



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

MEETING MINUTES

March 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 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 Manager
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Diane Medick, Administrative Assistant
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peyton Jones, Administrative Temp.
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shelley Little, Public Health Nurse
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nikki Ostergaard, Assessment Coordinator
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Paoli, Public Relations Consultant

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Small moved to approve meeting minutes for February 17th, 2021. Commissioner Didier seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC/STAFF

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

1. The first comment read by J. Parent was from Christina Feldman regarding schools going back to full time status. C. Feldman mentioned that the current plan for children going to school only two days a week is not enough and has greatly deflated their mental health.
2. The second comment read by J. Parent was from Stacy Chan, a second grade teacher from the Kennewick School District. Chan requests that the board declare a county state of emergency to allow children to go back to school full time.



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3. The third comment read by J. Parent was from Kelly Ramacher concerning the requirement of masks during spring sports. K. Ramacher is concerned with the kids getting heat stroke because of the high temperatures outside and the requirement of wearing masks while playing the spring sports.
4. The fourth comment read by J. Parent was from Allison and Aaron Chan requesting that the Board declare a county health emergency regarding the mental health of students and allowing them to go to school more than two days a week.
5. The fifth comment read by J. Parent was from Dena Peterson. D. Peterson requests that the Board make their own emergency proclamation and allow schools to use the three-foot guidelines that have been endorsed by the World Health Organization (WHO).
6. The sixth comment read by J. Parent was from Erin Garcia concerning the mental health of not only her children but others' children as well.
7. The seventh comment read by J. Parent was from Lisa Edler. L. Edler requests the Board to declare a state of emergency in regards to the mental health and the opening of schools.
8. The eighth comment read by J. Parent was from Denae Jeppson. D. Jeppson wants the schools and activities to be opened full time.
9. The ninth comment read by J. Parent was from Lawanda Hatch. L. Hatch expressed concern about how the Board and the Health District has handled the COVID-19 Pandemic. It was also recommended that the Board go to the lawmakers of Washington and make the recommendation to sue China to recoup all the lives, businesses, and costs felt because of the virus.
10. The tenth comment read by J. Parent was from Jason Hart. J. Hart mentions the appreciation of Dr. Person and her skills used to develop a prognosis for children throughout the two counties to maintain social distancing and to be safe.
11. The eleventh comment read by J. Parent was from Tammy G. regarding opening schools back up full time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS:

COVID-19 Updates – Dr. Person

1. Vaccine Update – Amy Person
 - a. There are currently three vaccines available in the United States – Pfizer and Moderna are a two-dose vaccine and Johnson & Johnson, which was recently approved for emergency use authorization, is a single dose vaccine. Vaccinations continue to be the safest and most effective way to create an immune community. It is also the most effective way to reduce hospitalizations



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and death due to COVID-19. At this point, there have been over 32,000 doses of vaccine given.

- b. Many pharmacies are getting the vaccine as well as the mass vaccination site. Among the four mass vaccination sites across Washington State, the Benton County site has provided the highest number of vaccines.
 - c. Dr. Person mentioned that as of March 17th, 2021 Benton and Franklin counties are in vaccinations Phase 1B, Tier 2. This will include the highest risk essential workers, as well as the first responders that were not vaccinated during Phase 1A. Additionally, anyone who is 16 years or older and is pregnant, or has a disability in addition to being high risk, is eligible.
 - d. As of March 22nd, all counties in Washington State will be in Phase 3 and the metrics will be re-evaluated again for April 12th, 2021. Counties are no longer sectioned off by regions and will be evaluated individually when it comes to determining their phase status.
2. School Updates – Dr. Amy Person
- a. Dr. Person mentioned that as a local health district, Benton-Franklin Health District (BFHD) could give a recommendation to the school boards however, it is up to the school board to make a decision on how to continue. The Department of Health (DOH) determines how schools should operate which would include reducing the social distancing from six feet to three feet.
 - b. Commissioner Delvin asked about the Johnson & Johnson vaccine and whether it can be found within the community. Dr. Person responded that there are federally qualified health centers and pharmacies that have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. However, the amounts of that have been low. It is anticipated that there will be more of that vaccine becoming available by the end of March or beginning of April with the addition of Merck as a production facility.
 - c. Commissioner McKay asked about the three-foot distance requirement and whether BFHD is pushing the State for a response. Along with that, it was asked about when schools will open to five days a week. Dr. Person responded that there has been a push for a response as to whether or not the three-foot social distancing can be allowed within schools. It was pointed out that the school board decides when to open up to five days a week.
 - d. Commissioner Didier asked is the regional district plan for the Roadmap to Recovery is no longer in place. Dr. Person responded that each county will be evaluated individually for the consideration of phasing. Commissioner Didier raised the concern on the determination of how Benton and Franklin County will be separated, based on where people live and work.
 - e. Commissioner Didier made a motion to allow other health experts, like a psychiatrist, to join in the decision making process of opening the schools. Commissioner McKay seconded.



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- f. Commissioner Delvin opened a discussion on the motion given by Commissioner Didier. Commissioner Delvin noted that there might be bylaws that may not allow the creation of a group similar to what Commissioner Didier is recommending.
- g. Jason Zaccaria pointed out that there are Revised Codes of Washington (RCWs) and Washington Administrative Codes (WACs) that are pertinent to any change, which would need legal review and further discussion. Commissioner Delvin suggested getting the opinion from BFHD's legal team to be informed of what BFHD can and cannot do as well as finding out what can be put together. This is also to be sure that any advice or decisions the panel makes would be covered.
- h. Commissioner Didier proposed another meeting in a week or two to talk about creating a board to help with the mental illness issues. Commissioner Delvin responded that after there is a response from the legal team, and then a meeting can be set up to discuss creating the panel.
- i. Commissioner Peck noted that the review should include requesting data from the Coroners from the two counties and surrounding counties in order to make decisions based on facts and not based on perceived opinions regarding suicide. Previously, the numbers had been tracked by Commissioner Peck who said the numbers have been consistent with what had been recorded over the past decade.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Public Health Legislative Update – Jason Zaccaria
 - a. House Bill 1152 has been changed in the attempt to improve the work of the public health system. Local health jurisdictions (LHJs) will remain in the current state where boards of health will retain oversight and foundational public health will be more formalized.
 - b. On Monday the 8th, 2021, a substitute bill was passed that creates a public health advisory board to provide the oversight and direction for public health. It also formalizes the public health foundational steering committee and directs them to develop and design new service delivery models.
 - c. The accompanying Senate Bill 5149 was approved on a party line vote and the senate committee on long-term health care. The maximum per-member-per-month rate will change by starting low and increasing as the years go on.
- 2. BFHD Reopening Planning – Jason Zaccaria
 - a. J. Zaccaria mentioned that there has been an internal work group that has been created to plan the reopening of BFHD. It is expected that there will be a phased approach that should start this summer and continue into early fall.



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APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Commissioner Small moved to approve vouchers 14-2021 through 24-2021 in the amount of \$1,557,041.95 with the Chairman to sign the vouchers on behalf of the Board of Health. Commissioner Peck seconded. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting will be April 21st, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Delvin adjourned the meeting at 2:24p.m.

Signature on file

Commissioner Jerome Delvin
Chairman of the Board

Signature on file

Jason Zaccaria
Executive Secretary

