



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

MEETING MINUTES

February 17th, 2021

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IN ATTENDANCE

Benton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner McKay	<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 checked="" 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 Mullen	<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"/>	Bonnie Hall, Contracts, Billing & Vital Records Manager
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shelly Little, Planning Section, Public Health Nurse

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Delvin called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Small moved to approve meeting minutes for January 20th, 2021.
Commissioner McKay seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC/STAFF

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. COVID-19 Updates – Dr. Amy Person, Jason Zaccaria, Rick Dawson

a. Phase Updates – Jason Zaccaria

- J. Zaccaria stated that when it was pointed out that the Southwest Region was the only region not to progress to Phase 2, both elected and public health officials became concerned with the metrics for the hospital admissions data that was being released by the state Department of Health (DOH). An emergency meeting was called where each County agreed to reach out to their local area hospitals to obtain the hospital admission data. After reviewing the data, no increase was found and the data was sent to DOH for reevaluation of



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the hospital admissions metric. Utilizing the facilities updated information, the metric was recalculated and the DOH concluded that the Southwest region did in fact meet the required metric criteria to advance to Phase 2 effective February 14th, 2021.

- Commissioner McKay asked if there was a way to request the data to verify the numbers and avoid this situation from happening in the future. J. Zaccaria responded that a request has been made to DOH to be able to review the information, however there has been no response as of this time.
- b. Vaccine Update – Rick Dawson, Dr. Amy Person
- R. Dawson mentioned that the Benton County mass vaccination site is running at roughly 2000 shots ahead of the other mass vaccination sites. DOH has reported 12,257 vaccinations given throughout the state, while the local site has given about 500 more vaccines than that. The site has only been limited by the supply of vaccine.
 - There has been a drop in the amount of testing that has been done due to the bad weather that occurred in the last week. There is still an average of 500 tests a day and a test positivity rate of 14.8 which has decreased from the previous rate of 15.8.
 - Dr. Person pointed out that with the weather conditions across the Country delaying the vaccine shipments, the vaccination site was unable to start the second dosage of shots to those in Phase 1A and 1B. There is a stronger push for the second dose because of the recent findings regarding the variant B.1.1.7 that has been reported across the United States.
 - Additionally, there will be opportunities for testing to occur in schools, as was announced at the Governor's press conference on February 16th, 2021. BFHD continues to make the BinaxNOW kits and rapid antigen test kits available to schools and other businesses as needed.
 - Commissioner Peck Brought up the topic of testing and the percentage of positives. This seems to be a variable that can be manipulated by having a large number of people to get tested who have not necessarily been exposed or have a high probability of being positive. It was asked if the new variant is distinguishable and identifiable with the testing and if it will add validity to the testing effort. Dr. Person responded that the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing is not specific to the B.1.1.7 variant, however it is a finding that will raise suspicion. It is agreed upon that the test positivity is a metric that has been challenging to have the data available in a meaningful way. A discussion that has been had throughout local health jurisdictions, DOH and the Governor's office around how to have the measure be one of value.



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2. Secretary of Health Visit – Jason Zaccaria

- a. J. Zaccaria stated that the Secretary of Health, Dr. Umair Shah, came on February 8th, 2021 to see the Benton County Fairgrounds vaccination site. Dr. Shah asked what will be needed of him and DOH in the near future. J. Zaccaria noted that there are several requests that he had for Dr. Shah which include:
 - The need for significantly increased communication from him and the Department
 - The need to understand his vision for public health.
 - The need to include the local health jurisdictions in DOH’s planning processes.
 - The need to him to establish a ‘Safe Zone’ to get to know him and his views on public health.
- b. Dr. Shah was receptive to these requests.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Legislative Update – Jason Zaccaria

- a. J. Zaccaria reviewed two WSALPHO priority bills.
- b. HB 1152/SB 5173 is an Inslee proposal. This bill would dismantle the current local health structure and begin work to create regionalized models. It creates a work group to develop and recommend to the DOH Secretary a public health system that provides foundational public health services to all people in Washington through comprehensive health service districts. A proposed substitute was considered for HB 1152 in the House Committee on Health Care & Wellness and was recently approved. The State Board of Health will be required to adopt rules regarding the districts and the performance measures to track the effectiveness of this new model of service delivery. Six regional health officers within DOH will be assigned to a Comprehensive Health Service Districts and will modify the membership of Local boards. Stakeholders will continue to discuss and refine this proposal.
- c. HB 1201/SB 5149 is another Inslee proposal that would fund foundation public health services. Beginning in fiscal year 2023, the insurance commissioner would assess health carriers, Medicaid managed care organizations, and third-party administrators a per covered life member per month assessment. This assessment would generate the money needed to fund FPHS for comprehensive public health districts.

2. Accreditation Update – Jason Zaccaria

J. Zaccaria mentioned that every year BFHD submits an annual report to the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) which summarizes BFHD’s accreditation efforts for a one year period. On the recent submission, PHAB sent back a positive review for BFHD, while also knowing that BFHD has been heavily immersed in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.



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APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Commissioner Peck moved to approve vouchers 05-2021 through 13-2021 in the amount of \$1,119,731.94 with the Chairman to sign the vouchers on behalf of the Board of Health. Commissioner Small seconded. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not Needed

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting will be March 17th, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Delvin adjourned the meeting at 2:02 p.m.

Signature on file

Jerome Delvin
Chairman of the Board

Signature on file

Jason Zaccaria
Executive Secretary

