

JEFFERSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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January 26, 2021
Special Meeting (Virtual)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Diehl called the special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Jefferson County Health Department to order at 3:05pm, and noted the meeting was being held virtually, consistent with guidance from the Missouri Attorney General's Office, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was also noted the only agenda item was regarding obtaining COVID-19 vaccines for Jefferson County. Due to the timing of the opportunity to obtain vaccines the special board meeting was arranged.

ROLL CALL

- Dennis Diehl, Chairman - Present
- Dr. Amber Henry, Vice-Chairman – Present
- James Prater, Secretary-Treasurer – Excused
- 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.
- Christi Coleman, Counsel
-

Others in attendance:

VISITORS AND GUEST REMARKS

None

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Pigg made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Henry seconded. Mrs. Davis questioned why this meeting was called instead of waiting for the next scheduled board meeting. As stated at the opening of the meeting, Chairman Diehl stated the matter was time sensitive and needed to be addressed immediately. Motion carried with Mrs. Davis the only dissenting vote. Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed and the agenda was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman Diehl introduced the new business which pertained to an intergovernmental agreement with St. Louis County for the COVID-19 Vaccine Program. It was noted the board members should have received the order prior to today's meeting. Chairman Diehl requested that Director Vollmar provide further explanation. Director Vollmar reported JCHD has been working to obtain vaccines through the state for several weeks to no avail. Because of the ordering schedule and the way in which the state is distributing the vaccine allotments, there are several agencies across the state in the same predicament as JCHD. In response to this the state is allowing for CDC approved vaccine sites to redistribute vaccines to other CDC approved sites, which JCHD is. In addition to the contract with St. Louis County to receive vaccines through them, JCHD is also working with Mercy Jefferson on a similar contract/agreement. This means if they have excess vaccines, they may sign them over to JCHD so that they can be distributed in Jefferson County. The agreement is required because JCHD is a separate government entity from St. Louis County. Director Vollmar explained the purpose of bringing this agreement before the board is to ensure JCHD is prepared to act immediately when the vaccine becomes available.

Chairman Diehl asked Ms. Coleman for clarification regarding whether the agreement needed to be read in full during the meeting. Ms. Coleman stated it did not because once the agreement/contract was approved it would become public record under the Sunshine Law. Mrs. Davis asked how many pages the contract was, to which Director Vollmar stated it was four pages. Mrs. Davis questioned whether the document should be read out loud in full for public record. Ms. Coleman clarified the protocol was to provide a summary of what the contract's purpose and what it contains; however, it does not need to be read verbatim because it would become public record once approved. Mrs. Davis asked if there should be a cover page that provides highlights of the contract for the board members to review. It was questioned whether Mrs. Davis received the contract prior to the meeting to which Mrs. Davis replied she had not because of issues with her email. The other Board members indicated that they had received the contract and had reviewed it prior to the meeting.

Ms. Coleman explained whenever there is an agreement between two intergovernmental agencies a contract is required to outline each agency's roles and responsibilities. St. Louis County is going to deliver vaccines to JCHD who will provide

vaccines to Jefferson County residents. It requires JCHD to follow the same CDC protocols as St. Louis County does in delivering the vaccines to Jefferson County Residents. This intergovernmental agreement allows for St. Louis County to provide their excess vaccines to JCHD who will then provide them to Jefferson County residents following the mandatory CDC protocols by which St. Louis County abides.

