

## **Macon County Board of Health Meeting**

**Macon County Health Department  
MCHD Main Conference Room  
1221 E. Condit Street, Decatur IL 62521  
November 17, 2020 at 5:30pm**

Candace Clevenger, Board of Health President, called the meeting to order at 5:33pm.

### **Roll Call**

Candace Clevenger, President – present/on call  
Vivian Goodman, Vice President – present/on call  
Paige Toth, Secretary – absent  
Mary Jane Linton, Treasurer – absent  
Jan Hack – present/on call  
Dr. Bret Jerger – present/on call  
Sue Krows – present/on call  
Dr. Venkat Minnaganti - absent  
Dr. Janet Patterson – present/on call  
Phil Tibbs – present/on call  
Laura Zimmerman - present/on call

### **Health Department Staff in Attendance**

Brandi Binkley, MPA, SHRM-CP, CPHA, Public Health Administrator  
Sandy DeDios, Administrative Assistant II

### **Virtual/Microsoft Teams Staff Attendance**

Bethany Stapel, MPH, CPHA, Assistant Public Health Administrator  
Sheree Zalanka, Chief Financial Officer  
Carol Carlton, RN, BSN, Director of Clinical Nursing Services  
Shannon Anderson, RN, BSN, Clinical Nursing Services Clinic Coordinator  
Marisa Hosier, Director of Health Promotion and Public Relations  
Karen Shiflett, RN, BSN, Director of WIC/FCM  
Kathy Wade, REHS, RS, LEHP, Director of Environmental Health and Emergency Preparedness  
Evan Trimby, Information Technology Specialist

### **Public in Attendance**

None

### **Approval of Agenda Topics**

Vivian Goodman moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Laura Zimmerman. Roll call. Motion carried.

## **Public Comment**

Public comment was received by email on November 8, 2020, and was read during the meeting by Brandi.

For the board,

Hospital bed status: Macon County Health Department (Decatur, IL) says ‘call the hospitals yourselves since we can’t speak for them’ so I did.

HSHS St. Mary’s Hospital Decatur: They are full. DMH has no beds. Springfield has no beds. They get 6-7 patients a day waiting around in their ER rooms and have to call every 4 hours to surrounding hospitals to find beds and transfer them out to other cities. Which are also full. It’s been this way for a while.

Decatur Memorial Hospital: We can’t give you that information unless you are with the health department. (leaving public fully in the dark since Health Dept won’t tell us)

The last press conference I saw (over a week ago), the reps from HSHS and DMH said “we have space and can accommodate you” basically. Correct me if I’m wrong. Sounds like we need a new update.

Mayor Julie Moore Wolfe recently said she has no intention of enforcing the Governor’s restrictions on in-house dining.

We have groups celebrating and encouraging in-person dining and drinking at bars and congregating more than usual with the (perceived) blessing of our mayor, to defy the governor’s order.

The local health department and media have provided no visuals to demonstrate the severity of this situation. They are coming from citizens. Feel free to share these if you don’t have time to make your own.

What is the plan? Are you enforcing the governor’s mandates at all? Restaurants are blatantly defying it. Gin Mill just posted a list.

Someone at Subway told my husband that people on the health board don’t believe in masks and told them not to worry about them.

How do you intend to get the public to take this seriously? Will we need refrigerated trucks for the bodies if this rate continues into the winter. That’s what inaction will mean.

## **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**

Laura Zimmerman moved to accept the previous meeting minutes for October 20, 2020, seconded by Dr. Bret Jerger. Roll call. Motion carried.

## **Communications**

### ***Board Education***

#### COVID-19 Update

Brandi advised the board that the Governor announced today that the state will go back to Tier 3 effective Friday, November 20, 2020. There are additional restrictions, but not an entire shutdown. One of the recommendations was for any staff able to work remotely, to do so. We have had staff working remotely since March, and in some areas, we will try to increase that to prevent transmission. Supervisors have been advised to have staff work remotely if possible.

