

JEFFERSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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May 26, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Diehl called the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Jefferson County Health Department to order at 3:00pm.

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:

Melissa Parmeley, Clinical Services Manager Jaclyn Brown, Community Services Manager Brienne Zwiener, Public Communications Officer Tristan Johnson, Communications Specialist Sara Wilton, Epidemiologist
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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF March 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Mr. Prater made a motion to approve the **March 24, 2022** meeting minutes. Dr. Henry seconded. Ms. Davis asked for the last paragraph at the bottom of the second page to be stricken from the minutes as it is not accurate. Ms. Coleman stated the purpose of amending the minutes is to reflect that something was not accurately stated at the meeting. What was on the minutes was actually stated, so the minutes are accurate. Ms. Coleman stated that whether Ms. Davis agreed with veracity of the statement reflected in the minutes is not something that's subject to amendment.

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

April 2022 APPROVAL EXPENDITURES

Dr. Henry motioned to approve the April 2022 expenditures in the amount of \$65,549.11. Mr. Prater seconded. Ms. Davis questioned several bills including Comware for \$8,113.75 for JCHD email protection, and Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP for \$9912.00 for legal fees. She would like to see a breakdown of all legal expenses each month. Mr. Pigg objected to Ms. Davis continued questioning of the bills at the meeting when she has had the opportunity to make phone calls to talk to people prior to the meeting. Mr. Pigg stated that Ms. Davis comes to the meetings and wants to grandstand, making nefarious unfounded accusations, stating, "You are making it sound as if there are things going on in this health department that are nefarious and that we are not being open, and you have been doing it since you walked in this door. You need to stop and do things like you should by asking questions prior to the meeting instead of grandstanding here. You know very well that you can look at the detail information behind closed doors, as we have explained to you plenty of times, but you refuse to do it, you keep coming here and grandstanding as if something is going wrong and you are the only person on this board that has done anything nefarious. You are the only one." Ms. Davis replied, "I am simply asking why the legal fees are so high and we do as a board, board members all of us, we deserve to be able to see the detail of it just like I had to physically make an appointment to come in, sit down and look at all these things they were brought in here."

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

April 2022 APPROVAL ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

Mr. Pigg motioned to approve the electronic payments for April 2022 in the amount of \$476,098.30. Mrs. Davis seconded. Motion carried and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

June 2022 PRE-APPROVAL ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS

The list of vendors for pre-approved electronic payments for June 2022 presented to the board with an estimated amount of \$592,22.25. Mr. Prater motioned to pre-approve the June 2022 Electronic Payments. Mrs. Davis seconded. Motion carried and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - KELLEY VOLLMAR
Clinical Services Report - Melissa Parmeley

We are changing our electronic medical records system, so there could be some adjustments to the clinical schedule. This is something we have been working on for adjusting of schedules. We do continue to have open nursing positions, this is something that most health care facilities are struggling with, but we do have three open RN positions that have been posted. The Nurse Practitioner and Outreach and Education Nurse attended Jefferson College's Pathways to Prevention event (violence prevention project) reaching approximately two hundred individuals with information on JCHD's services with a focus on Family Planning and Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

Community Services Report – Jaclyn Brown

Prevention Specialists have begun a partnership with 4-H Life to expand services with youth who have an incarcerated family member. This program helps strengthen the family unit. Adult Brain Injury program staff completed annual contract monitoring in April and received positive feedback from state program managers. These services are essential to ensuring that participants and their families receive the necessary services and supports to increase health care options and their level of independence.

Mosquito Season Updates:

- County mosquito adulticide treatments (Spraying) projected to begin May 26.
- County residents may make adulticide treatment requests by means of calling the JCHD front office or the JCHD website.
- County mosquito surveillance to begin June 1.
- County parks will be treated prior to the Memorial Day Holiday.
- Municipal agreement treatments will be targeted mid-month throughout the summer.

Public Health Preparedness Presentation

Ms. Vidacak, Public Health Preparedness Supervisor and Ms. Wilton, Epidemiologist gave a presentation on One Health, an interdisciplinary approach to optimal health, which focuses on human health, environmental health, and animal health. The one health movement involves working together to improve the way that we are interacting with the natural world by educating, advocating, and reducing our footprint. It is a collaborative effort of multiple disciplines to attain optimal health for each part of the triad. One health approach is to bring together experts in all these different fields to address shared health threats and overcome health challenges that face all of us. Essentially, one health addresses the greatest threats to health worldwide, and some of those include climate change, emerging infectious diseases, pollutants, and loss of biodiversity. Biodiversity is the term for the variety of species that make up a particular habitat, so animals, plants, fungi, the variety of life that make up basically the natural world. We live in the era of the Anthropocene, which means humans are