Dr. Henry made a motion for the Board to approve the intergovernmental agreement between JCHD and St. Louis County. Mr. Pigg seconded the motion. Chairman Diehl opened the floor for discussion. Mrs. Davis asked if what was being discussed was the 196-page report that she found online. Ms. Coleman clarified the document Mrs. Davis was referring to is the CDC's outline of the vaccine protocols. These are the protocols that vaccine approved sites are required to follow if they receive vaccines through the government. The agreement brought before the board is 4-pages and outlines the roles and responsibilities of each agency, JCHD and St. Louis County. Mrs. Davis asked why JCHD was not obtaining the vaccine on their own. Director Vollmar explained that this was not a normal circumstance in which JCHD could go directly to the manufacturer to purchase the vaccines, instead JCHD is required to obtain the vaccines through the government. JCHD reached out to the local representatives asking for help in obtaining vaccines for our region; however, the issue has not been resolved yet. The vaccines are secured by the federal government and passed down through the states. The states determine who will disseminate the vaccines, and those entities are then able to order supplies from the manufacturer. The four orders JCHD has submitted to the state have not been approved yet. The only other way for JCHD to obtain the vaccines is through the redistribution process. Mrs. Davis asked if this agreement would require JCHD to function as St. Louis County does. Director Vollmar noted beyond following the CDC mandatory protocols St. Louis County would not impose rules and regulations for how JCHD operates. A key component of the agreement is the tracking of vaccines. Because a follow-up shot is necessary, the vaccines must be tracked to ensure those receiving the first vaccine are all but guaranteed a second shot.

Mrs. Davis asked if this was a mandatory shot and if at any time it will become mandatory. Director Vollmar clarified the vaccine is not mandatory and to her knowledge there were no plans to make it mandatory. It was further clarified that the bigger problem was there were a lot of Jefferson County residents wanting the vaccine, but JCHD has not been able to access any to meet the demand/need. Ms. Coleman clarified that some employers in Jefferson County may require their employees to get the vaccine, and JCHD does not have jurisdiction over the employers' decision to do so.

Chairman Diehl asked why JCHD is having difficulty obtaining the vaccine from the state. Director Vollmar replied 1) the state is limited in the supply it is receiving; 2) the state Department of Health is separate from the local Departments of Health and the state decides where and how many vaccines are distributed; and 3) traditionally local


public health departments were the chosen venue for providing mass vaccination clinics but that is not the model that was chosen this time. JCHD has the opportunity to work with another provider to lease an ultra-cold freezer which will give us the flexibility to offer the Pfizer and/or Moderna vaccine when available. Mrs. Davis asked how many vaccines were available; which one were we trying to obtain; and which one is better. Director Vollmar replied, Jefferson County has two vaccines Moderna and Pfizer. The Moderna vaccine has been allocated to long-term care facilities for staff and residents. The Pfizer vaccine has been distributed to health care providers and facilities with the capacity to store the vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine, once thawed, must be used within five days, and the smallest order that can be requested is 950, so those receiving Pfizer must have the capacity to get a large number of vaccines out in a short amount of time. Director Vollmar stated she could not speak to which vaccine was better but recommended that those interested in being inoculated should sign-up for whichever vaccine is available to them.

Mrs. Davis asked about liability for JCHD if a person had a serious reaction to the vaccine, to which Director Vollmar explained that there was a screening process to help assess each individuals' risk of allergic reaction, and the nurses would determine the course of action accordingly. Additionally, everyone inoculated is required to be observed for 15-30 minutes in case a reaction should occur. Medical staff and EMT's are on site to assist should there be an issue. Mrs. Davis expressed concerns about unusual reactions that could result in lawsuits, to which Chairman Diehl explained there is a process for individuals that have an adverse reaction to the vaccine; however, providers are covered from being held liable as long as they have followed the guidelines set by the federal government. Mrs. Davis questioned if individuals had to sign a liability release to obtain the vaccine. Chairman Diehl and Director Vollmar explained the standard protocol is for everyone to sign an informed consent to receive the vaccine.

Hearing no other discussion Chairman Diehl called for a vote for the motion on the floor, which passed with Mrs. Davis being the only dissenting vote. Chairman Diehl announced the agreement was approved.

ADJOURN

Mr. Pigg motioned to adjourn the meeting. Dr. Henry seconded. Motion carried unanimously and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:28pm.


Secretary-Treasurer