



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Lee County Board of Health Report January 11, 2022

The Lee County Board of Health met at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at the Lee County Health Department.

Board members present were Dr. Patrick King, Janice McCoy, Dr. William Long, Sue Shippert, Katie White, Courtney Kennedy and virtually, Dr. Saad Blaney (under an allowable exception to in-person meetings in the Open Meetings Act). Board member absent was Jessica Friday. Also present at the meeting were health department employees Cathy Ferguson-Allen, Angel Lillpop and virtually, Jennifer Kolb.

Guests Present: None

President Dr. William Long called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

The minutes for the November 23, 2021 meeting were approved.

Public/Visitor Comments:

None

Monthly Financial Reports:

The November & December Financial Reports and December & January Claims Registers were reviewed and approved.

Administrator's Report:

- Cathy stated how happy she was that long-time department nurse Lisa Wiggins had assumed the role of Maternal & Child Health Director. Her knowledge and experience make her a great choice. Cathy & Lisa have several interviews scheduled next week as they search for a nurse to take Lisa's former position.
- Cathy provided a COVID update and stated that it was impossible to keep up and return calls as timely as we would like. We are currently inundated with calls. Soon, contact tracing will be centralized in the state. All persons testing positive will receive an automated text message with a link to information on isolation; as well as a number to call if the individual wishes to speak with someone (this is considered "opting in"). Local health departments will continue contact tracing all cases from congregate living facilities and schools. Additionally, local health departments will be able to view cases within their jurisdiction, identify clusters and request to take those cases if they wish to. Cathy plans to put out messaging to inform the community of these changes as well as to ask residents to take personal responsibility and follow the guidelines if they test positive or are told they are a close contact. The numbers are just too high right now for everyone to be traced.

- Cathy and a few staff met with county administrator Wendy Ryerson recently to discuss logistics of food permit fees being paid through ARPA funding. The 2022 permit process has already been completed, but the ARPA committee has approved this for 2023 & 2024 permits. The proposal must go through the full county board yet.

Division Reports:

Maternal & Child Health:

Cathy reported that we will soon be able to offer additional childhood vaccination clinics as our new nurse Christian continues her training. Lora Fassler is working with KSB to offer Babysitting Academies on February 5 and May 7 for youth ages 12-18. During the current COVID surge, we are doing as many WIC appointments as possible remotely.

Fiscal & Front Office Services:

Angel reported on the county's new claims software processes. Although it will require some changes for us, and a bit more work for fiscal staff up front, she feels there will be advantages to it. The county audit is going well. There haven't been questions or any follow-up needed thus far.

Community & Personal Health:

Cathy reported that the Family Planning program is getting caught up on exams that were extended out when we didn't have a provider. We've seen several new clients as well. We will now be able to do IUD insertions onsite and we will begin providing HPV & flu vaccines on the spot to clients needing them.

Environmental Health:

Jen Kolb told the board about a couple of nuisance cases EH is working on.

New Business:

None

Old Business:

Jen Kolb walked the board through the proposed EH internal policy. This policy addresses a new requirement from USEPA passed on to IDPH passed on to local health departments that 3 repeat samples be collected within 24 hours of notification of a positive routine sample of a non-community public water system. The board approved the policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Health is March 8, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Ferguson-Allen, M.P.H.
Administrator