



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

MEETING MINUTES

July 21st, 2021

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

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 type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Small	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lisa Wight, Sr. Human Resources Manager
Franklin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Commissioner Didier	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jeff Jones, Sr. Finance Manager
	<input 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"/>	Peyton Jones, Administrative Assistant
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Paoli, BFHD Public Relations Consultant
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitor – Lars Richins, PTE Local 17 Union Rep
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitor - David Eckstein, Customer Success Manager Zen City
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitor - Dr. Daniella Shidlovski, Survey Project Manager Zen City
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Visitor - Annette Cary, Tri-City Herald Editor

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Peck moved to approve meeting minutes for June 16, 2021.

Commissioner McKay seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC/STAFF

There was one public comment provided to the Board of Health (BOH).

Shelly Burt is concerned with the masking of children and lack of air conditioning in busses.



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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

**Continued discussion on proposal to establish policy on annual reviews –
Jerome Delvin**

- a. Commissioner McKay would like an executive meeting for an annual review on Dr. Person.
- b. Jason Zaccaria reminded the Board that Dr. Person reports directly to the Board. The Health District has a performance evaluation process that can be brought for review, for employees of BFHD that report to managers.
- c. It was clarified by Commissioner Peck that Dr. Person does not work for the Counties but for the Health District. Similar to J. Zaccaria, Dr. Person only reports to the Board. Commissioner Peck expressed that annual feedback is appropriate.
- d. Commissioner Delvin requested the Health District's policy be sent to the Commissioners for review and this will be discussed further at the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Zen City COVID Vaccine Hesitancy Survey Presentation – Carla Prock, Zen City presenters

- a. Carla Prock talked with partners from the Chamber and Washington State University (WSU) about improving the vaccination rates around the community. It was brought up that Zen City would be able to provide the needed information for how to improve the vaccination rates.
- b. David Eckstein, customer success manager at Zen City, along with Dr. Daniella Shidlovski, survey project manager at Zen City, gave a presentation on vaccine hesitancy and what incentives have been found helpful when it comes to getting more of the community vaccinated.
- c. Commissioner Delvin asked if Zen City was able to go into detail about the reason some people in the community may not get vaccinated. Dr. Shidlovski responded that about 20% of those who are unvaccinated would get vaccinated if it were more accessible or offered incentives. Regarding the reasons, many people are reading non-scientific articles and coming to conclusions about long term health risks, however, the risk is relatively low.
- d. Commissioner Delvin then asked if there was any comparison to what the vaccine rate is against the flu vaccine. Dr. Shidlovski responded that the numbers are about the same but will get back to Commissioner Delvin with specific numbers.
- e. Commissioner Peck mentioned that the numbers for the vaccinated Hispanic population were different than what had been previously seen from other data collection efforts. Commissioner Peck asked how the sample was selected and more specifically the potential for sample bias given that within some sectors of the community especially those who have limited internet access.



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

- f. Dr. Shidlovski responded that the approach that had been taken was to use multiple methods. With the online survey, most people, even if they don't have internet access at home, have cell phones they can use to complete the survey. Many efforts were taken in order to gain a larger sample of those in the Hispanic community.

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

- a. Dr. Person mentioned that there has been an increase in the number of people coming to get vaccinated. It has been noted that the cases that have been occurring are from those who are unvaccinated. Along with this, there has been an increase in the number of hospitalizations due to COVID-19.
- b. Dr. Person pointed out that all the available vaccines continue to provide protection, even against the delta variant. The numbers of cases seen over the last week were only one half the cases seen in King County, which is seven times larger than Benton and Franklin Counties. Overall, there continues to be a large number of cases within the unvaccinated within the community.
- c. R. Dawson mentioned that there is a large amount of fire activity found to the South, the East and to the North of Benton and Franklin Counties. Currently the smoke impact has been slight. While there is still concern for smoke to appear within late July and August, currently the air quality is doing well.
- d. Commissioner Delvin asked for clarification on the masking of the schools and busses having no air conditioning. Dr. Person stated that the Health District does not have any authority concerning air conditioning on buses. With regards to mask exemption forms, while there was a local masking order, there was an inclusion for schools to use mask exemption forms that needed to be approved by the Health Officer. The Health District does not determine the overall guidance on whether masks will be required in schools or not. It is instead determined by the state Department of Health (DOH). Local health jurisdictions, including Benton-Franklin Health District, have been providing feedback to DOH regarding concerns that have been raised as well as input from schools.
- e. Commissioner Peck asked if the effectiveness matches the efficacy of getting vaccinated. Dr. Person responded that there have been several studies done in the real world that prove the effectiveness does match the efficacy. Locally there has not been any research done at this time, however when looking at where cases are occurring, they are within the areas of those who are unvaccinated.
- f. Commissioner Peck then asked what the effectiveness is of the vaccine against the delta variant and if there are any controlled studies, further asking what the efficacy of the vaccine against the Delta variant has been. Dr. Person responded that at this time there is not much data regarding that. There has been research on neutralizing antibodies for the delta variant from the vaccine. That has demonstrated that even with the delta variant, two doses of the MRNA vaccines,



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

there were 85 to 90% effective similar to the other strains of COVID-19. It was noted that single doses were significantly lower.

- g. Commissioner McKay mentioned that from DOH regarding “K-12 COVID-19 Summer Requirements,” there is a paragraph from the Governor that says with the respect to implementation to these requirements, they are best made in coordination with local school boards and with input from local Health jurisdictions. Commissioner McKay asked, based on the requirements stated, is the local Health District deciding whether children are allowed back into schools with or without a mask. Dr. Person responded that where DOH is getting input is how those guidelines are created.
- h. Commissioner Didier asked how much more carbon dioxide are people breathing in while wearing a mask. Dr. Person responded that it is no more than usual. There was a study preformed that suggested people were inhaling more carbon dioxide than usual, however the research letter that was published from JAMA Pediatrics was retracted within a few days of it being published. There is no evidence to show that people are breathing more carbon dioxide while wearing masks. Dr. Person mentioned that face coverings do not hinder the flow of oxygen and carbon dioxide to and from a person.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Washington State Auditor’s Office Audit – Jason Zaccaria

Jason Zaccaria mentioned that the Washington State auditor’s office audit will be scheduled to begin on July 26th. The scope of this audit will include the 2020 Financial Statement audit, the Accountability for Public Resources audit which occurs every two years, as well as the Federal Single audit. These audits will occur virtually over the next couple of months. The total estimated cost of these audits is approximately \$31,000.

2. Washington State DOH Fiscal Audit – Jason Zaccaria

J. Zaccaria mentioned that the DOH Subrecipient Fiscal Monitoring will be reviewing several grants such as the Women, Infant and Children grant and the Emergency Preparedness and Response grant. All the requested documentation needs to be submitted by the end of September.

APPROVAL OF VOUCHERS

Commissioner McKay moved to approve vouchers 57-2021 through 67-2021 in the amount of \$1,190,939.29 with the Chairman to sign the vouchers on behalf of the Board of Health. Commissioner Delvin seconded. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not Needed



BENTON-FRANKLIN HEALTH DISTRICT
BOARD OF HEALTH
MEETING MINUTES
July 21, 2021

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Date of next meeting will be August 18th, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Delvin adjourned the meeting at 2:53p.m.

Signature on file

Commissioner Jerome Delvin
Chairman of the Board

Signature on file

Jason Zaccaria
Executive Secretary

