

**Kankakee County Health Department  
Regular Meeting  
July 15, 2021**

Members Present: Mr. Rodney Gustafson, Mr. Antonio Carrico, Dr. Abraham Kurien  
Dr. Olatunji Akintilo, (phone) Dr. Simon Wu, Dr. Jeffrey Long (phone)

Members Absent: Mr. Jim Johaneck, Dr. Syreeta Jones, Mrs. Neelie Panozzo

Staff Present: Mr. John Bevis, Ms. Nicole Finnegan

Staff Absent: Mrs. Amy LaFine, Mr. Keith Wojnowski, Mrs. Erin Weakley

Others Present: Marta

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Wu at 5:10 P.M.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the July 15, 2021, agenda was made by Mr. Gustafson, seconded by Dr. Kurien, the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Kurien to accept the May 13, 2021, Board of Health minutes, seconded by Mr. Gustafson the motion passed unanimously.

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

Mr. Bevis announced that our Client Service Representative of 27 years, Jackie Harris, submitted her resignation. We also received a resignation from Kirsten Schneider, one of our Communicable Disease Nurses that is starting a new position as a school nurse with the Bourbonnais school district. We also had a new Client Service Representative, Laura Wood, start at the Health Department, as well as an intern, Diane Carter, who is working in the Vector Program within Environmental Health.

## Division Reports

### *Client Services*

Mr. Bevis explained that because we are now experiencing a slow down in the number of vaccinations that we are giving, we have been able to move everything out of our conference room and into the clinic so that we can now do all vaccination appointments in the clinic. This has really helped to restore standard appointments and get our clients served. We currently have our Immunization appointments open, as well as added a full day of COVID vaccinations to the routine schedule. This has proven to be a more effective way of vaccinating because we are no longer seeing mass vaccination events now that there are smaller crowds and we have been more successful with one-on-one appointments.

### *Administrator's Report*

Mr. Bevis explained that as of now, our County is looking very good in relation to our positivity rate, which is holding steady at 1.1 %. We are seeing the Delta Variant within our county, and we do feel that it has contributed to the extra 5-10 more cases per day. Our region currently has a positivity rate of 1.6%, and that includes Will County's positivity rate of 1.7%. Currently, the numbers are manageable, but they do fluctuate from day to day. We are concerned that the Delta variant is very prominent in Missouri, and it looks as though those cases are starting to make their way to Illinois. The one thing that we do feel confident about in relation to Missouri's cases, is that the vaccination rate in Illinois is very high compared to the states around us. Illinois has 70% of the eligible population with at least one shot, in contrast to Missouri, who has 35% vaccinated. We did feel that in the beginning, there was a strong sense of urgency to get the vaccine, and lately we are seeing that people have changed their mind and don't realize the benefits of being vaccinated, like the ability to not have to quarantine after an exposure. We hope that once more parents are aware of these benefits, there will be more interest amongst vaccinating students. Current data shows that within Kankakee County, 77,539 eligible residents have at least had one shot or more.

Mr. Bevis also announced that there are many upcoming events within the community in which the Kankakee County Health Department, as well as the Illinois Department of Public Health have made it available to host mobile teams onsite at festivals and specialty events within the community to vaccinate. Our goal in doing so, is to make the vaccine as accessible as possible to all residents within our county. All upcoming vaccination events can be found on our website, and Facebook. Currently, we are planning back to school events now with the Momence school district, as well as BBCHS.

Mr. Carrico requested that we give a report on STDs within our community and our role in educating the public. Mr. Carrico would also like to talk about educational programs other than COVID in relation to the programs we provide at the Health Department. Mr. Bevis agreed that we can certainly address new topics at the upcoming meetings, and we would love to elaborate on all the services that we provide going forward.

## ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

### *Financial Status*

Mr. Bevis updated the Board on the May 2021 financials. For May 2021, we should be at 50% of the year. Our revenues for the month were fair, and as you can see, we have only received 36.29% of the grant revenue thus far. You will see that we did receive the Local Cure Program money in May 2021, which was claimed for non-grant expenses related to COVID for March- December 2020. The property tax revenue line item is still showing \$0 because the property taxes were not due until June 2021. Erin did log in and check the bank today and we have received approximately \$300,000 in the first half of July for property taxes, so we will see that on the July financials. For the year, we are at 34.43% of revenue, and again, just as a reminder, this is normal to see, due to not yet receiving any property tax money yet.

On the expense side for May, for personnel, we are pretty much right on target overall at 51.03%. We are at 23.46% of Operational expenses as of the end of May, which will be higher in June due to the end of the year grant spend outs. For the year, we are at 35.20% for total expenses, which is still well below the 50% we would normally be at, and our total overall budget is \$34,438.98 "overspent" as of the end of May 2021.

For our cash on hand: we have \$1,019,944.63 in the IPTIP account, \$1,014,731.61 in the money market account, \$ 1,009,743.24 in the checking account, and there are \$22,338.72 in outstanding checks. Total Cash on Hand is \$3,022,080.76 for May 2021.

Due to the fact that we have our monthly, quarterly, and a couple of our grants are annual grants that are due by July 30, so the June financials will not be ready until next month's meeting. We also will have the final audited numbers for the year ended November 30, 2020, at the next meeting as well. A motion was made by Mr. Carrico to approve the May 2021 financials, seconded by Dr. Kurien, the motion passed unanimously.

### OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Carrico inquired about our Opioid program and requested that we provide more information on our role within the community. Mr. Bevis addressed that we could provide a report at our upcoming meeting about our current program and involvement within the community. Mr. Carrico also announced that there was a Reinvest sub-committee meeting in relation to the COVID Grants received by the County and he was hopeful we could work together to come up with strategies to use this money towards educating the community about mental health, Opioid addiction, STD's and other issues plaguing our county in relation to COVID-19.

### NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bevis explained that we will be sending out the MAPP- Local Public Health Systems Assessment to all Board of Health members. This is something that we do every three years, and it goes out to all community members, Hospitals, Government Officials, and Schools. This is a survey that consists of about 20 questions that helps us determine how the community feels we

rank in regard to specific categories within our community and what we can and should focus on going forward to strengthen the community by addressing those issues. This is how our Health Department is certified and it is very important that we have a response from as many members of the community as possible to get the most effective and accurate results.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

#### ADJOURNMENT

Dr. Wu asked that we present the STD and Opioid reports at the August meeting. Mr. Bevis explained that we will have a presentation on these topics and if there are further questions or topics for the future, please let us know so we can have those prepared for the Board going forward. There being no further business before the Board, Mr. Gustafson moved to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Dr. Kurien and passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Dr. Abraham Kurien, Secretary

Minutes reviewed by, Mr. John J. Bevis, MPH, Public Health Administrator

Minutes prepared by, Ms. Nicole Finnegan, HR Administrative Coordinator