also including is the non-operating budget that is to fund anything going forward with the new building. Mr. Prater asked what if marketing included program brochures, to which Ms. Firle stated yes. Ms. Davis asked if we are still using the billboards? Ms. Zwiener answered yes, we currently have a billboard for locations Narcan distribution and to learn how to use and the second is the No Lead campaign which is funded through our Superfund Lead contract. Ms. Davis asked if we have funds for drug related programs, Ms. Firle states we have some restricted funds for drug prevention, it is the Overdose to Action funding. Ms. Vollmar states that program covers items in terms of overdose prevention, helping to build up prevention skills, keep kids from starting drugs in first place, and helping to raise awareness in terms of safe locations to drop off syringes and unused drugs. Ms. Davis asked if we could offer childcare to some of single moms that are struggling, Mr. Prater responded that would be social services. Ms. Vollmar responded that one the things that we do we have is a resource navigator or basically a vulnerable population specialist who will work with individuals to connect them to resources, so not only maybe childcare subsidies but as well assistance with housing assistance with maybe getting onto WIC or food stamps. The Aspen tool that Jackie Brown came in and talked with us a little bit about earlier in the year actually is doing that as well is that they're going to be the people may come to us for one reason they may come to us for family planning to get their annual visit they may come to us for Narcan to learn about you know how to provide it and then our goal is to look at or back whole person and what are all of the resources that they need be able to support them and then we the goal is to be able to connect them to all those resources whether they're internal to us or to our partners through the Jefferson County Health Network or Jefferson Franklin Community Action they provide some of the services and so we do the warm handoff to make sure that that

people are getting taken care of. Ms. Davis wanted clarification of why our legal expenses budget would be on \$182,000? Ms. Vollmar clarified that this is based off of the projection of our current monthly bills, which are due to numerous Sunshine Requests, COVID orders over the past year that had to be reviewed by legal to ensure that are in compliance with the law, as well as there have been legal matters that have been brought to the agency prior to June 2020 that were not an issue with our county prior. We had maintained a budget of \$11,000 for legal expenses but since that time period we have significantly grown that expense line item in order to ensure that we are allocating and ensuring that we are prepared for any potential expenses Ms. Firlie had to forecast what our potential could be. Mr. Pigg called point of order we should have a motion before any further discussion.

Mr. Pigg made motion to approve the 2022 Budget in the amount of \$8,640,299. Mr. Prater seconded.

Ms. Davis believes that Sunshine Request do not need to go through the attorney, that Ms. Pinkley can take care of those when they are received, Mr. Prater and Mr. Pigg stated that unfortunately those do need to go through the attorney.

Hearing no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Davis being the only dissenting vote Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Establish Insurance Subcommittee**

Chairman Diehl would like to establish an Insurance Subcommittee to review JCHD's insurance policies and the subcommittee members he is recommending are Ms. Davis and Mr. Pigg. Ms. Davis would rather be on the subcommittee with Dr. Henry or Mr. Prater, but both are on other subcommittees, Mr. Prater said he could give advice if needed. Dr. Henry made a motion to establish the Insurance Subcommittee with Ms. Davis and Mr. Pigg as members.

Hearing no further discussion, the motion carried, and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

### **Act on Choice of Law Firm**

Ms. Coleman submitted her resignation yesterday to Sandberg Phoenix and she is starting with a new firm tomorrow, Lewis Brisbois, JCHC has the ability to keep our work with Sandberg Phoenix, move with me to Lewis Brisbois, or select a new law firm entirely. The rate structure would also be the same at Lewis Brisbois and Michael McGinley who is the attorney that you have been working with from Sandberg Phoenix on the building of the new building in the real estate issues, has moved to Lewis Brisbois effective last week.

Mr. Prater made a motion to stay with Ms. Coleman as the JCHC attorney at the new firm of Lewis Brisbois. Dr. Henry seconded. Ms. Davis states that she feels like we are not doing with our resources what we should and trying to enter into a lawsuit that we really have no business getting into. Dr. Henry called point of order. Dr. Henry



reminded everyone that went out to bid a year and half ago for attorneys and this is attorney we chose.

Hearing no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Davis being the only dissenting vote Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

Mr. Prater motioned to go into closed session citing Sunshine Law Statute 610.021 Sections 1, 2, 3 and 14. Dr. Henry seconded the motion. Chairman Diehl requested a roll call vote with the results as follows:

Chairman Diehl—Approve

Dr. Henry— Approve

Mr. Prater— Approve

Mr. Pigg— Approve

Mrs. Davis— Approve

Chairman Diehl announced the motion carried and they were now in closed session.

Mr. Prater made a motion to re-open Open session. Mr. Pigg seconded. Chairman Diehl requested a roll call vote with the results as follows:

Chairman Diehl—Approve

Dr. Henry— Approve

Mr. Prater— Approve

Mr. Pigg— Approve

Mrs. Davis— Approve

**Act on Recommendation to Adopt JCHC Communicable Disease Order**

Mr. Prater made a motion to Adopt JCHD Communicable Disease Order, Resolution 21-12-21-01. Mr. Pigg seconded.

Ms. Davis states “that we can do without this, I feels like it's excessive and overburdensome to have all these excessive orders, the ability to take someone to court, I think we're forgetting that people have common sense. Some things I think are egregious are if this passes this Board has right to make and promulgate orders, ordinances, rules or regulations as will tend to enhance the public health and prevent the entrance of infectious, contagious, communicable or dangerous disease into such county. This is government overreach in our county to its citizens, and I say hell no.”

Chairman Diehl states that this order does not change anything to what's been happening all along to which Ms. Davis replied our county doesn't need to spend a bunch of time contact tracing anymore, we need to get back to normal and the numbers are coming down, the numbers are coming down. Mr. Prater states that this Order does not include COVID-19, so to Ms. Davis point it does not affect what she was talking about.

Hearing no further discussion, the motion carried with Ms. Davis being the only dissenting vote Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

There will be a special Board meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Coleman states that it can be by Zoom because it is a special meeting. Ms. Davis states that we need to have our meeting in a larger venue and at 6:30 pm, like the Attorney General has requested.

Ms. Davis states that where we are from last year to this year is we are we're in better shape than we were last November because in last November we were much higher in in all of the numbers even though we are in the red quote it doesn't mean that we're not doing better this year than we were this time last year, for example this is current for Jefferson County it compares us to Saint Louis, Saint Louis County, and Saint Charles County per 100,000 population we have 60 people testing positive average, that doesn't mean they are sick people. Our mitigation measures are not as heavy as a place like Saint Louis County and their infection rate is basically the same as ours. The efficacy of the vaccine is not what they promised it would be they said 95% efficacy and if you look at who's in the hospital it is showing that there's 25% of the people hospitalized are vaccinated people.

#### **ADJOURN**

Mr. Pigg motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Prater seconded. Motion carried unanimously and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:09 PM.

  
Secretary-Treasurer