

JEFFERSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
405 Main Street, Hillsboro, MO 63050
July 28, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Diehl called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Jefferson County Health Department to order at 3:05 PM.

ROLL CALL

Dennis Diehl, Chairman - Present
Dr. Amber Henry, Vice-Chairman - Present
James Prater, Secretary-Treasurer - Present
Timothy Pigg, Member - Present
Suzy Davis, Member - Present

OTHERS ATTENDING

Kelley Vollmar, Director; Richard Tufts, Assistant Director; Jennifer Pinkley, Administrative Services Manager; Steve Heinle, IT Manager; Jessica Mikale, Wegmann Law Firm, Katelyn Mary Skaggs, Leader Publications

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Henry made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Pigg seconded. During the discussion Mrs. Davis questioned why she was not on the agenda, stating that she requested to be placed on the agenda at the July 21st meeting. Mr. Pigg called point of order noting that an email went out to all board members providing the opportunity to suggest items for the agenda. After additional discussion Mr. Pigg called a second point of order stating there is a first and second motion on the table and requested a vote. Chairman Diehl called a vote, with four in favor, Mrs. Davis, and no abstentions. The agenda was passed.

JCHD AGENCY MASK POLICY

Mrs. Vollmar read and explained the Resolution NO. 20-07-28-01 which in summary states JCHD put into place an agency wide mandatory mask policy requiring staff, patients, visitors, and guests to properly wear solid cloth masks over their nose and mouth while within any JCHD physical or mobile facility. Additionally, staff is required to wear their masks when representing the agency or while displaying the agency logo while in the community. Dr. Henry moved to adopt the resolution; and Mr. Pigg seconded the motion. Chairman Diehl opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Prater voiced concern over ownership of this decision stating the director of JCHD should have the authority to decide this rather than requiring the board of trustees to vote on this. Chairman Diehl clarified this was already being enforced with staff, and it is coming before the board to require it of guests, visitors, and board members as well. After further discussion on the implications of adopting this resolution as well as the consequences for those who choose not to comply Chairman Diehl called a vote. The resolution passed with three in favor, Mr. Prater and Mrs. Davis opposed.

BOARD OF TRUSTEE DISCUSSIONS OUTSIDE OFFICIAL MEETINGS

Ms. Mikale provided a memorandum to the board in summary the director may share information via emails; however, board members should not engage in a

discussion about this information outside of the board room, thus prohibiting them from engaging in an email discussion pertaining to the information provided. Board members may submit questions to the Chairman or Director but should refrain from including all the board members in the email.

Mr. Pigg called a point of order in response to a discussion that began regarding everyone within the room being required to wear a mask.

MANDATORY ISOLATION & QUARANTINE ORDER

Mrs. Vollmar reviewed information pertaining to a COVID-19 outbreak in a long-term care (LTC) facility, Operating NO. 20-CD-076. The facility has been given multiple opportunities to follow the guidelines provided by the state to get the outbreak under control, including the opportunity to do a voluntary isolation quarantine order, however, they are still non-compliant with the order. As a result, it is being requested that the board vote to upgrade the voluntary order to a mandatory quarantine order. Mrs. Vollmar provided clarification that the LTC was given a specific list of the corrective actions they needed to complete. Once these actions are completed then the mandated order would be lifted. Clarification was provided stating this LTC facility has had issues before.

A request for more information about the LTC facility's violations, to which Mrs. Vollmar explained due to this being an on-going case investigation she could only speak in general terms and provided examples of the types of violations that would be cited.

Mrs. Davis requested tabling this discussion until a representative from the facility could attend a meeting to speak for themselves. Mrs. Vollmar provided clarification on the frequency of staff's communication with the LTC facility, as well as the degree of detail that staff provides when providing guidance and directives. A question was raised regarding what it entailed for them to get out of quarantine, and Mrs. Vollmar provided clarification on the process pertaining to staff and patients moving through the process of isolation, quarantine, and release. Mr. Pigg made a motion to approve the mandatory quarantine order. Mr. Prater seconded the motion. Chairman Diehl called a vote which passed with four in favor, Mrs. Davis opposed, and no abstentions.

