

Emergency Menard County Board of Health Meeting – 7/22/20

Attendance:

Dara Worthington
Allen Anderson
Bob Lott

Board of Health:

Dave Bagot
Dr. Hartman
Brienne Satorius
Diane Markley
JD Stewart
Jeff Fore

Health Department

Director Gail O'Neill
Assistant Director Bill Dart

I. The meeting was called to order at 5:33 p.m.

II. Approval of the minutes from the June 24 meeting was deferred to the next meeting.

III. Director O'Neill confirmed that everyone on the call is getting the daily report. The pie chart showing Menard county COVID-19 cases was reviewed; the new positives aren't very well reflected because recovered cases reduce the number. When these happen on the same day, the changes aren't very clear. Director O'Neill offered an alternative presentation; everyone on the call preferred the new format. The revised chart format will be implemented.

The most current state charts showed Menard county having a higher positivity rate than Sangamon. Chair Bagot pointed out that the number of tests in Menard county is much lower. The Regional Office of Education cover both Sangamon and Menard schools. Few cases among school age children have been observed in Menard. Contract tracing was discussed. The priority is notifying and isolating positive cases. Planning to bring on SIU to help with this soon.

The IDPH state grant for local health departments for contact tracing and related COVID-19 response activities. The eligible award amount is \$817,000 for Menard county. These monies are sourced from federal funding approved for COVID-19 support from state; this kind of funding comes infrequently to public health agencies. Note that testing is limited to 25% per the IDPH and IDPH put additional requirements for testing.

The previous grant award targeted \$600,000 of \$817,000 which exceeded the threshold. Per additional direction from the state, recommendation was to utilize staffing at the nursing home for contact tracing. These funds would support staff salaries at the nursing home. Monies

currently used to pay county employees staffing the nursing home could be used to support COVID-19 response at the nursing home that the Board is seeking to implement. The rest of the budget is standard items like equipment and PPE.

The group discussed the use of COVID test kits at the nursing home on employees to keep the disease from presenting in the facility. A testing program would need to be developed in order to effectively surveil employees at the nursing home. Sampling, training and point-of-care rapid testing would be a big benefit to the community. There was a suggestion that perhaps the machine could be housed at the HD space shared with memorial and that paramedics across the street could perform testing. Electronic medical record systems, vans and refrigerators were discussed as other items that local health departments are budgeting for in this grant.

Director O'Neill asked what the perspective of the group was about compliance with the face covering specifications. Generally, things seem good. Any reports of businesses not having employees where face covering can be forwarded to Gail for follow-up.

IV. No unfinished business.

V. New business

Discussion of IPLAN requirement for HD certification. CHNA completed and community health needs ranking had been accomplished; substance abuse, education and mental health were identified as the health priorities. The HD will be applying for a six month extension of this regulatory requirement.

VI. Next meeting will be scheduled after the grant is approved.

VII. There was no public comment.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m. after a roll call vote.