

**JEFFERSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**  
**Physical Location 405 Main Street, Hillsboro, MO 63050**  
**Recorded Broadcast available VIA: YouTube**  
**@<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCACuytmq2kUAI65z3AYsmYw>**  
**July 22, 2021**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Diehl called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Jefferson County Health Department to order at 3:01 pm .

**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, Executive Director
- Steve Sikes, Deputy Director, Agency  
Operations
- Jennifer Pinkley, Deputy Director, Agency  
Administration
- Christi Coleman, Counsel
- 

Others in attendance:

Katelyn Mary Skaggs, Leader Publications

## **VISITORS AND GUEST REMARKS**

None

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Prater motioned to approve the agenda. Dr. Henry seconded. After hearing no discussion, it passed unanimously. Chairman Diehl announced the amended agenda was approved.

## **June 24, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**

Mr. Prater made a motion to approve the 6/24/2021 minutes. Dr. Henry seconded. Hearing no discussion, The motion carried Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed and the minutes were approved.

## **June 2021 EXPENDITURES**

Dr. Henry motioned to approve the June 2021 expenditures for \$164,340.09. Mr. Prater seconded.

A discussion ensued with Mrs. Davis making an inquiry about an itemized list regarding the bill for Sandberg Phoenix for \$5491.46, Mrs. Coleman responded that the bill is not for public record because there is attorney client privileged information on the statement.

Mrs. Davis inquired about the Alpha Media COVID vaccine awareness radio campaign on and whether the cost would be reimbursed by other funding, to which Mrs. Vollmar stated it would be reimbursed through FEMA. Additionally, the state has funding that may cover the reimbursement. It was clarified that the information being requested would be reported in the board packet once June was submitted. Mrs. Davis then requested to see/hear the adds, to which Mrs. Vollmar noted the clips were preapproved by two board members.

Mrs. Davis expressed concerns about the medical, dental, life, and vision premiums and requested this be researched to find less expensive options. Director Vollmar informed Mrs. Davis that every year this goes out to bid and that they work very hard to obtain the best and lowest bid for insurance. Mrs. Vollmar noted that it was extremely important for those in the healthcare field to have access to quality health care. At Mrs. Davis' request Mrs. Vollmar stated JCHD has 85 employees.

Mrs. Davis requested an itemized list for the VISA bill. Mrs. Vollmar noted that the information is provided to the board prior to the meeting so that they have time to ask those questions, and staff has time to gather the information to provide for her. Mrs. Davis was then encouraged to submit her requests in one email so that the meeting could be continued.

Chairman Diehl put the motion to question. The motion unanimously carried  
Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

### **June 2021 APPROVAL ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS**

Dr. Henry motioned to approve the electronic payments for June 2021 for \$446,288.15. Mr. Prater seconded. The motion carried unanimously and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

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

The list of vendors for pre-approved electronic payments for August 2021 presented to the board with an estimated amount of \$559,087.25. Mr. Prater motioned to pre-approve the August 2021 Electronic Payments. Dr. Henry seconded. The motion carried unanimously and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

### **DIRECTORS REPORT – KELLEY VOLLMAR**

Mrs. Vollmar reviewed our local statistics in Jefferson County and then review a PowerPoint presentation.

Mrs. Vollmar provided a report of Covid-19 case growth in our County compared to other areas of the state. Cases have significantly increased in the Joplin, Springfield and Branson areas that are popular locations for tourist activity. We did anticipate seeing increases in cases locally after the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend due to the high likelihood of individuals from our area vacationing in these parts of the state.

We had an increase of 73 cases from yesterday to today. The day before the number of cases was in the 90s. Our active cases have increased 10.45% since yesterday. That's significant considering five to six weeks ago, our daily increase was in the single digits. The largest increase in case numbers was found in our 0-19 group again. We had 18 cases just since yesterday in our 10-19 year old's.

Mrs. Vollmar participated in a conversation with a chief medical officer from one of the health systems from Southwest Missouri yesterday. The CMO discussed that what they were experiencing there can be expected here. They stated that at the peak in their last surge they had 58 individuals in the ICU per day and now they have 107. They also reported that in the last surge at peak they were using 15 ventilators and they are now using 50. The cases they are seeing now are much more severe and are requiring many more life-saving measures than they previously have seen. 95% of those that they have seen admitted to the hospital have been unvaccinated. unvaccinated do.

Ms. Davis interrupted Mrs. Vollmar and asked her to stop for a minute and back up to the part about the medicine. Mrs. Vollmar asked Chairman Diehl if she could continue to have the floor in order to finish her report. Chairman Diehl affirmed and Mrs. Vollmar continued her report.