Mrs. Davis requested it be on record that she opposes the length of time they must be in quarantine, to which Chairman Diehl and Ms. Mikale clarified that this was part of an ordinance that was passed in 2006. Ms. Mikale provided information about the appeal process should the facility wish to challenge the ordinance.

VISITORS AND GUESTS REMARKS

Public comment pertaining to a mask mandate was provided by the following visitors/guests:

1. Brooks McCarthy, Arnold: Opposed
2. Michael Stephens, Hillsboro: Opposed
3. Michael Zwiener, Festus: In Favor
4. John Barnes, Herculaneum: In Favor
5. Doug Poss, Imperial: Opposed
6. Tonia Lovelace Poss, Imperial: Opposed

7. Amanda Foust, Imperial: Opposed
8. Jessica Shepherd, Herculaneum: In Favor
9. Terri Kreidler, Festus: Opposed
10. Shane Roden, Cedar Hill: Opposed
11. Joanna Gunnnett, Hillsboro: In Favor
12. Nancy Brigham, High Ridge: Opposed
13. Mark Williams, Hillsboro: In Favor
14. Josh Martin, Festus: Opposed
15. Linda Van De Riet, Eureka: Opposed
16. Desiree McCludland, High Ridge: Opposed
17. Wyatt, O'harver, Festus: Opposed
18. Melissa Gartner, Festus: Opposed
19. Karen Emerson, Hillsboro: Opposed

Dr. Henry read the written public comments pertaining to a mask mandate submitted by the following visitors/guests:

1. Barbara McInnis, Hillsboro: In Favor
2. Will Baker, Imperial: Opposed
3. Audree Newerite, Hillsboro: Opposed
4. Brian Alexander, Hillsboro: Opposed
5. Debbie, House Springs: Opposed
6. Lori King, Arnold: In Favor
7. Tara Mueller, Imperial: In Favor
8. Ronald Sansoucie, Desoto: Opposed
9. Terry, Soeia, DeSoto: Opposed
10. Maureen Lauer, High Ridge: Opposed
11. Rene LaFerla, Arnold: Opposed
12. Brittney, Hillsboro: Opposed
13. Angelica Ittzes, Hillsboro: Opposed
14. Nadine, DeSoto: Opposed
15. Josephine, Imperial: Opposed
16. James Ott, Hillsboro: In Favor
17. Lori Bourgeois, Dittmer: Opposed
18. Jon Schuessler, Hillsboro: Opposed
19. Dawn Wood, Catawissa: Opposed
20. Kristina Ginn, High Ridge: Opposed
21. Kim Miller, DeSoto: Opposed
22. Dina C., Imperial: Opposed
23. Fern Schuessler, Hillsboro: Opposed
24. Ken G., DeSoto: Opposed
25. Dr. John Gleason, Fenton: Opposed
26. Tandi M., Fenton: Opposed
27. Beverly Brannen, DeSoto: Opposed
28. Rita Ida, DeSoto: Opposed
29. Nancy Sarocco, Fenton: Opposed
30. J. Nolen, High Ridge: Opposed
31. Karen Nolen, High Ridge: Opposed
32. Keith & Brenda Fisher, Hillsboro: Opposed
33. Monica Griffith, Cedar Hill: Opposed
34. Amanda Faust, Imperial: "Mask Mandate" (no other info provided)
35. Steve Stahnke, Festus: In Favor

- 36. M.K. Simon, Hillsboro: In Favor
- 37. Pam Tinnin, Festus: Opposed
- 38. Emily, Imperial: Opposed
- 39. Greg Pancoast: Opposed
- 40. Terry & Wanda, House Springs: Opposed
- 41. Timothy Brown, Festus: Opposed
- 42. Mary Bizzle, Imperial: Opposed

COUNTY MANDATORY MASK ORDER

It was requested that Mrs. Vollmar provide her recommendations, as well as review the current COVID-19 data that was provided in a packet for the board members. The following points were made:

