

JEFFERSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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March 3, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Diehl called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Jefferson County Health Department to order at 9:12am

ROLL CALL

Dennis Diehl, Chairman - Present
Dr. Amber Henry, Vice-Chairman – Excused
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:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Davis made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Prater seconded. Hearing no discussion, the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Rescind Resolution 21-05-28-01

Ms. Davis made a motion to rescind Resolution 21-05-28-01. Mr. Prater seconded. Ms. Vollmar explained that the order was a resolution that was passed to install masking for the health department during our COVID response. The order pertained to all individuals that would come into the facility, so what we are doing today is terminating that order for all individuals and then we will have a second motion to

implement the CDC guidance for health care settings. Basically, the CDC has changed their focus and their guidelines for community levels, and with that, it has transitioned to looking at preventing medically significant illness, minimizing the burden on the health care system and protecting our most vulnerable citizens through vaccines, therapeutics and public prevention. It has allowed us to open our areas of our health department and non-clinical areas to have mask optional. We will continue to follow the CDC healthcare settings, to do masking in the actual clinic rooms, which is the guidance for source control of communicable disease. But as we stand today, in order to be able to make those adjustments and follow CDC guidelines, we will need to pull back our last order, which is a good step in the right direction as far as moving forward. Ms. Davis states that she thinks that's above and beyond what we should be saying to the people once we've rescinded this order, if they want to wear a mask in the health department, that's fine, but if they choose to walk around in there and to the treatment rooms without a mask, there should not be a word sent to them. Ms. Coleman states the current discussion is for rescinding the mask order within the health department, that the item to which Ms. Davis referred was actually a separate item on the agenda. Hearing no further discussion, the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

Adopt CDC guidelines for healthcare facilities


Mr. Pigg made a motion to Adopt CDC guidelines for healthcare facilities. Mr. Prater seconded. Ms. Vollmar states that CDC guidance is basically looking at source control for all communicable diseases, so this is a standard practice in all health care settings at this point. All the hospital systems and healthcare facilities are still requiring we follow CDC guidance for keeping social distancing when feasible, having the source control. Ms. Davis stated "Again, I don't think we need any more resolutions or to adopt anything. I think it's quite apparent what people need to do to protect themselves in their own health. There's no law, no orders. I've been personally seeing my skin doctor over at Saint Clair. For example. I walk right in the door with no mask on. I go down the hall and make a right turn. I go into his office right past the optical center, Dr Peterson, to be exact I sit in his office without a mask on." Chairman Diehl asked Ms. Davis to get to the point, to which she responded, "If I can do that in Saint Clair Hospital, we are the health department and there's no diseases right now that's overtaking our county that's contagious that we need to worry about. Everything with COVID is under control, there's treatment for it, numbers are down, there should not be any other orders put in place for anything at this time." Ms. Vollmar responded that all health care facilities have to follow standard practices in order to keep both their clients and their staff safe. There are some communicable diseases throughout the community at all points in time, it can be anything from tuberculosis to influenza and RSV. Mr. Prater asked why the board was addressing a department policy that is within the realm of the director to set guidelines for Clinical services. Mr. Pigg concurred. Mr. Prater continued, stating that \if the director wants to do it, she already has the authority to do that within her office. Ms. Coleman asked whether it

could be helpful, given the climate, that the board have a motion supporting? Mr. Prater replied no, the board will support the director and her to exercise her authority to run the day-to-day operations of the clinic. Ms. Coleman clarified that if the motion does not pass then it just means the motion died - it doesn't mean that the board takes the affirmative step to not follow CDC guidance. In fact, what Mr. Prater and Mr. Pigg have expressed that the Executive Director is free to set the parameters for physical entry into the clinical portions of our department. Without there being board action, what the public needs to understand is if the motion fails, that does not mean that we are refusing to follow CDC guidance. It means that the executive director has the authority to conduct the day-to-day business of the clinical portions of the department, including if, if she believes that CDC guidance should be followed in those areas.

Hearing no further discussion, the motion failed unanimously. Chairman Diehl announced the motion did not pass.

ADJOURN

Mr. Pigg motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Prater seconded. Ms. Davis states she does not want to see anyone turned away for not wearing a mask, Ms. Coleman and Chairman Diehl called Ms. Davis out of order. Motion carried unanimously and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:28 AM.



Secretary-Treasurer