

**BOARD OF HEALTH COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
April 14, 2020**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairperson Tom Kelly, Steven Schreier, Jim Winkler, Ryan Zietlow, Dr. Amy Slette, Ann Ovsak

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Linda Conlon, Marta McMillion, and Joneil Tess

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

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**Call to order:** Chairman Kelly called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. on the second floor of the Health & ADRC Building, 100 W. Keenan Street, Rhinelander, WI. The meeting was posted in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law and the facility is handicap accessible.

**Minutes of March 10, 2020:** Motion by Winkler/Schreier to approve the March 10, 2020, Board of Health Committee minutes. All ayes; motion carried.

**Approval of agenda:** Motion by Winkler/Schreier to approve today's agenda with the order of items at the Chair's discretion. All ayes; motion carried.

**Call Pay:** Conlon reported call pay started the second weekend of March. There was a total of 77 hours put in for public health in March, totaling \$300 in pay. Conlon stated we would see an increase for hours in April.

**Monthly Updates:**

**Communicable Diseases (3/1/20-3/31/20):** Conlon reviewed and discussion followed.

<b>Disease</b>	<b>Closed</b>	<b>Closed and Confirmed/Probable</b>
Anaplasmosis, A. phagocytophilum	4	1
Arboviral Illness, Jamestown Canyon	1	0
Arboviral Illness, Zika Virus	1	0
Chlamydia Trachomatis Infection	5	5
Cryptosporidiosis	3	3
Haemophilus Influenza, Invasive Disease	1	1
Hepatitis A	2	0
Hepatitis B, Chronic	1	0

Hepatitis C, Chronic	5	1
Lyme Disease (B.Burgdorferi)	10	5
Pertussis (Whooping Cough)	2	0
Poliomyelitis	1	0
Streptococcal Disease, Invasive Group B	1	1
Streptococcus Pneumonia, Invasive Disease	1	1
Toxic Shock Syndrome, Unspecified	1	0

Coronavirus (COVID-19): Conlon took a moment to share with the board of health the dedication of public health staff at this time. Conlon said staff has been working very long hours. A lot of them qualify for FMLA but are taking little because they are needed for this response. Conlon publicly commended the staff and stated without them they would be in a very different place. The staff has diligently been doing contact tracing a interviewing individuals who have tested positive or been in contact with someone who tested positive. Zietlow said it is critical for the staff to hear a thank you from the Board of Health and offered to draft up a letter for Kelly and Conlon to review. Kelly wants the public to know what a good job the staff is going and would like the letter to go to the editor. Slette stated all the work public health is doing is really helping tremendously at the hospital.

Ovsak asked if there are people working in the office. Conlon stated the main COVID-19 response team works from home in the mornings and comes to the office in the afternoon to regroup and go over anything they need to. When we have a positive test result, they use the white board to draw out what they are going to do. The staff are also handling any essential appointments that are scheduled. Conlon explained some of the staffs feel more comfortable coming into the office to get work done. We called in four additional, staff that were working from home full time for training to assist in response. Ovsak asked if there was something, the board of health could do such as getting them lunch or coffee. Conlon thought any type of gesture would be beneficial. Ovsak said she would email the other board of health members to see what they would like to do for the staff who are coming into the office and coordinate it.

Conlon stated they added a new weekly summary to the bottom of the situational reports. Conlon said Waksmonski has been working with a new web-based platform that is working with many health departments in creating a user-friendly data website with great information. Waksmonski pulled together a monthly summary for this new data site for March and will begin to do a weekly summary.

Conlon stated public health is getting guidance from the state agencies but sometimes it is too late. Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation (WEDC) decides what businesses are essential and non-essential. Conlon really worries about healthcare

systems becoming overwhelmed if orders are fully lifted, feeling the number of cases are going to increase and cause issues. Health departments have been providing suggestions to the Division of Public Health and the governor on what is needed to safely re-open the state and prevent a significant upswing in cases. Slette said hospital has been developing a plan for the last 3 weeks to prepare for a surge.

McMillion said the health department is accepting donations of face coverings. The health department is trying to get these supplies out there for those who would like them and are in need of them. Some people have no access to face coverings and are unable to make their own.

Conlon said it has been a learning curve for everyone with a novel virus that has many unknown factors. The world is learning what we can about the virus and everyone has been working really hard to make the best decisions on what is known at this time. The overall public health message has been consistent. Conlon said over all the Public Health response has been good even though there have been a few bumps in the road, but this is expected. Pandemic is something Public Health has prepared for but continue learn and adjust as we go. Conlon indicated appreciation for the Board of Health and County Board for all of their support.

Flu: Conlon said there were 11 hospitalizations for influenza in March. This is the highest amount of hospitalizations in March in the last 4 years. Of the hospitalizations thus far this flu season, the majority are in their 50s and 60s. According to the state Weekly Respiratory Report, there was a decrease in influenza starting the last week of March, which they are connecting this to social distancing and increased amount of washing hands and disinfecting done.

Outreach/Communication Report (3/7/20-4/10/20):

McMillion shared the outreach report.

Facebook	187
Press Release	23
Presentation	3
Board of Health	
Interview	15
Health Fair	
School	
Lobby Slides	
Mailings	1
Phone Outreach	
Newsletter	1

<b>Total</b>	<b>230</b>
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**Facebook Reporting (3/7/20-4/10/20):**  
 McMillion shared Facebook report.

Posts	187
Total Reach	370,096
Average Reach per Post	1,979
Total Engagement (Likes, shares, comments)	48,401
Average Engagement per post	259
Boosts during timeframe	No
Post with largest reach	Travel between private homes within the state, including seasonal homes or rental cabins, is strongly discouraged, reach 113,360
Post with most engagement	Travel between private homes within the state, including seasonal homes or rental cabins, is strongly discouraged, engagement 10,473
New Page Likes	1,227
Total Page Likes	1,941
Total Page Followers	2,304

A new Oneida County COVID-19 data site launched on April 9. There were 1,229 views on the first three days of the release. Schreier asked McMillion to email the numbers to him.

**Public comment/communications:** None

  
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 Committee Chairman or Designee

  
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 Committee Secretary