- Week 30's number is four times the highest numbers we saw in June, meaning the number of positive cases is steadily increasing.
- The positivity rate is increasing, meaning more of the test results are coming back positive than in previous weeks. Jefferson County has gone from 1.2% of the tests coming back as positive to 11.8% within a month.
- Hospitalizations have been steadily increasing since the end of June as detailed in the St. Louis Pandemic Task Force.
- Regarding immunity status, for the majority of people the antibody response is not lasting longer than 90 days there is no confirmation that we will have long term immunity response to this virus.
- To achieve herd immunity the benchmark is set at 50%-80% of the population would need to have developed an immunity; however, Mrs. Vollmar has been advised by higher authority to go with 70% for a pandemic. Jefferson County's population is 225,000; 70% of that would be 157,500 lives. At the point in time at which the report was pulled less than 1% of the population has had the virus, meaning Jefferson County would need 156,911 to contract the virus. 430 people a day over the next year would need to contract the virus in order to achieve herd immunity within the next year. Based on the number of deaths we have had so far, and we continue on our current trajectory, it is estimated 4,105 lives will be lost before herd immunity is achieved. This is roughly the population of High Ridge. Mrs. Vollmar noted the point of this is to illustrate that it is imperative to look at the full impact of what it would take to achieve herd immunity.

Mrs. Vollmar then reviewed the St. Louis Pandemic Task Force data that was provided to the board members in a packet. During the review of this information a discussion ensued regarding whether it was appropriate to calculate the average number of COVID-19 patients per hospital. Mr. Pigg called a point of order, and Chairman Diehl requested Mrs. Vollmar continue with her presentation. The following points were made:

- Hospitalizations have been increasing since the beginning of June. Information was reviewed pertaining the number of patients in ICU as well as the number of patients needing ventilators.
- As of July 20th, there have been 4,735 hospital encounters that have been specific to Jefferson County residents. Of those, 323 hospital encounters have been positive (which is approximately 6.8% positivity rate). 83 of those individuals were admitted; and 36 were transferred to

the ICU of which 16 have died. Mrs. Vollmar noted this data is specific to the hospital data as opposed to the community data.

- In terms of comorbidity the most frequent health condition of those who have tested positive, have been hospitalized/transferred to ICU, and have passed is hypertension, followed by chronic pulmonary disease, depression, obesity, and fluid and electrolyte disorders.
- There have been increases in cases for the age ranges 0-9 and 20-30. The latter has had a significant increase surpassing the number of positive cases within the other age ranges. This leads to concern about greater community spread due to the mobility of this age group.
- Jefferson County has a 2.7% mortality rate, which is lower than the averages for the state and country.

Mrs. Vollmar reviewed information compiled from the hospital systems reports which was provided for the board members in their packet. It was noted that this information comes directly from the hospital. The information provided an overview of the number of COVID-19 hospitalizations by age group, the average length of stay, the number of patients that were transferred to ICU and/or required a ventilator. In short, this report provides a snapshot of what is occurring daily within the hospital systems for the time period for which the report was generated.

Within the packet the board members received was a report providing an overview of strategies used to combat the spread of COVID-19. Mr. Pigg called a point of order requesting for Mrs. Vollmar to continue with her explanation before opening the floor for discussion. Mrs. Vollmar proceeded to explain the guiding principals regarding the litigation measures in place for the strategies to reduce the spread of COVID-19 within the community, as well as what can be implemented to reduce the spread.

Mrs. Vollmar called a point of order regarding a guest speaker. Clarification was provided that the guest speaker may share information with the board but will not participated in the board's discussion of strategies at which time each board member will have five minutes to speak. Ms. Mikale requested clarification regarding the speaker's allotted time to speak. Mrs. Davis provided clarification that Mr. Prater yielded his five minutes to the speaker, and that she would use her five minutes to advocate her recommendations.