We continue to make the community aware of the public health guidance and with the upcoming holidays, we are advocating for the public to please avoid gathering with members outside of their household.

We did hold a press conference yesterday, November 16, 2020, with members of the Crisis Communication Team and it was held virtually. Brandi thanked the staff that made it possible to do this with short notice.

Other big changes in our building is the IWIC process. The state gave some really good feedback on this.

Our nursing division has had some staff changes. Brandi announced that Shannon Anderson has been promoted to Director of Clinical Nursing Services and will replace Carol Carlton who is retiring. We will also be hiring an Assistant Director for nursing and replacing our Infectious Disease Coordinator who has taken another position outside of the building.

We have hired many, many people which has surpassed the state's minimum required number of contact tracers and we are still at capacity every day for the loads they are carrying. So, we will continue to hire and thankfully we have the sizeable grant to be able to do that.

Sadly, Carol's last day will be this Friday. She has been in public health for 22 years and as a nurse she has served our community, our building, in ways that go far above and beyond. Carol means a lot to us and are grateful for her and we will miss her terribly. We know that this next chapter for her will be great and I know we have a great leader in Shannon who will be taking Carol's place.

### **Presentation and Acceptance of Financial Report**

Sheree Zalanka, CFO, presented the financial report through the end of October we are 92% into the fiscal year. Accounts Receivable is \$536,395.08 and Deferred Revenue is \$510,530.68. Ending fund balance is 5,088,689.07. Total Revenue is \$5,891,254.47 which is 67.9% of budgeted revenue for the year. Total Expenditures are \$5,575,982.88 which is 64.9% of budgeted expenditures.

Phil Tibbs moved to accept the Financial Report, seconded by Jan Hack. Roll call. Motion carried.

### **Review of Department Expenditures**

Laura Zimmerman moved to pay the bills, seconded by Phil Tibbs. Roll call. Motion carried.

### **Grant Applications and Review**

None

### **Department and Division Reports**

Included in packets.

### **Employee Recognition**

Candace Clevenger acknowledged all employees on the monthly certificate and thanked them for their years of service and hard work.

## Old Business

### *Discussion Regarding Enforcement of COVID-19 Public Health Guidance*

We have discussed with you over that last couple of months about any type of additional or changed enforcement measures that we would need to be implementing. You asked us to research what other health departments were doing and we've done that. We also were awaiting guidance from legal and now have more information from them.

Our process now is if there is a complaint, we do an educational call first to ensure they are aware of the guidance they should be following. The second step is that we would go out to the establishment and observe and verify if the violation was validated. If a third complaint is received and validated, then a cease and desist order could be issued. We have done this in some situations, and we have cleared this through legal to be certain we were able to do this is. Legal has indicated this would be appropriate.

A cease and desist order does not close an establishment, it simply means that they are to cease activity that is violating the federal, state, or local regulations. If we choose to become stricter with our enforcement, then what we could do if the establishment continues to not be compliant and poses an imminent danger to the public, we could suspend or revoke their food permit. They could reopen if they became compliant and went through the process to do that. This would be similar to if they were closed for any other kind imminent health hazard, they could submit a corrective action plan. It would not close them indefinitely, but it is a measure we can take to try and obtain that compliance that we are not getting from some of the local bars and restaurants. We would like to know what direction you would like us to go in. We have had conversations with the city and their legal about the process of liquor licenses. Other municipalities around Decatur have stated that they will not enforce these regulations. Kathy added that she could include indoor dining on the revised cease and desist template.

Brandi feels we should continue to do our due diligence as a health department even while we have limited staff and enforcement abilities. Some of it would go to local law enforcement and State's Attorney's Office. But we have been told is to do what we feel is appropriate and what we should be doing in our role even if it is not carried out beyond our due diligence. Brandi also feels that if there is a situation of negligence and lack of compliance that is putting people in danger, that we should follow these steps and know we are ethically doing everything possible to save lives and protect the lives of people in our community. Of course, we have to have your support and want to hear from you. Kathy noted that if/when we issue a cease and desist order, we would have local law enforcement with us. As you know there have been situations across the nation that have put people in danger, and we do not plan to let that to happen to our staff. Kathy and Brian will be involved in these as well.

