

**DEKALB COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING**

DATE: November 24, 2020

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT

Derryl Block, RN, PhD, President
Heather Breuer, DMD, Vice President
Rukisha Crawford
Lorraine Daly
Erik Englehart, MD
Patricia Faivre
Jessica Harrill, JD
Paul Stromborg, MD
Anita Zurbrugg

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS ABSENT

Lizy García, Secretary
Carlos Dominguez, DVM

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Lisa Gonzalez, MPH, *Public Health Administrator*
Cindy Graves, RN, MSHA, *Director of Community Health and Prevention & Health Promotion and Emergency Preparedness*
Greg Maurice, LEHP, *Director of Health Protection*
Dytania Washington, MS, *Director of Administrative Services*
Chessa Kendrick, *Administrative Support and Marketing Manager*

CALL TO ORDER

The DeKalb County Board of Health meeting of November 22, 2020 was called to order at 4:02 pm by Dr. Block, President.

VIRTUAL MEETING GUIDELINES

Mrs. Gonzalez provided an overview of guidelines for the virtual Board of Health Meeting.

AGENDA

On a motion by Jessica Harrill, seconded by Rukisha Crawford, the Board of Health Meeting Agenda was approved. Motion carried.

MINUTES

Full Board

On a motion by Dr. Breuer seconded by Jessica Harrill the Board of Health Minutes of the Meeting for September 22, 2020 were approved. Motion carried.

Finance Committee

On a motion by Patricia Faivre seconded by Lorraine Daly, the Finance Committee Minutes of the Meeting for September 21, 2020 were approved. Motion carried.

Nominating Committee

On a motion by Rukisha Crawford seconded by Patricia Faivre, the Nominating Committee Minutes of the Meeting for November 13, 2020 were approved. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rukisha Crawford provided an update of the November 13, 2020 Nominating Committee Meeting. The Nominating Committee provided recommendations to the Board of Health of reappointment for Board of Health positions and the recommendation for 2021 officers of Board of Health.

PERSONS TO BE HEARD FROM THE FLOOR (via Zoom) *

None

PRESENTATION

1. COVID-19 Situational Update

Ms. Gonzalez provided a COVID-19 case updated of the overall cases in DeKalb County broken down by age, race and gender. The weekly summary was presented which includes total tests reported and those who have recovered. The long-term care facilities in current outbreaks was shared along with how many businesses are in outbreak status.

Ms. Gonzalez explained that DCHD updated their website to include a COVID-19 data dashboard. There will no longer be weekly emails with daily case count updates but everyone in the community can refer to the website for daily updates.

Region 1 metrics were presented which includes the rolling average, bed availability, and number of COVID-19 patients in the hospital.

Ms. Gonzalez provided an update on Contract Tracing staff. To date, 15 full-time and 2 part-time staff have been hired for the COVID-19 response team. DCHD has had to adjust due to multiple staff needing to isolating or quarantine which causes a reduction in the contact tracing workforce. IDPH has released public facing contact tracing metrics. This includes the percentage of cases attempted and interviewed along with contacts attempted and interviewed. Due to the significant increase in cases, specific contact tracing staff have focused on conducting “quick touches.” This technique allows every case to be contact which includes isolation instructions with a release date.

Ms. Graves explained how the guidance was updated for facilities considered in outbreak status. The biggest change seen was within non-residential workplaces, schools, and colleges where it is now five or more lab confirmed cases to be considered in outbreak status.

Ms. Gonzalez provided an update on the adaptive pause recommendation for schools. Data beginning from October through November shows the test positivity rate consistently increasing.

A list of each school district was provided to show if the school district was in-person, e-learning, or hybrid and if the district has experienced COVID-19 activity. The adaptive pause was recommended in order to provide 14-day quarantines after the Thanksgiving holiday break and the Winter holiday break to help reduce COVID-19 spread.

