

**Kankakee County Health Department
Regular Meeting
September 16, 2021**

Members Present: Dr. Simon Wu, Mr. Antonio Carrico, Dr. Abraham Kurien
Dr. Jeffrey Long, Mrs. Neelie Panozzo, Mr. Jim JohaneK

Members Absent: Mr. Rodney Gustafson, Dr. Olatunji Akintilo, Dr. Syreeta Jones

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

Staff Absent: None

Others Present: Jake Collins, Diane Cinnamon, Tammi Ponton, Paula Sparenberg,
Lance Altmyer

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Wu at 5:01 P.M.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the September 16, 2021, agenda was made by Mr. JohaneK, seconded by Mr. Carrico, the motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jake Collins expressed many concerns against mandating vaccinations and stated that this is not a pandemic.

Mrs. Diane Cinnamon expressed concerns with mandating vaccinations and causing a healthcare crisis.

Mrs. Tammi Ponton expressed concerns regarding mandating vaccinations and stated that she has support from the Board.

Mrs. Paula Sparenberg expressed that she would be sad and have to leave her clients if vaccinations are mandated.

Mr. Lance Altmyer questioned how many children have died from COVID-19 in Kankakee County.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Dr. Long to accept the August 12, 2021, Board of Health minutes, seconded by Mrs. Panozzo the motion passed unanimously.

EMPLOYEE INFORMATION

Mr. Bevis announced that we recently hired Ashleigh Baker, an RN in our Communicable Disease department, as well as Omar Arrocha, a Client Service Representative. We have also hired three new Contractual Contact Tracers, Lisa Detrisac, Debra Lysikov, and Jalmen Sullivan. We also had two employee resignations, Beth Casey and Maggie Galloway. We currently have two openings for Client Service Representatives, one of which must be bilingual, that we are actively interviewing for.

Division Reports

Client Services

Mrs. LaFine announced the upcoming dates of our flu clinics and encouraged the Board to share the information with the public and get their flu vaccine.

Administrator's Report

Mr. Bevis explained that as of now, our County is at 40% fully vaccinated, which leaves 60% of our county still unvaccinated. However, most of those individuals either aren't eligible, or they are still unsure about the vaccine. We were doing well with our momentum up until a few months ago, and with Kankakee County making up $\frac{1}{4}$ of all the cases in Region 7's positivity rate, we are at 9% and Will County is at 5.1%. We have had roughly 450 positive cases in the last week, and 30% of those are under 18 years of age. We are also still actively contact tracing; however, it has been a challenge to deal with the public. Many calls from individuals are abusive, and we receive pushback about their close contacts, but our staff understand it's not their fault and just the nature of the task at hand. Just last week, we had a total of 5 deaths in our county. We will continue to go out into the community and educate the public and promote the vaccine. Mr. Bevis then applauded his staff for the hard work they have contributed during these challenging times. The Board questioned how many deaths were vaccinated or unvaccinated, and how many of those deaths were healthy or sick, and unrelated to COVID-19. Mr. Bevis indicated that we do not keep track of those statistics but would ask if the coroner has that information.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Financial Status

Mrs. Weakley updated the Board on the August 2021 financials. For August 2021, we should be at 75% of the year, and we are just over 60%. Revenues for the month were high, as we received a little over \$300,000 in grant revenue for payments through June 2021. We also received another property tax distribution from the County Treasurer which was about \$17,675. Our clinic services totals for the month have also started increasing again since we've started

immunizations and TB testing again. Overall, for August we received nearly \$350,000 in revenue. On the expense side for August, for personnel, we are pretty much right on target overall at 78%. We are at 39.08% of Operational expenses as of the end of August. For the year, we are at 55.83% for total expenses, which is still well below the 75% we would normally be at, and our total overall budget is just over \$222,000 as a positive fund balance as of the end of August 2021. We will be looking at some building improvements and possibly replacing and/or repairing some items that are in need of attention, but those items are already in the budget in the Property and Building Repairs and/or the Machinery and Equipment line items that you see on the budget. For our cash on hand: Interest for the IPTIP, money market, and checking accounts was very low in August, netting only about \$60 in interest. Total Cash on Hand is \$3,252,161.93 for August 2021. A motion was made by Mr. Johaneck to approve the August 2021 financials, seconded by Dr. Long, the motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Mrs. Shelby Shiver presented the MAPP PowerPoint/IPLAN 21 for Board of Health approval at the August Board of Health meeting. The board decided it was best to postpone the vote until September's meeting so they can read the information. Mr. Carrico indicated that he emailed Mrs. Shivers regarding the content and adding more holistic approaches. A motion was made by Mr. Johaneck to approve the MAPP IPLAN 21, seconded by Mrs. Panozzo, the motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bevis presented a COVID-19 Vaccination of Staff Policy draft to the Board of Health. The draft indicated that Kankakee County Health Department staff would need to be vaccinated. The Board had many questions regarding the Vaccination of Staff Policy draft. The Board asked if an attorney had reviewed the policy, if the policy violated any civil rights or and constitutional rights, and what type of vaccine would they be mandated to receive. Mr. Bevis indicated that he did send a copy of the policy draft to the State's Attorney's office for review, and that the language was legal in regard to our Union Contract. The Board felt that because this policy affects so many people, they were not comfortable with a policy that is not inclusive of longstanding employees, and they are not sure that it is legal to mandate vaccinations. Mr. Bevis indicated that the Board could discuss the policy draft, make changes as necessary until they felt it was appropriate. Mr. Bevis also indicated that any vaccine of their choice would be acceptable, including Moderna, Pfizer, or Johnson and Johnson. The Board inquired about Comirnaty as an option. The Board also inquired about adverse reactions to the vaccine, if exemptions were available, and who would approve or deny these exemptions. Mr. Bevis indicated that if there was a medical or religious exemption that it would be honored. Our Medical Director would be responsible for approving the medical exemptions, and Mr. Bevis and Human Resources would approve religious exemptions. The Board expressed issues with how religious exemptions would be vetted. The Board questioned why we need a policy, and what are we currently doing. Mr. Bevis indicated that there is no current policy, however the executive order and being considerate of the clients we serve, prompted him to seek out what surrounding local health departments are currently doing. The draft presented is very similar to

other local health departments and hospitals in the area. The Board had concerns with mandating vaccinations and the legality of passing a policy that would mandate vaccines. The Board asked if we are currently testing unvaccinated employees now and it was suggested that maybe we should be testing all employees. A motion was made by Mrs. Panozzo to deny the COVID-19 Vaccination of Staff Policy draft, seconded by Mr. Johanek. Mr. Carrico requested a roll call vote be taken; the COVID-19 Vaccination of Staff Policy draft was denied by all six Board members present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Carrico to enter Executive Session, seconded by Dr. Long, the Board entered Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business before the Board, Mrs. Panozzo moved to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Mr. Johanek 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