



**BENTON-FRANKLIN HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF HEALTH**

MEETING MINUTES

February 19th, 2020

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IN ATTENDANCE

Benton	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Beaver	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jason Zaccaria, BFHD Administrator & BOH Executive Secretary
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Delvin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Amy Person, BFHD Health Officer
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Small	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Wight, BFHD Sr. Human Resources Manager
Franklin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Didier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Jones, BFHD Sr. Finance Manager
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Koch	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rick Dawson, Sr. Surveillance & Investigation Manager
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Peck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carla Prock, Sr. Healthy People & Communities Manager
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Staff - Janae Parent, Administrative Services Manager
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Staff - Diane Medick, Administrative Assistant
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Staff – Carl Turpen, Lead Systems Analyst
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitor – Leslie Rivera, WSNA Union Rep
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitor – Bethany Hickey, PTE Local 17 Union Rep

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Koch called the meeting to order at 1:32p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A quorum was not reached based on necessary bi-county representation at the meeting. The December 18th, 2019 minutes were not approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC/STAFF

N/A

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None to report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Health Officer Update – Dr. Amy Person

- a. The Health District has activated the Emergency Operations Center (EOC), to a level 1, not based on active cases in the community, but based on experience with Ebola. Whenever there is a new emerging disease that the public is unsure about, besides helping to prepare for protection there is also preparation for managing fear and misinformation.
- b. Under this level of activation, staff have been actively working with providers to have a constant line of communication and flow of information to the Health



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District. Since this a new emerging disease, information is changing and sometimes several times a day.

- c. Dr. Person provided background on the virus, stating that Coronavirus, now known as COVID-19, is one in a group of Coronaviruses. Coronaviruses include things like common colds or as significant as severe acute respiratory symptoms (SARS) or Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS). It was identified in China, which is where a bulk of the cases are currently being seen.
- d. Worldwide there have been over 75,000 cases reported, however this number is underreported, as milder cases are not reported. Washington State had the first case of Coronavirus in the United States (US), which was in Snohomish County. There are now 15 cases in the US and this number is expected to increase as it does not include numbers from the cruise ship Diamond Princess.
- e. There have been several persons under investigation in Washington, although there have not been any confirmed cases in Benton or Franklin counties yet. Dr. Person reviewed the supply chain process and how healthcare providers can access necessary healthcare response supplies, if there appears to be a shortage happening.
- f. Staff have also been providing communications to schools and businesses about the true risks. Commissioner Small asked about the severity of COVID-19. Dr. Person stated that the fatality rate does not appear to be as high as other viruses like SARS or MERS, adding that COVID-19 has dropped down to 1%. This is likely going to be a widely spread illness, however the serious effects of it will be limited.
- g. Dr. Person stated that as the Health District receives new information, this can and will affect how recommendations are made. Commissioner Koch asked how the virus is passed on. Dr. Person stated that Coronaviruses are spread by droplets, so it would be in the vapor from someone coughing or sneezing and that vapor enters the nose or mouth. Messaging to the public has been, while this is a novel virus, the steps the public can take to prevent getting the virus are the same things that we would recommend for all of the respiratory viruses.
- h. Commissioner Didier expressed concern with county employees, first responders, and healthcare workers that will still need to be out in the public and the supplies and protection needed to keep those workers safe. Dr. Person stated that if there are workers that will be exposed to the virus, there are supplies and protection available. However, the approach for the public will not be that everyone needs to be in a mask.
- i. Commissioner Didier asked about current supply for first responders. Dr. Person stated that there is access to these supplies but the Health District does not keep those levels of supplies on hand because masks have a shelf life.



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Legislative Update - Jason Zaccaria

J. Zaccaria provided a one page legislative update specifically highlighting current public health legislation. J. Zaccaria encouraged members to review the handout and thanked Commissioners for support in the past on other legislative topics like Foundational Public Health Services (FPHS).

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

A quorum was not reached based on the necessary bi-county representation at the meeting. Vouchers 105-2019 through 108-2019, and 01-2020 through 15-2020 in the amount of \$1,272,180.46 were not approved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Koch asked for a ten minute executive session, citing Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 42.30.140 to discuss collective bargaining at 1:51p.m.

At 2:01p.m. Chairman Koch called the regular session back to order, no decision made.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting will be March 18th, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Koch adjourned the meeting at 2:01p.m.

Signature on file

Commissioner Bob Koch
Chairman of the Board

Signature on file

Jason Zaccaria
Executive Secretary

