



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

MEETING MINUTES

October 21, 2020

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IN ATTENDANCE

Benton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Beaver	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jason Zaccaria, Administrator & BOH Executive Secretary
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Delvin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dr. Amy Person, Health Officer
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Small	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Wight, Sr. Human Resources Manager
Franklin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Didier	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Jones, Sr. Finance Manager
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Koch	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rick Dawson, Sr. Surveillance & Investigation Manager
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Peck	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carla Prock, Sr. Healthy People & Communities Manager
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Janae Parent, Administrative Services Manager
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eric Elsethagen, Information Systems & Security Manager
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nikki Ostergaard, Assessment Coordinator (EOC PIO)
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Paoli, BFHD Public Relations Consultant

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bob Koch called the meeting to order at 1:31p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Peck moved to approve meeting minutes for September 16th, 2020. Commissioner Didier seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

DISCUSSION ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC/STAFF

There were four written comments provided to the Board of Health (BOH) ahead of the meeting. Janae Parent read all comments aloud to the BOH during the meeting.

- a. The first public comment read was from Jeanne Barton. J. Barton had left a voicemail expressing concern about mental health issues that people are having because schools are closed.
- b. The second public comment read was from Tara Childs regarding students being let back into schools. T. Childs believes that with the lack of routine, kids will not feel safe and should be allowed back into school.
- c. The third public comment was from OpenWA Schools Group whom express concern over the continuation of closures for both schools as well as the community. OpenWA Schools Group also provided a link to various websites with data about COVID-19.
- d. The fourth public comment was from Emily Hansen, a Benton County resident and music teacher for the Pasco School District. E. Hansen mentioned how she has been going to rallies and protests to open schools, businesses, and the state. Hansen believes that these mandates that require the use of masks is



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wrong and will not be implementing these mandates to her class when schools open again.

- e. Commissioner Delvin commented on the provided public comments saying that it is not the Health District that decides if the counties can open, it is the State. Commissioner Beaver added that the Governor's proclamation takes authority over any decision that the Health District makes.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. COVID-19 Update

- a. Phase 2 Transition – Jason Zaccaria
Jason Zaccaria mentioned the adjustments made from the transition from Phase 1 to Phase 2, pointing out that this was a great morale boost for everyone even if Benton and Franklin counties were already mostly at Phase 2.
- b. Community Testing Update – Rick Dawson
Rick Dawson mentioned the many areas that are offering testing including the new addition of the CBC (Columbia Basin College) West site, located on the far west end of the CBC campus. The site was previously home to New Horizons High School. R. Dawson also revealed that the number of tests done at the new test site is around 200 to 400 samples a day. Even with the new testing site, the number of positive tests is continuing to decrease.
- c. Death Audit Update – Rick Dawson
R. Dawson mentioned a recent audit that was performed where fourteen previously unreported COVID-19 deaths were found. R. Dawson added that four of these deaths were from citizens that had died outside of the counties. R. Dawson stated that there would now be additional measures set in place so that this issue will be avoided in the future.
- d. Case/Death Stats – Dr. Amy Person
Dr. Person stated that from early to mid-September there was an increase in disease activity within the community. However, there has not been a significant increase in the number of hospitalizations or deaths associated with COVID-19 within the community.
- e. Schools Update – Dr. Amy Person
Dr. Person stated that the disease rate of children has stayed low and there will be a continuation of the plan to bring kids back into school. School environments will require the use of masks as well as maintaining a six-foot social distance to avoid the spread of COVID-19. There has been a continuation of advocating for the return of students to school.



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2. Flu Season Update – Dr. Amy Person

- a. The infection rate of the flu has been at a lower rate than usual. Dr. Person has mentioned that this could be because of the social distancing and masking measures that are in place. The Health District will be offering flu shots for those in the community that need them.
- b. Commissioner Didier asked about flu season statistics that are reported along with deaths caused by influenza. Dr. Person answered that the number has been monitored all year and it has not increased.
- c. Commissioner Didier then asked when the “flu season” started and how high the number of flu deaths were. Dr. Person mentioned that for the number of deaths was four or five in the previous season.

3. Approval of 4 FTEs: 2 Public Health Professionals, 1 Public Health Educator and 1 Health Services Worker – Jeff Jones

Commissioner Delvin Moved, Commissioner Peck Seconded. The motion carried four to one, with Commissioner Didier voting nay.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Representative Newhouse Visit – Jason Zaccaria

J. Zaccaria explained how Representative Newhouse’s office reached out to the Health District to create a meeting with the congressman to check in with the Health Officer and District Administrator, along with a local hospital chief executive officer, and BOH member representation, on how things are going. The meeting will also provide the Health District an opportunity to share the health progress of both Benton and Franklin counties through the pandemic. The meeting date has been set for October 22nd, 2020 at 09:00 AM. Commissioner Koch for Franklin County and current chairman of the BOH, as well as Commissioner Delvin for Benton County will be representing the BOH in the meeting.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Commissioner Delvin moved to approve vouchers 85-2020 through 93-2020 in the amount of \$1,048,986.56 with the Chairman to sign the vouchers on behalf of the Board of Health. Commissioner Beaver seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not Needed

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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



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ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bob Koch adjourned the meeting at 2:11p.m.

Signature on file

Commissioner Bob Koch
Chairman of the Board

Signature on file

Jason Zaccaria
Executive Secretary