Laura Zimmerman stated that this has been hard on everyone and no one wants to put more burden on the businesses. But given the number of cases over the last several months, it's clear that the numbers are not going down. Especially with the holidays coming up, I'm afraid it's only going to get worse. I appreciate that the health department is making a tough decision to do what you have to do, and I definitely support you with this.

Sue Krows also agrees with Laura and supports this move by the health department. Being on the hospital side of this pandemic, it's really out of control and I think anything we can do to get ahead of it and enforce these precautions to help decrease our numbers would be awesome.

Dr. Janet Patterson also agrees with the previous comments. Thank you for all your hard work with this and appreciate your due diligence around this.

Candace thanked Brandi for the work and clarification on this, it was very helpful.

Brandi thanked the members for their feedback and support. It has been hard to know what to do for everybody. The good thing about being in public health, is that we have committed our careers, our lives, personally and professionally to health and protecting lives. While businesses are very important to us, we have to protect lives so that there will be people to patronize these

businesses. So, our priority will be to protect those lives. We will continue to do our due diligence as long as our staff are safe in doing so. We will keep you updated as we go forward. Phil Tibbs asked if there was going to be an announcement made about this, so that business owners know ahead of time the intentions to enforce this. Brandi replied that letters have gone out to the schools, we've created messaging to send out to faith-based organizations, and also to bars and restaurants. They have been being told this during the entire time what the rules are and that Boards of Health and health departments have the ability to enforce these rules. The ordinance states that if an establishment is presenting a health hazard, that they could lose their food permit. If the board wants us to add another step to our process, we would be happy to do that. But to be completely honest, these businesses have been told repeatedly about this and they are choosing to be negligent or non-compliant. We all have to prioritize what we are doing right now, and they are making that choice despite knowing they are not to be doing it. Candace confirmed that during the first offense they are receiving a warning and are told what steps that will happen next.

## **New Business**

### ***Discussion Regarding Gabby's Hearing***

We were working on a hearing for the revocation of permit. If we do not have a quorum for a hearing, we will have to rescind the revocation. There is a possibility we will be doing that this week.

### ***Election of Officers***

As mentioned last month, we have four positions, three are eligible for re-election and one is not as it is approaching the 3-year term limit.

Candace Clevenger – President eligible for re-election

Vivian Goodman – Vice President eligible for re-election

Mary Jane Linton – Treasurer eligible for re-election

Paige Toth – Secretary term ends December 2020 and is not eligible for re-election

Brandi asked for nominations. Phil asked if the current officers are willing to remain in their current position.

Candace replied that she prefers not to remain President. She asked if anyone has any nominations. Brandi stated that the President position is not a very time-consuming position. Yes, you lead the meetings, but if I ever have to meet with you, it is rather efficiently, and I can be very easy to work with and can make it as simple as possible for you.

Candace added she has found the President role to be kind of fun that she has enjoyed partnering with Brandi. It's not that I want not to be President, it's that my term is up in April 2021.

Candace asked Phil if he wanted to take a position. He replied definitely not President. She asked, how about Secretary. Phil says he wouldn't have a problem with being Secretary.

Candace nominates Phil Tibbs for Secretary. She asked if Vivian and Mary Jane are willing to stay in their current positions. Vivian agrees to remain Vice-President.

Candace nominates Mary Jane as Treasurer. Is it ok to nominate a person if they are not in attendance? Brandi replied I think you can, if the nominated person would not be able to remain in that position, we could do another nomination and vote at the next meeting.

Phil thinks Paige would make a great nomination for President.

Laura Zimmerman moved to accept the slate of officers, seconded by Jan Hack. Roll call. Motion carried.

**Closed Session**

No closed session. Will review next meeting.

**Adjournment**

Jan Hack moved to adjourn, seconded by Phil Tibbs. Roll call. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:13pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandy DeDios  
Administrative Assistant II

President: \_\_\_\_\_

Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_