



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

MEETING MINUTES

April 21st, 2021

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IN ATTENDANCE

Benton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner McKay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jason Zaccaria, District 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"/>	Diane Medick, Administrative Assistant
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Annie Goodwin, Nutrition & Injury Prevention Supervisor
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Shelly Little, Public Health Nurse
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peyton Jones, Administrative Temp.
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leslie Rivera, WSNA Union Rep
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lars Richins, PTE Local 17 Union Rep
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Paoli, Public Relations Consultant
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Annette Cary, Tri-City Herald

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Commissioner Small moved to approve special meeting minutes for April 7th, 2021.
Commissioner McKay seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC/STAFF

There were two 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 Steve Simmons. S. Simmons requests that the board add an in-person component to the meetings as well as real time public comments.
2. The second comment read by J. Parent was from Shelly Burt expressing concern about Dr. Amy Person approving mask exemptions. S. Burt believes that Dr. Person



**BENTON-FRANKLIN HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
April 21st, 2021**

should not have the authority to approve or deny whether a child receives a mask exemption.

3. Commissioner Delvin commented that the Health District does not give Dr. Person the authority to approve or deny mask exemptions. Dr. Person is governed by the Revised Codes of Washington (RCWs) and Washington Administrative Codes (WACs). Dr. Person responded that the Health Officer specifically issues mask waivers and they are not issued by the physicians. The physician completes the diagnosis and the alternate method of infection control, if there happens to be one. Benton-Franklin Health District (BFHD) does not give the Health Officer this authority, it is given by the State Department of Health (DOH).
4. Commissioner Delvin mentioned that for in-person Board of Health (BOH) meetings to occur, there is a requirement of having enough space to maintain social distancing which is unavailable at the current location in the BFHD building. Commissioner McKay commented that a change of venue would be acceptable to allow the in-person meetings however, it should not cost more to get everything set up. Commissioner Small agreed with Commissioner McKay and mentioned that there should be no issue getting the system set up for a period of live public comments for the next BOH meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Review and approval of Resolution 21-01, Declaring May 2021 Mental Health Month for Benton and Franklin Counties – Carla Prock**
 - a. Carla Prock mentioned that each May there is a national movement to raise awareness for mental health and the Benton Franklin Community Health Alliance (BFCHA) and BFHD's mental health programs are working with many community partners in various efforts to promote May as Mental Health Awareness Month. Numerous organizations and coalitions have put efforts in place that include radio spots, virtual fundraisers, student awareness activities, and mental health screening promotions, as well as social media campaigns. These partners have come forward to request that BFHD issue a resolution to recognize May as Mental Health Awareness Month.
 - b. Commissioner Delvin read Resolution 21-01 aloud. A motion to create May 2021 as Mental Health Month for Benton and Franklin Counties was made by Commissioner Small. Commissioner McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried.
 - c. Commissioner Small mentioned having heard from members whom serve Greater Columbia Behavioral Health and explained how the committee helps with mental health activities around the communities. Commissioner Small also



**BENTON-FRANKLIN HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
April 21st, 2021**

expressed his support of the Mental Health Awareness Month. It was made apparent that there are many people that are involved in mental health issue or have had problems in the past.