the drivers of change on Earth today, so our actions are changing the dynamics of the Earth system and causing some irreversible damage to the natural world and could eventually have an impact on our health as well. Many of the diseases that our communicable disease team, work with on a daily basis are what we call a zoonotic, which means it can be passed from animals to humans, for example Ebola, Rabies, Zika virus, among many others, about 60% of infectious diseases have a zoonotic link. The drivers of emerging infectious diseases, which is one of those main health threats, are universally caused by human actions. Anthropogenic changes are what allow for what we call a spillover event, when we change how we interact with the natural world, that is what causes diseases to potentially spread from the place where they were living dormant, not really causing any harm, just peacefully existing to now infecting people. The problem is not that these diseases exist and are out there or even in our animals, but the problem really is that we are disturbing them. There are hundreds of thousands of potential pathogens that exist undisturbed in the jungle, the forest, and in the globe. It only takes one little moment and the perfect chain of events to cause one of those pathogens to spill over into the human population. One health is really just a bridge to combat those spillover events, we need to be aware of how certain human behaviors, such as deforestation or expanding into new geographic areas, encroachment on wildlife, habitats, even consumption of wildlife. create opportunities for new diseases to spill over and disrupt the natural balance of the ecosystem. So, by doing our part and working with the experts in other disciplines, we can actually protect the health of not only us, but all three in parts of that triad.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

State Contract Campaign Budget

Ms. Vollmar gave the board an update of the Adult Brain Injury (ABI) program and The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN), budgets are approved at the beginning of the year and those contracts usually run July 1st to June 30th. Over the course of this past year, we have had a position vacancy in each of those departments as well as with COVID the state had restricted home visits for a period of time and we do get reimbursed for travel and in that department as well, and so with that, we had additional funds left. In our budget at the end of this year, we have spoken with both the contacts at ABI and CYSHCN programs and requested to be able to take those additional funds and reallocate them within our approved budget, just to a different line item to do some marketing and education with our community. Both programs serve more than just Jefferson County, they serve several counties and so being able to do an increased campaign, which would include billboards, digital ads and social media ads and again increasing the awareness of the state contract programs and services that are available to those families. We have asked for written approval of reallocation of funds in the budget.

Ms. Davis also stated that Saint Louis, Saint Louis County, Franklin County, St. Charles County, and surrounding counties are not closed on Fridays - they work Monday through Friday, and she wants to know why we don't. Ms. Vollmar replied that "we currently are operating at just over 50% of our nursing staff, we have had

positions posted since July last year, had three open positions, have seen a significant drop and the number of individuals who are applying for positions, those sending in applications are either are not qualified or they withdraw because of once they find out what our pay they actually have decided to sign on with a different agency that has sign on bonuses, which we're not allowed to do. The Missouri Hospital Association just put out a report today about staff turnover in the hospitals has hit an all-time high, and that vacancy in registered nurse positions, which is what we utilize, hit 20% this year, which is the highest level in 21 years since the association has conducted the survey. So as far as our staffing is concerned, we do not have enough staffing to have a full-service clinic in all three office locations and on our six mobile units to be able to cover five days a week. One thing I would like to point out is that all our exempt staff as well as numerous other programs, including Environmental Health, Health Education and Public health preparedness, all work outside of the normal Monday through Thursday, 8:00 to 5:30 time period. So, you will find that we are having water testing, vector borne investigations, individuals are out doing inspections at temporary events, health educators are working at the DeSoto farmers market and providing health and wellness services, and staff are out evenings, weekends and beyond those normal hours. The executive staff, I can tell you, has not worked a 36-hour week or a four-day week in over two years. And all those individuals you will likely find in here, even though the offices are closed to the public on Fridays, you will likely find them in here on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday. And finally, what I would like to reiterate is that I cannot, we cannot force people to come to us, to work. We can do what we can with the resources that we have. We have really restructured our programs to try to optimize the number of staff that we have available to be able to ensure we are providing services throughout the county; we are really having to lean on our mobile units to ensure that all the areas of the county are being taken care of. Our priority has been to take public health outside the four walls of our agency. We have three office locations which are available to the public as well as six mobile units, we are in the community, we are providing services and I can guarantee you it's not just Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 5:30." Chairman Diehl stated that one issue is that they say that every health department is the same – but there been a saying in public health for years in Missouri that if you've seen one health department, you have seen one health department and that is because every health department is different they have vastly different numbers of citizens in their counties, they have vastly different numbers of personnel, they have vastly different budgets and services. We do not do what other health departments do. Mr. Pigg requests that Ms. Vollmar call these other health departments and ask what services they provide during the timeframes they are open, because it is important to see if they provide the same level of services that we are providing.

ADJOURN

Dr. Henry motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Pigg seconded. Motion carried unanimously and Chairman Diehl announced the motion had passed. Meeting adjourned at 3:54 pm


Secretary-Treasurer