

**Kankakee County Health Department
Regular Meeting
October 14, 2021**

Members Present: Dr. Simon Wu, Mr. Antonio Carrico, Dr. Jeffrey Long, Mrs. Neelie Panozzo, Mr. Jim Johanek, Mr. Rodney Gustafson, Dr. Olatunji Akintilo
Mrs. Syreeta Jones

Members Absent: Dr. Abraham Kurien

Staff Present: Mr. John Bevis, Mrs. Erin Weakley, Mrs. Amy LaFine
Ms. Nicole Finnegan, Mr. Keith Wojnowski

Staff Absent: None

Others Present: Tamera Ponton, Diane Cinnamon, Deborah Kooy, Pedro Gonzalez
John Coghlan, Jalanda Taylor, Larry Kerkstra

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Wu at 5:05 P.M.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the October 14, 2021, agenda was made by Mr. Gustafson, seconded by Dr. Akintilo, the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

NONE

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Long to accept the September 16, 2021, Board of Health minutes, seconded by Mr. Johanek the motion passed unanimously.

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

None

Division Reports

Client Services

Mrs. LaFine reported on the status of our completed KCHD Program management and quality assurance site review in September. Of the 140 applicable criteria standards, there were two recommendations for corrective action, both related to documentation. The WIC team received kudos for providing uninterrupted services throughout 2020-2021, while working under the COVID-19 disaster plan and implementation of a new WIC management information system and WIC EBT in 2020.

Mrs. LaFine also reported on our new Genetics grant. The goal of this program is to improve the awareness of newborn screening and genetics, strengthen the access to care and services for Illinois parents and families of affected children, and increase knowledge and access to prevention strategies for potentially preventable conditions.

Mrs. LaFine also gave an update on our upcoming COVID-19 vaccination clinic dates, as well as our FLU and standard immunization schedule. Concerns were mentioned from the board regarding why we are only allowing vaccinated staff to administer COVID-19 vaccinations. Mr. Bevis explained that out of abundance of caution, and to focus on the safety of our clients, resources were looked at and determined that we have enough coverage to allow this. Mr. Bevis explained that based on management rights, we have the right to schedule staff as management sees fit. In this case, our responsibility is safety, and after reviewing resources, we were able to accommodate this request based on public concerns we received through phone calls and social media.

Environmental Health

Mr. Wojnowski updated the Board on our Vector program. From May to November, we test mosquitos and birds for the West Nile Virus. We got our first positive batch in September, followed by several more positive mosquito batches, and one positive crow.

Mr. Wojnowski reported on our September 29th LHPG review that occurs every three years. LHPG stands for Local Health Protection Grant and encompasses the majority of programs that Environmental Health is responsible for. We were able to do a telephone review this year, in which we were informed that we passed, and are awaiting the written report from IDPH.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Bevis reported that he is invited to the Chamber of Commerce State of the County Breakfast. He explained that he is one of the 7-10 people that has been asked to speak about the last year regarding our COVID-19 experience and the focus of 2021. The discussion will focus on vaccinations, education, the Delta Variant, and where we are going from here.

Mr. Bevis announced that as of now, our County is at 42.9% fully vaccinated. We are

currently at 17,899 cases and 259 deaths, of which 7 have been in October. Our county has administered 93, 843 total doses of vaccine, with the help of partnering pharmacies in our community. 42% of the vaccinated individuals are white, 37% Hispanic, and 31% black. Mr. Bevis also announced that the Health Department will be collaborating with Mr. James Taylor and Jasmine from the county regarding promoting and increasing vaccination rates within our county. The goal is to educate the public and focus on building trust by utilizing individuals within the community that have no political affiliation.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Financial Status

Mrs. Weakley updated the Board on the September 2021 financials. For September 2021, we should be at 83.33% of the year, and we are just under 68% for revenue on the year. Revenues for the month were high again this month, as we received approximately \$114,000 in grant revenue, which included payments for July and August 2021 for WIC and then the final payments for the state fiscal year which ends in June and Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention, Childhood Lead Prevention and Protection, Body Art, Tobacco, and the Vector grant which are all part of the Comprehensive Local Health Protection Grant. We also received a payment for the Genetics grant through June 2021. We also received another property tax distribution from the County Treasurer from the September 2021 payments for just over \$190,000 bringing us to just under \$510,000 in property tax distribution received thus far for the year. Overall, for September we received just under \$319,000 in revenue. On the expense side for September, for personnel, we are pretty much right on target overall at 85.88%. We are at 41.79% of Operational expenses as of the end of September. For the year, we are at 60.58% for total expenses, which is still well below the 83.33% we should be at. Our total budget is just under \$330,000 as a positive fund balance as of the end of September 2021, due to the receipt of almost all the property taxes and still having two months left in the county year and receiving all the Mass Vaccination Grant money as a lump sum payment which as not all been spent out yet. We are continuing to look at some building improvements and possibly replace and/or repair some items that need attention, but those items are already in the budget in the Property and Building Repairs and /or the Machinery and Equipment line in the budget. For our cash on hand: Interest for the IPTIP, money market, and checking accounts was again very low in September, netting less than \$43 total in interest. Total Cash on hand is \$ 3,358,399.76 for September 2021. A motion was made by Dr. Akintilo to approve the September 2021 financials, seconded by Mr. Gustafson the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Wu announced that he sent out a survey regarding COVID-19. He explained that his intent was to find out if you are in support of the COVID-19 vaccine, and if you are in support of wearing a mask in public. He also indicated that he was unaware that by sending the survey that

he would be in violation of the open meeting act, which he did not intend to do. Dr. Wu explained that as a medical doctor, and a healthcare professional, he is concerned that the board agrees that they should be following the recommended CDC guidelines which state that to maximize protection, you should get vaccinated as soon as possible, and wear a mask indoors in high transmission areas. He explained that as a Board, it is our mission to help promote the CDC guidelines and he was surprised that there may be opposing views to those recommendations. In order to comply with the open meetings act, he has chosen to add this topic to the agenda for an open discussion. Dr. Wu also indicated that it was his hope that we can come together as a board regarding promoting these guidelines. After much discussion amongst Board members, Mr. Carrico made a motion to table the discussion, a vote of 5-3 was taken and the motion passed.

Mr. Bevis announced that it was the time of year that we establish a nominating committee for the officers of the Board of Health for the upcoming term. Mr. Bevis indicated that once you have served, you have better experience under your belt. Mr. Bevis suggested we make a motion to approve the nominating committee of the standing slate of officers, Dr. Wu, Mr. Gustafson, and Dr. Long. Dr. Long indicated that he is not interested in being on the nominating committee. Mr. Jim Johaneck indicated that he would like to be on the nominating committee. Dr. Akintilo made a motion to approve Dr. Wu, Mr. Gustafson, and Mr. Johaneck as the nominating committee, seconded by Dr. Jones, the motion passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Carrico to enter Executive Session, a role call was done, and the motion passed 8-8 and the Board entered Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Panozzo moved to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Dr. Long and passed unanimously.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Dr. Jeffrey Long, Secretary

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

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