Ms. Gonzalez stated that DeKalb County is now in tier 3 mitigations along with the rest of the state. Mr. Maurice stated that the major changes were closing of banquet halls, indoor fitness classes, and smaller gatherings. DCHD follows a five-step enforcement process when receiving a complaint. DCHD posts on the website establishments who have received complaints against them who have reached step-2 in the enforcement process.

DCHD initiated a contractual agreement with NIU for \$133,000 to support contact tracing efforts for students and staff. The funds will support NIU staff time of the COVID-19 hotline and assist with initial filtering and referrals of calls to reduce the burden on DCHD CD staff. The funding has been approved and allocated under the IDPH COVID-19 Contact Tracing Grant.

Ms. Gonzalez explained that DCHD was allocated \$181,747.00 for reimbursement of COVID-19 related expenses from March 1, 2020 through December 30, 2020. DCHD currently has received almost \$70,000 and plans to file claims for the remaining money before the years end.

Ms. Gonzalez discussed the BinaxNOW testing which is a rapid antigen test that was distributed to local health departments. Each health department has broad and flexible options to meet the needs within the County. DCHD is still working on best practice to distribute the tests for use among community partners. Considerations have to be taken into account for expansion of DCHD's CLIA waiver among other items.

DCHD worked with IDPH to provide COVID-19 mobile testing sites throughout DeKalb County. To date, 3,725 people have been tested through the community sites.

Ms. Gonzalez stated that even with all this work being conducted, DCHD is preparing for COVID-19 mass vaccination. This includes expanding on existing written policies and procedures for preparation.

COMBINED REPORT

As noted.

FINANCIAL DATA

On a motion by Anita Zurbrugg seconded by Jessica Harrill, the Financial Statements for the months of September and October 2020 were approved. Motion carried.

On a motion by Dr. Stromborg seconded by Rukisha Crawford, the claims for the months of October and November 2020 were approved. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. 2021 Meeting Dates and Times

On a motion by Anita Zurbrugg seconded by Patricia Faivre, the 2021 Board of Health meeting dates were approved. Motion Carried.

2. Board of Health Bylaws – Special Meetings
3. Collective Bargaining Agreement Extension

On a motion by Dr. Stromborg seconded by Lorraine Daly, the 1-year extension of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with American Federation of State, County & Municipal Employees (AFSCME), Council 31, Local No. 3537, covering the employees of the DeKalb County Health Department, effective 1/1/2021 to 12/31/2021 was approved. Motion carried.

4. Non-Union Salary Increases

On a motion by Rukisha Crawford seconded by Lorraine Daly, salary increases for non-union employees of 2% increase in base effective 1/1/2021 through 12/31/2021 along with classification salary ranges increase of 2% was approved. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Employment Matters -- Personnel

At 5:25 pm, Dr. Stromborg moved, seconded by Anita Zurbrugg, to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing Employment Matters, under Subsection Number 21, all of Section 2 (c) of the Open Meetings Act.

On roll call vote, those voting yes were Dr. Block, Dr. Breuer, Rukisha Crawford, Dr. Englehart, Jessica Harrill, Lorraine Daly, Anita Zurbrugg, Patricia Faivre, and Dr. Stromborg.

At 5:48 pm, Dr. Block moved to enter back into open session, seconded by Rukisha Crawford. Motion carried.

On a motion by Anita Zurbrugg, seconded Rukisha Crawford, the proposed change for the Receptionist position to include a promotion to Secretary B and a salary adjustment, retroactively to April 1, 2020 with a new rate of \$14.86, middle of the range for the Secretary B classification was approved. Motion carried.

On a motion by Dr. Breuer, seconded by Dr. Stromborg, the additional compensation for extraordinary circumstances for Director of Community Health and Prevention and the Communicable Disease Coordinator related to COVID-19, in accordance with the Overtime for Positions Classified Administrative and Management Policy was approved. Motion carried.

CORRESPONDENCE AND NEWS

As noted.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Rukisha Crawford seconded by Dr. Breuer, the Board of Health adjourned at 5:52 pm. Motion carried.



Lizy Garcia, Secretary
DeKalb County Board of Health