Guest speaker Jim Neeley, a physician from Northwest Missouri board certified in geriatric and emergency medicine, introduced himself to the board. Mrs. Vollmar requested the speaker wear his mask. A mask was provided for Dr. Neeley at his request, and he continued to make the following points:

- Children are not as affected by COVID-19; and those with comorbidities are at the highest risk.
- Children's immunity needs to be built rather than go into hibernation.
- Sweden's approach to herd immunity is working, as it is in New York where there were hotspots.
- Reportedly the New England Journal of Medicine does deem masking as affectatious.

Additionally, Dr. Neely advised the board to consider the following concerns and suggestions:

- As O2 stats drop so does functioning of the brain.
- An exit strategy should be considered if moving towards a mask mandate.
- Define who the mandate is for/who will most benefit from it.
- Make decisions based on facts.

Dr. Neely offered to take questions at which time Mrs. Davis requested more information on herd immunity. Dr. Neely stated he was not an expert on the statistics Mrs. Vollmar provided earlier pertaining to herd immunity. Dr. Neely made the following points:

- Herd immunity is working in New York.
 - The timer chimed at which time the question was raised if the timer should be restarted and if the continuation of Dr. Neely's presentation would be deducted from Mrs. Davis' five minutes to address the board.
- When looking at the statistics consider the rate of positivity (the number of positive cases in comparison to the number of overall tests completed).
- There are multiple factors that should be considered when dealing with the tests (e.g. the type of test, the reliability of the test, and the sensitivity of the test, etc.).
- It was encouraged that the board examine other places to see how the epidemic is being addressed.
 - A question was raised about what led to the decreased rates in New York. Dr. Neely stated it was due to herd immunity. When asked he did not believe the other strategies (such as closing the city) was to be credited for the decrease in cases.
 - A question was raised as to how to achieve herd immunity without a vaccine in which Dr. Neely stated it was to expose the healthy people to the virus.
 - A question was raised as to what happens when the 20-30 age group spreads the virus to their parents and grandparents, many of which have comorbidities. It was noted that this age group is extremely mobile, and do not easily shelter in place.
 - Dr. Neely responded masks provide a false sense of security and will not protect them. He further explained that to be fully protected they would need to be in full hazmat suits. To this it was noted that his response did not answer the question that was posed.
 - A question was raised about the correlation between positive cases and hospitalizations and death rates. A discussion ensued regarding how to determine cause of death in cases of comorbidity.

The timer chimed and Dr. Neely ended his presentation, and which point a request was made for a short break, which was granted.

Upon returning from break, a discussion ensued regarding whether Mrs. Davis' time was yielded to the guest speaker. Mr. Figg called a point of order and yielded two minutes and thirty seconds of his time to Mrs. Davis during which

she reviewed information she provided in a handout to the board members. A question was raised regarding the data being presented; at which time the timer was paused. It was clarified that the data was not vetted to the extent that Mrs. Vollmar's previously presented data was, nor was it specific to Jefferson County residents. Instead Mrs. Davis obtained the data by calling the hospitals on her own accord, and the numbers provided included non-Jefferson County residents. The timer was started, and Mrs. Davis began reviewing the data she collected. The following points were made:

- On April 15th, which was the height of the first peak, there were 43 people hospitalized due to COVID-19, 5 of which were in ICU and 7 were vented. On June 10th, the COVID-19 related hospitalizations at Mercy St. Louis (referenced in the meeting as St. Johns) the number was down to 8, of which 2 people were in ICU and 1 was on a vent. At the next peak, the number hospitalized went up to 20 on July 15th, and now the numbers are declining again, and this week it has dropped to 19 with one person in the ICU and one person vented.
- St. Luke's Hospital experienced similar trends. There was a spike in hospitalizations on April 15th resulting in 34 people being hospitalized, 7 vented. Then the numbers began to decrease.
 - The hospitals were not overwhelmed during these peaks, which was the point of closing the counties.

The timer chimed, at which time a discussion ensued regarding the necessity of open versus timed discussions and following the agenda. An additional discussion ensued comparing the acquisition and relevance of data obtained by Mrs. Vollmar in comparison to Mrs. Davis.