Mrs. Vollmar continued that hospitals do have a small percentage of breakthrough cases in vaccinated individuals, but the cases are much less severe and do not require the level of care that those who are unvaccinated have required. Basically, they are having a flu-like illness with very mild symptoms. They concluded by warning St. Louis and other parts of the State that the conditions that took months to develop in previous surges have taken six weeks in the current surge. He warned providers to monitor for the initial increases because the rapid speed in which the delta variant spread was unprecedented.

Mrs. Vollmar then displayed a PowerPoint presentation that went over the increases in cases over the past two weeks. She noted that the increases in cases were in the range of 40-60%, so they were not small jumps, rather large increases. Moving further into the presentation, Mrs. Vollmar reviewed the current indicators for the color transmission and the systems behind them (Harvard Global Health and CDC). The JCHD is going to stop using the Harvard Global Health indicators and go to utilizing the CDC indicators as the sole basis for community transmission. This is the standard that has been predominantly adopted in our region and will be utilized to communicate risk to our schools, businesses and community. The CDC standards and thresholds have remained the same, but the color on the low transmission end of the spectrum changed from green to blue. The only change was in the color, the thresholds remain identical to what we have been using.

Ms. Davis interrupted to ask Mrs. Vollmar why it was not okay for board members to interact with Mrs. Vollmar while she gave her report. Mrs. Vollmar responded that if it was allowed, she would not be able to get through her report. Mrs. Vollmar stated that she would appreciate if Ms. Davis could wait and hold her questions until the end and then stated that she would be happy to answer questions.

Mrs. Vollmar continued. The community transmission thresholds are what CDC has been using to provide guidance to schools, businesses and worksites. Basically community transmission takes into account new cases per 100,000 per week and the percentage positive in the last 7 days. All of the thresholds are the same, so zero to nine is blue, (it was just colored green before.) Yellow is 10 to 49. Orange is 50 to 99. Red is anything over 100.

We are getting a lot of questions on the variant data for our County. There haven't been enough data collected and analyzed to be able to report. The state is limited in the number of tests they can randomly pull and send to CDC for the genome sequencing. We don't have a lot of tests that come out of our particular county at this point, so the odds of getting pulled for genome sequencing is lower. What we can do is look at the Health and Human Services Region 7 data (which includes the state of Missouri) to see the progression from April through today of the growth of the Delta variant. We are currently at the point where 96.3% of the Covid cases in our region are identified as Delta.

Mrs. Vollmar stated that Delta cases have been shown to spread faster and cause more significant illness. It has been spreading easily in youth. Looking at the data on from last year at this time of year to this year, we are seeing large increases in cases. July was the period last year that we started to see our curve moving up toward our

peak. Now looking at a chart with ages, we are looking at those same timelines. You can see that the ages of our positive Covid-19 cases continue to trend downward.

Mrs. Davis asked if JCHD was using the White House Metric now instead of the Harvard Global Health Metric. Mrs. Vollmar replied up to this point both metrics were being used; however, moving forward the CDC guidance will be used. By this standard at 100 new cases per 100,000 in the past 7 days we would become red.

Mrs. Davis asked if 25 new cases using the measures from before would put us in red status. Mrs. Vollmar explained what she was referencing was based on the daily cases per 100,000 people—a 7-day running average of daily cases rather than—Mrs. Davis interjected requesting information regarding the rate of mild cases and breakthrough cases, as well as charts showing the ages of anyone hospitalized from this variant. Mrs. Vollmar stated that level of information is part of the investigation process and would not be available on a daily basis. Regarding the vaccination status that would have to be confirmed through the state vaccination system. What the data is currently revealing is 95% of those in the hospitals are unvaccinated. Also, those who have had COVID are having a second infection from it, and it can be as severe or more severe the second time around.

Director Vollmar further explained when talking about vaccination and the levels of immunity it's reviewed in terms of a scale. Those who have not had it and have been vaccinated are most at risk. Those who have had COVID but have not been vaccinated have some immunity but it's not the same level of immunity as an individual who has had a vaccine. Individuals who have had COVID and have also received the vaccine are the gold standard, as they have the highest level of immunity. Mrs. Davis refuted the data Mrs. Vollmar presented and requested case studies and verified data from CDC and the hospitals. Mr. Pigg requested that Mrs. Vollmar continue with her presentation. Chairman Diehl corrected Mrs. Davis stating the data that was being provided was from the CDC and hospitals, both vetted sources. Mrs. Davis continued arguing her point, to which Mr. Pigg stated that COVID was not a typical virus that we should just let run its course, especially since so many people do not have the immune system to fight this virus. The video feed was temporarily paused and resumed once order was restored in the board room.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Environmental Food Code Amendment Request**

We are currently looking at amending our Jefferson County Food Code 8-302.13 Qualifications and Responsibilities of Applicants subsection B and the Food Service Sanitation Order Section 230.040 Cost Reimbursement Charges to clarify language there will be no changes to the intent of the document. Basically, it was a matter of there'd been some confusion and so just helping to clarify very specifically in the language by adding three words to what the intent was. We are adding language that

would now include any applicable Federal, State, or local law, code, or ordinance, this has always been the intent.

