

**VERMILION COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
INFORMATIONAL  
BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

**June 16, 2020**

**6:00 PM**

**Present:** Dr. Wes Bieritz, Dr. Karen Broaders, Dr. Jane Cooney, Carla DeAngelis, Brad Gross, Connie Ostrander, and Paulina Padjen.

**Absent:** Bob Jones, Marla Mackiewicz, Molly Nicholson and Dr. Wahid Tazudeen.

The Zoom/phone meeting was called to order President, Carla DeAngelis at 6:05 PM.

**Items of Information:**

Doug Toole informed the Board that he and Donna Dunham had met with Larry Baughn, County Board Chairman and Erika Briggs, County Financial Resource Director on Tuesday, June 16<sup>th</sup>. We had informed them of the new grant we received from COVID 19 in the amount of \$61,185. We have been offered another grant for COVID-19 contact tracing. We have applied for that grant but will probably not hear the results of that application for a couple of months. The State may contact us with revisions and changes since the guidelines for the grant were issued after the due date.

Tyler Foster was hired as a Health Inspector and began work on Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>. We are currently interviewing for the other open position in Environmental Health.

Melissa Rome, our Public Health Emergency Preparedness coordinator, has been very busy with the COVID-19 daily updated information. She has done an outstanding job getting the information out to the media, medical facilities and community-based organizations. In addition to the COVID-19 updating of information, she is still working on IPLAN.

Immunizations/CD is busy with the COVID-19 positive cases and the contact tracing that is associated with each positive case. We are not sure what District 118 will do with the school enrollment and getting the children scheduled for their vaccinations. The past few years, District 118 has had a mass enrollment at the Danville Civic Center. We have had a representative there to schedule vaccination appointments in the past. District 118 has also provided transportation to the health department for the children and their parents. With this mass enrollment called off in June, we have had no word that it will be rescheduled.

We have talked about only offering drive-up flu clinics this year. This will be discussed further the closer we get to flu season.

WIC clients have been calling ahead and registering over the phone. When they pull up to the front doors, they will text WIC when they get here along with the name of the child they represent and style and color of vehicle. A WIC staff member will take their

information over the phone and have the coupons and paperwork ready for them shortly after they get here. The clients really like this change in WIC. The prior pandemic routine required the person to come and meet the staff face-to-face. Within the interview, the client will be asked questions and updated on offerings by the State. This process can take up to an hour or more to complete. This frustrates the clients. However, the State will require us to revert back to the old ways of doing interviews when they feel it is safe for clients to come into the Health Department.

Doug informed the Board the WIC department will begin their Hoopeston clinics at the hospital on the second Tuesday of July. They will have the clients call ahead, pull up to the front door and wait for staff to bring out their coupons and paperwork. We will continue to provide WIC services at the Hoopeston hospital following the hospital's guidelines.

WIC will restart their Thursday night late clinics in July. An administrative staff member stays with the WIC department each Thursday evening.

Doug informed the Board that we have brand new moms coming but no pregnant women. We are not sure why it is like this. OSF has been directing their new moms to our WIC clinics.

The Census 2020 grant will be done as of 6/30/2020. Our responses seem to be comparable to 10 years ago. With COVID-19, Susan Pacot was not able to get into the community to spread the importance of completing the Census form.

The Health Department is still planning on making some building renovations with surplus money. We hope to add 8-10 security cameras to the building, to update the WIC offices and hallways with new carpet and paint, and to update computer wiring and electrical wiring. We are also in need of a new air conditioner on the south side of the building but that will probably be an improvement funded by the County.

Doug stated that he had a preliminary quote of approximately \$30,000 for the tile or carpeting. Building and Grounds has agreed to do our painting for us and replace the ceiling tiles.

Jane Cooney stated that we may have to put the A/C units on the roof to dissipate cool air and heat. She said we might want to get an energy consultant to tell us what needs to be done for efficiency and cost effectiveness. Discussion ensued regarding the A/C and the renovations.

Mr. Toole will keep the Board informed.

The Governor has ordered that all employees and residents of long-term facilities be tested for COVID-19. We have been ordering the test kits for distribution to the long-term care facilities and the Nursing Homes.

Doug Toole was asked what the school year look like this fall. He answered that we have not been made aware of the new guidelines as of yet.

The contact tracing grant entails getting the information of people who have tested positive regarding their contacts. We, then, contact the exposed person's contacts to let them know that they have been exposed, should be tested and possibly self-quarantined.

We will have the budget ready for the next meeting on July 21, 2020.

Our current medical director, Dr. Holly Maes, has decided to retire and move out of state. Therefore, we are in need of another medical director. She will retain her licenses and insurance until the end of May. Therefore, the new physician would begin August 1, 2020.

Doug Toole has approached Dr. Wahid Tazudeen to be our medical director. We are meeting with him to discuss what he will need to do and what the position entails.

A discussion ensued regarding Dr. Maes retirement and the possible replacement with Dr. Tazudeen.

Motion: Connie Ostrander  
Second: Brad Gross  
Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna J. Dunham  
Recording Secretary

Bob Jones  
Secretary, Board of Health