Chairman Diehl called on Dr. Henry to begin her five minutes of discussion, at which time Dr. Henry requested she save her time for later in the discussion when the strategies are being considered. Mrs. Davis requested the board continue to review the information she provided the board. Ms. Mikale advised that they move on since the board members had a copy of the information to be reviewed. Mrs. Davis continued to present the information she obtained stating that while the number of positives may have increased the rate of deaths from COVID-19 have dropped off. Chairman Diehl then called on Mr. Pigg to begin his two and a half minutes of discussion. Mrs. Davis continued to present her information at which time Chairman Diehl called for order in the board room, and Ms. Mikale requested the meeting procedures be respected and followed. Mrs. Davis stated the curve is flat and no additional measures needed to be taken. Chairman Diehl called for order in the board room, at which time the floor was yielded to Mr. Pigg.

Mr. Pigg made the following points:

- The board needs to look at all the data instead of only studying one metric. All the data needs to be extrapolated as well. The Journal for American Medical Association, which is considered the pinnacle of research and information, is stating that wearing a cloth face mask reduces COVID-19 transmission.
 - Mrs. Davis interjected that the curve is flat and the spread that is occurring is herd immunity.

Mr. Pigg stated his point that masks reduced the spread of the virus, and that was all he wanted to say. Mrs. Davis continued advocating that herd immunity

was taking effect. Ms. Mikale requested everyone be allowed to speak during their time without being interrupted. Mr. Prater reinforced that Mrs. Davis' point has been made, everyone understands what her position is on the mask mandate, and the other board members needed to be heard at this time.

Chairman Diehl stated he agreed with Mr. Pigg, and that all of the information he has reviewed indicates that masks help reduce the spread of the disease. Additionally, he stated while looking back at what has occurred is educational his focus in on the future. With the rising number of positive cases he is concerned that in studying the hotspots that are occurring communities have reopened and eliminated restrictions too soon. Mrs. Davis interjected a question about the timing of the strategies being considered. Chairman Diehl continued expressing his concern that with the increase in hotspots throughout the region, and with so many Jefferson County residents working in St. Louis County and City that the spread of COVID-19 is going to continue to increase if preventative strategies are not implemented. He continued his discussion recognizing that there is a lot of conflicting information and a lot of things that are still unknown about COVID-19 and this has led to a great deal of mistrust. He reflected that JCHD has been serving residents for over 70 years and recommends that part of the strategies implemented include building trust with the community, by continuing to provide evidence-based programs and vetted research and information.

Dr. Henry requested to begin her 5 minutes of discussion and echoed that this is a very difficult situation to be facing. She made the following points:

- There are three tools with which JCHD has to work with including social distancing, masking, and hygiene (washing hands).
- Positive cases are increasing, and hospitalizations and deaths are decreasing.
- Masks help reduce the spread of disease, but they are not 100% effective.
- Despite having a lot of information at our disposal there is still a lot that is unknown, including what the impact will be on children once they return to school.
- Data and statistics can be manipulated to seemingly support any argument posed, which makes it easy for this to become politicized in the process.
- JCHD is non-partisan and is tasked with making decisions in the best interest of the community.
- JCHD needs to focus on educating the community as part of their strategy.
- When the county first closed the decision was made in partnership with the county government. Dr. Henry recommends that JCHD continue to work collaboratively with the county government and businesses to safeguard the community.
- School boards and businesses have administrative staff that can determine whether to enforce masking at their facility.

Mrs. Vollmar agreed with Dr. Henry that education is important, and provided information explaining why the strategies to prevent COVID-19 from spreading were important, especially if the community is to avoid closing again.

Additionally, Mrs. Vollmar stated that personal responsibility is key to reducing the spread, and referenced the strategies that individuals can implement to avoid getting sick or passing the virus to others (e.g. washing hands, masking, staying home when sick, social distancing, etc.). To help reach the ultimate goal of preventing disruption to residents' daily activities, JCHD staff has been working with school districts, local businesses, churches and first responders to help them identify what they can independently do to mitigate the risks of spreading COVID-19. Mrs. Vollmar reflected on the success of closing the community, but also recognized the drawbacks of doing so.