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

- a. Dr. Person mentioned that both Benton and Franklin Counties have been allowed to remain in phase 3. This is available largely due to the vaccination efforts that have been put forth. The availability of the vaccine, mainly through the mass vaccination site, allowed an increase of vaccinated individuals. There are multiple other sources that have the vaccine available through federal programs that provide vaccines to qualified health centers, pharmacies, and soon to be dialysis centers.
- b. The Secretary of Health has talked about vaccination as a ‘three-legged stool’ which includes supply, logistics, and demand. Currently, the counties are in a good place with vaccine supply and logistics continue to improve. BFHD is beginning to see the challenge in the area of vaccine demand. There has been an increase in disease activity that the rest of the State had already started to see at the end of March. This is concerning as the time of the next evaluation for metrics is quickly approach, and the state will decide whether the counties can stay in Phase 3. Currently neither county is meeting either metric needed to stay in the current phase.
- c. Over the last month, all the larger school districts have returned students to the classroom five days a week. This was made possible with the reduction of the required distance between students from 6-feet to 3-feet. Benton and Franklin counties have led the way in the State being among the earliest of the larger school districts to bring students back into the classroom in the hybrid setting.
- d. Commissioner McKay asked if it was possible to get rid of the mass vaccination site to allow the Benton-Franklin Fair to take place. Dr. Person responded that the plan for the mass vaccination site was never for it to be a long-term fixture. It was intended to be able to rapidly vaccinate a large number of individuals while other permanent vaccination sites through existing community providers and pharmacies were being set up.
- e. Rick Dawson mentioned that it is not expected for the mass vaccination site to remain there throughout the summer months because as demand for vaccine goes down, the cost benefit won’t be there. The actual vaccine demand has remained consistent from day one. There is now a greater supply however, the demand is not keeping up with that supply at the moment.
- f. Jason Zaccaria mentioned that there are several events that are wanting to be allowed to take place. It has been requested that a document be put together containing the sizes, locations, and needs, to further determine how the delta’s that arise will be mitigated for each event.



**BENTON-FRANKLIN HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
April 21st, 2021**

- g. R. Dawson brought up that there are several pharmacies that are giving vaccines as well as possible mobile vaccines that will allow those around the community to get the vaccine.
- h. R. Dawson mentioned that the use of the CBC West test site has been expanded to include vaccinations on Sundays. Along with that there are some pop-up locations that will be set up, based on an equity standpoint where it has been discovered that there are difficulties getting vaccinations.
- i. Currently the vaccine supply is steady, and Benton and Franklin counties are exceeding the current demand for the vaccine even though everyone age sixteen and over are now eligible to get the vaccine, there is an encouragement to move forward with that.

3. Communications Update – Mike Paoli

- a. Mike Paoli mentioned that the Latinx educational outreach campaign started about four weeks ago, with a public service campaign working with four Spanish language radio stations including 610 KONA. Together these stations are airing more than sixteen hundred ads during the five-week period that are all crafted by the BFHD. There are about fourteen on-air interviews during early morning and primetime lunch hour slots.
- b. The contract negotiations with Cherry Creek Bustos Media and on the print side, La Vos Newspaper, all resulted in a donation of significant air and print space on top of what the Health District is paying for. The local media is chipping in as community partners to get the Health District where it needs to be. Mayor Martinez of Pasco and Martin Valadez, the Executive Director of the Hispanic Chamber, have both provided their voices to support the effort.
- c. BFHD is also working with Visit Tri-Cities as a part of a twelve-week TV campaign that has been made possible through local municipality funding. The ads will air on all local stations with a focus on Spanish language Univision and Telemundo. Dr. Person has a segment on KNDU to answer questions the community may have. BFHD is also on Univision Weekly featuring updates from BFHD's epidemiologist, Angeles Ize. In digital media, the public information team has created several videos. One walks Spanish speakers through the online appointment process and another debunks vaccination myths as well as other myths related to COVID-19. These informational videos can be found on the BFHD vaccination webpage as well as on YouTube, BFHD's Facebook feed and other social media platforms.
- d. Commissioner Small wants to make sure that the curve of vaccination continues to increase rather than decrease to remain in Phase 3.



**BENTON-FRANKLIN HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
April 21st, 2021**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Temporary Food permit update – Rick Dawson

R. Dawson mentioned that as of Monday, April 19th, 2021, BFHD has been allowed to resume the issuance of temporary food service permits which have not been allowed for over a year. Normally, it is required to have applications turned in two weeks in advance or a late fee is given, however late fees will continue to be suspended at least through June 1st, 2021. Events must be sure to comply with the COVID-19 requirements and BFHD staff will be sent out to do inspections to ensure events are following the requirements set in place.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Commissioner Small moved to approve vouchers 25-2021 through 34-2021 in the amount of \$517,150.72 with the Chairman to sign the vouchers on behalf of the Board of Health. Commissioner Peck seconded. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not Needed

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting will be May 19th, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Delvin adjourned the meeting at 2:06p.m.

Signature on file

Commissioner Brad Peck
Acting Chairman of the Board

Signature on file

Jason Zaccaria
Executive Secretary