Mr. Prater made a motion to approve the Environmental Food Code Amendment. Dr. Henry seconded.

Mr. Sikes read the amendment:

**Jefferson County Food Code  
Amendment:**

**8-302.13 Qualifications and Responsibilities of Applicants.**

To qualify for a PERMIT, an applicant shall:

(A) Be an owner of the FOOD ESTABLISHMENT or an officer of the legal ownership;  
(B) Comply with the requirements of this Code and any applicable Federal, State, or local law, code or ordinance.

(C) Agree to allow access to the FOOD ESTABLISHMENT and to provide required information; and (D) Pay the applicable PERMIT fees at the time the application is submitted.

**Food Service Sanitation Order**

**Section 230.040 Cost Reimbursement Charges**

B. Before engaging in business, new owners of food establishments and new food establishments shall make application for a food and beverage permit from the Jefferson County Health Department, provide facility documents for plan review if required, pay all necessary cost reimbursement charges, be approved by the Jefferson County Health Department and comply with the requirements of any applicable Federal, State or local law, code or ordinance.

The motion carried unanimously and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

**2021 Employee Salary Increases**

The 2021 budgeted amount for employee raises was \$87,075.00, we are bringing a request to the Board for \$64,402.00 this is due to 17 positions being budgeted to receive raises, but did not due to resignations, retirements, and timing of filling vacancies and all positions being budgeting at the highest rate v. the actual amounts being requested. Mr. Prater made a motion to accept the changes to the 2021 employee salary increases. Dr. Henry seconded. The motion carried unanimously and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

**Discussion of whether to open meetings for public in-person attendance, with observation of mitigation measures**

Chairman Diehl introduced the last item under New Business, which was requested to be on the agenda by Ms. Coleman regarding opening meetings to the public while observing COVID mitigation measures. Chairman Diehl questioned if they want to open up to the public would that require a different venue. Ms. Coleman stated she recommended going ahead and opening up for in person

attendance, with the understanding that in-person attendance does not mean active involvement in the meeting, rather it is the ability to come in socially distanced along the corner of the room depending on the number of seats you can fit in the board room while still maintaining social distancing. Those in attendance will also need to understand that they will have to comply to the board resolution currently in place.

Mr. Pigg suggested moving forward the board needed to be in full agreement to either meet via Zoom or everyone meet in person, stating having some in person and some on Zoom is disjointed and not a good system. Mr. Prater recommended someone check what the room capacity is for fire code, to which Ms. Coleman noted room capacity for fire code vs. social distancing will be very different. She stated capacity for social distancing is what needs to be planned. Mrs. Vollmar stated room capacity for fire code divided by 6' would be how social distancing would be calculated. Chairman Diehl questioned if that number had already been calculated to which Mr. Prater replied it was 11 or 12. Mrs. Davis questioned why social distancing was necessary if those who wanted to be vaccinated were and those that didn't don't care about social distancing. Mrs. Vollmar explained that not everyone who is unvaccinated wants to be. There are several individuals who have health conditions that prevent them from being able to receive the vaccine. As such accommodations need to be made for their safety. One member of the board being comfortable around individuals that are not vaccinated does not equate all board members being comfortable with that. Mrs. Davis questioned/argued her point regarding why JCHD administration was trying to impose mitigation measures on those who are unconcerned about them.

Chairman Diehl intervened stating that this could be argued indefinitely; however, a motion would need to be made and seconded for this to progress any farther. Mrs. Davis stated the meetings should be held at the administration building. Ms. Coleman and Chairman Diehl both noted that this is a business meeting and while the public may attend, they do not have the right to speak unless they are on the agenda or recognized by the Chairperson.

Dr. Henry motioned to open the meetings to the public while observing social distancing and following requirements from the health department and requiring masks for those unvaccinated. Mr. Prater seconded the motion. A discussion ensued in which Mrs. Davis argued that people should be allowed to be responsible for themselves and decide whether or not they want to wear a mask/social distance. Additionally, she argued that the meetings should be held at the county administration building. Mrs. Vollmar asked for and was granted the floor and explained that JCHD is not part of the county government and as such does not have automatic use of those facilities.

The motion was put to vote and carried with Mrs. Davis being the only dissenting vote. Chairman Diehl announced the motion passed 4 to 1.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Pigg motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Prater seconded. Hearing no discussion, The motion carried the motion unanimously and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed. The meeting adjourned at 5:17 pm.

  
Secretary-Treasurer