- Mrs. Davis interjected her opposition to Mrs. Vollmar's reflection. Chairman Diehl called for order in the board room. Ms. Mikale instructed Mrs. Davis to stop interrupting others when it is their turn to speak. Mrs. Davis continued to speak at which time Mr. Pigg called point of order, requesting Mrs. Vollmar continue to speak. Mrs. Davis continued to argue her point at which point Chairman Diehl stated if she continued to interrupt others while they are speaking, she would be asked to leave.

Mrs. Vollmar clarified that the information she was presenting was an educational review of the guidelines and best practices that are followed in public health and is not intended to be interpreted as her recommendation. Mrs. Vollmar reiterated the goal is to mitigate risks to avoid disruption to daily lives and highlighted all the ways in which JCHD is incorporated in people's daily lives.

Mrs. Vollmar continued making the following points:

- The community is dealing with an uncontrolled virus.
 - Mrs. Davis expressed her objection to that statement reporting that there are treatments and the virus is curable. To which Mr. Pigg objected stating the CDC has not deemed any of the treatments as cures to COVID-19. Mrs. Davis continued to argue her point and was asked by Chairman Diehl to step out of the meeting. Mrs. Davis refused to leave the meeting and continued to argue her point. Ms. Mikale interjected Mrs. Davis would need to leave the meeting if she were not going to practice proper meeting decorum. A discussion ensued about the proper protocol for participating in the meeting, and the consequences of not following protocol.

Mrs. Vollmar continued with a review of the guiding principles for public health citing the following points:

- The more people mingle and the longer they are in each other's presence the greater the risk for spreading the virus. Therefore, the strategies previously discussed are utilized.
- Because of how integrated our region is it is imperative we understand what is occurring in other areas, while also recognizing that each community has unique needs.
- Data is used to help public health to stay ahead of the virus to mitigate its impact on the community.
- Public health is tasked with implementing strategies that will prevent the health care systems to be overwhelmed to such an extent that they can no longer safely treat patients.

- While the hospitalization rates are low, it should be noted that people do not start off in the emergency room, rather they go through a progression beginning with their doctor. Which means there will not be an immediate influx of hospitalizations, rather as the virus spreads hospitalizations will begin to gradually increase.
 - Case in point currently the testing systems are overwhelmed. Not only are there delays in people accessing testing, but there is a lag in receiving results which impacts public health's ability to conduct contact tracing.
 - Mrs. Davis interjected her objection stating the hospital systems are not overwhelmed. Mr. Pigg called a point of order. Mrs. Davis asked what is being overwhelmed. Mrs. Vollmar was instructed by Ms. Mikale to continue with her presentation.

Mrs. Vollmar provided the board members with a logic model illustrating mitigation strategies. Mrs. Davis interjected that what has been done so far has been effective, and the numbers are decreasing. Mrs. Vollmar continued reviewing what needed to be considered when deciding which strategies to implement, followed by information about how to improve public health outcomes. Mrs. Davis interjected her objection stating the numbers do not warrant closing businesses or schools. Ms. Mikale clarified the information was not a recommendation, but rather a review of the various strategies used in public health. Mrs. Vollmar continued with her explanation in which Mrs. Davis interrupted. Mrs. Vollmar noted that she and Chairman Diehl have both tried to provide board, public health, and COVID-19 related training for Mrs. Davis on separate occasions with each of those time they have been met with resistance, which is why the information is being reviewed during this meeting. Mrs. Vollmar further noted she and Chairman Diehl have listened to Mrs. Davis' perspective and have reviewed the information that was provided, and in return Mrs. Vollmar would like the same consideration. Mrs. Vollmar continued with her presentation explaining the progression from seeing increased positive cases that gradually lead to overwhelming the healthcare systems. It was explained that by the time the healthcare systems begin to be overwhelmed it is too late to reverse the impact of the spread.

Mrs. Vollmar noted that focusing solely on masking is ineffective, as that strategy alone will not prevent the spread of COVID-19, which is why they look at what strategies they have, and at what point the strategy needs to be implemented. All of this is influenced by the data that is gathered and studied. Mrs. Vollmar went on to state it is unknown what the long-term affect COVID-19 will have on people's health, especially considering those who have developed blood clots and other complications. Mrs. Davis interjected her objection stating that statement was unfounded. Mrs. Vollmar asked that the board take all that has been presented into consideration and outline a plan of action for when specific strategies are warranted based on the data that is continually provided. She also noted that there have been 255 new positive cases since the last meeting, at which Mrs. Davis stated that is indicative of natural spread. Mrs. Vollmar made her final point stating that it is irresponsible to disseminate information that has not been vetted by a reliable, scientific source, and voiced her objection to how Mrs. Davis has conducted herself as a JCHD board member. At which point Mr. Pigg called a point of order.

Chairman Diehl asked Mrs. Vollmar to provide a recommendation for how they should proceed including guidelines for when and how they should mandate strategies. Mrs. Davis objected to the suggestion that anything be mandated stating the data did not warrant that to be considered. Dr. Henry asked for clarification regarding the hospitalization numbers which appear to be decreasing. Clarification was provided by Mrs. Vollmar, to which Dr. Henry clarified that the concern was the increase in positive cases is indicative of an increase in hospitalizations to which Mrs. Vollmar agreed. Dr. Henry requested information about the strategies and outcomes of other communities within the greater St. Louis region. Mrs. Vollmar provided information about the progression of using strategies and the various ways the strategies can be modified to meet the needs of the community. Mrs. Davis interjected stating if masking was going to be mandated then everyone should be required to use N95 masks. Mrs. Vollmar thanked her for mentioning masks and explained that N95 and surgical masks are in critical short supply which is why they are not being recommended for the public. It is strongly encouraged that those masks be reserved for medical staff who are at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19. This is not to say that cloth masks are comparable to N95 or surgical masks, rather it is layering layers of protection (similar to layering your clothes with a coat and scarf). Mrs. Davis asked what was being protected. Chairman Diehl asked if staff was able to do community outreach to which Mrs. Vollmar verified there is a team already designated to work with LTC facilities, and staff are working with school districts and restaurants as well. Mrs. Davis interjected that people are already doing what they need to do and mandates are unnecessary. Chairman Diehl disagreed with Mrs. Davis statement, to which she asked what was done in response to last year's virus. Chairman Diehl responded the difference is there were vaccines available. Mrs. Davis countered that not everyone chooses to be vaccinated, and that the virus last year was more detrimental than COVID-19 has been, to which Mrs. Vollmar volunteered to provide a presentation regarding the death rates of the past three years from influenza in comparison to COVID-19 to which she further noted that COVID-19 in the first 27 weeks has been more deadly than the previous flu seasons. Mrs. Davis asked for county specific data, in which Mrs. Vollmar verified that the data she is referencing is specific to Jefferson County.

Mrs. Davis again stated she did not believe a mandate was needed, and that it will make people opposed to wearing masks wear them. Dr. Henry asked what Mrs. Vollmar believes need to happen; if she is recommending a mandate how will it be enforced; and when should it be implemented. Mrs. Vollmar stated she recommends a mandate for indoor masking as well as masking outdoors when social distancing is not an option. Mrs. Davis interjected people are already doing this and it did not need to be mandated. Mrs. Vollmar also recommended implementing capacity restrictions as well as looking into virtual schooling. Mrs. Davis interjected her objection stating children needed to return to school. Ms. Mikale requested Mrs. Davis follow proper meeting decorum and allow for Mrs. Vollmar to speak, to which Mrs. Davis stated this is a discussion. A discussion ensued regarding speaking out of turn.

Mrs. Vollmar stated she does have reservations about student telecommuting for school due to their need for social support and peer interactions. To which Mrs. Davis agreed.

Mrs. Vollmar recommended that crowd sizes for large events be restricted. To which Mrs. Davis objected to especially if they were held outside. Dr. Henry made suggestions about educating and distributing masks to which Mrs. Vollmar stated that is part of the strategies that could be implemented. Chairman Diehl asked for information regarding CARES funding. Mrs. Vollmar and Mr. Pigg clarified that there were some details being determined still. However, Mrs. Vollmar outlined how the money would be distributed and utilized including increasing contact tracing and testing capacity by hiring more staff. Additionally, she would be looking into accessing PCE for Jefferson County, as well as providing education, and ensuring we have the resource at our disposal to mitigate the impact of COVID-19. Mrs. Davis suggested that nothing be mandated stating that doing so creates a burden for students, teachers, and the school district. She further stated teachers have strong immunity due to all that they are exposed to in the classroom, because of this she did not believe they were concerned about returning to the classroom. Dr. Henry and Mrs. Vollmar both disagreed stating many teachers are concerned about returning. Dr. Henry stated social distancing is difficult to do in the classroom. Mrs. Davis stated they needed access to more reliable data showing them that hospitalizations have decreased. She requested to see more information and stated the county was doing well and were only in the yellow zone.

Mr. Prater requested JCHD give strong community-wide recommendations for social distancing, indoor masking, gathering limits, as well as education on how to properly clean and sanitize, and temperature checks for students before entering the school or bus. Chairman Diehl reiterated that this would look differently for each entity. In response Mrs. Vollmar stated guidance is provided on JCHD's website for specific entities. Additionally, staff is working directly with the schools to determine how various scenarios will be handled. However, more staff is needed to ensure contact tracing continues while staff are providing community outreach. Chairman Diehl asked how JCHD would be managing the school vaccines considering COVID-19, to which Mrs. Vollmar stated staff is reaching out to partners and looking at utilizing PRN staff to help with this.

Mrs. Davis requested decisions be placed on hold since the numbers are decreasing. Dr. Henry voiced her agreement with Mr. Prater stating a strong marketing/education campaign needs to be implemented and JCHD need to ensure schools are provided the support they are needing. Dr. Henry stated concerns about how mandates would be enforced and reiterated that marketing and education would be a more practical approach than a five-member board enforcing mandates. Mr. Pigg voiced concerns that things can escalate quickly. Mrs. Davis asked what the guidelines were for the county to return to the green zone. Mrs. Vollmar referenced last week's packet which outlined the CDC's six guidelines for determining the counties' risk level. Mr. Pigg stated people need to be reminded that mandates do not last forever. Mrs. Davis stated there needed to be an exit strategy for anything that was implemented.

Ms. Mikale spoke to the concern Dr. Henry voiced pertaining to mandate enforcement. She recommended Mrs. Vollmar speak with the prosecuting attorney's office as well as the sheriff to determine their stance and level of

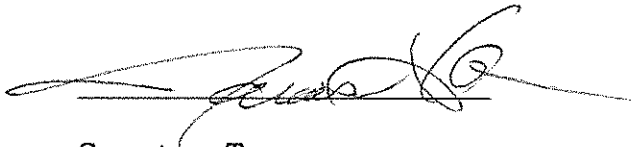
support in enforcing a mandate, and to outline the process for enforcement. The other option would be to look at injunctions and restraining orders instead of criminal charges. Ms. Mikale stated they will also be needed to consider the cost of legally enforcing mandates, and how they would prioritize the mandates. Ms. Mikale stated she has additional information should they choose to explore those options.

Point of order was requested regarding procedures for continuing to do business as is, to which Ms. Mikale stated they did not need to make a motion for continuing as is.

Mrs. Davis asked if CARES funding could be used to provide mental/behavioral health services to assist those who are struggling to cope with COVID-19. Mrs. Vollmar clarified that there was CARES funding that was specifically for mental health providers.

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Davis made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Prater seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously, and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.



Secretary-Treasurer