

## MINUTES

Linn County Board of Health Meeting  
April 22, 2020 at 4:00 PM  
Harris Building - Conference Room #234A/B  
1020 6<sup>th</sup> Street SE, Cedar Rapids, IA  
Contact: Kim Honn, 892-6000  
\*Indicates Action Items

1. Call to Order BOH meeting with a quorum – Mary Tarbox, Chair

**Ms. Tarbox established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM**

**Board Members Present: Mary Tarbox - Chair, Jim Levett, Karl Cassell, Leslie Wright – Vice Chair, Stacey Walker, Heidi Carmer – Legal and Kim Honn - Recorder**

**Public Health Staff Present: Pramod Dwivedi, Larry Hlavacek, Tricia Kitzmann and Jim Hodina**

2. Public Comment – Limited to Three Minutes Each  
**None**

3. Approve Agenda \*

**Motion made to approve agenda as presented.**  
**\*\*MSC Cassell/Wright**

- BOH member/s excused absences  
**None**

4. Approve April 8, 2020 Minutes \*

**Motion made to approve the April 8, 2020 minutes as presented.**  
**\*\*MSC Cassell/Levett**

5. BOH Committee Reports:

- A. Finance and Administrative Review – Karl Cassell, Committee Chair

- I. March 2020 Finance Statements \*
- II. Amendment #2 \*

**Motion made to approve the March 2020 Finance Statements and Amendment #2 as presented.**

**\*\*MSC Cassell/Walker**

- B. Policy and Government Relations Committee – Mary Tarbox, Committee Chair

- I. PO-AD-006-02 Identifying and Using Evidence-Based and Promising Practices Policy \*
- II. PO-AD-014 Financial Sustainability Policy \*
- III. PO-GV-005-02 Protection of Human Research Subjects \*
- IV. PO-WK-003-02 Workforce Professional Certification and Licensure Maintenance Requirements \*

**Motion made to approve the above-mentioned four polices as presented.**

**\*\*MSC Wright/Levett**

## 6. LAP-AID Update – Leslie Wright

**Ms. Wright explained what LAP-AID, also known as Linn Area Partners Active in Disaster, coalition was formed after the 2008 flood. The coalition have been together for over ten years and attend local coalitions to help keep the network going in the community. Their response has been with natural disasters and this is the first response to a health disaster. Ms. Wright feels the group has proven themselves to be very useful in the community with connection within the community. LAP-AID does not have a funding source, they carry money forward from a grant. They have a coordinator, which is the only paid position. Through the LC Community Services department they received about \$15,000 annually, but they might not get any this year. The coalition has 40-plus organizations and is not a 501C3.**

## 7. Health Director's Report – Pramod Dwivedi

- COVID-19 Update
  - **The Linn County Public Health website with live up-to-date data on COVID-19. The site can be located at [linncounty.org/health](http://linncounty.org/health) and click on the virus picture.**
- **Governor announced a program called "Test Iowa" during press conference yesterday.**
  - **There was a discussion of how public health infrastructure will sustain the positive/negative tests for the local departments from the Test Iowa initiative.**
- **CDC Foundation reached out to us and they are amiable to our request to provide some staffing resources. Stay tuned...**
- **Tricia is working with College of PH to hire MPH Interns. Mr. Walker will talk with Lisa Powell about paying the Interns.**
- **The medical residents have been helping with contact tracking, but it is sporadic. Our need is for contact tracing as well as interpreters.**
- **Ms. Wright shared that other community partners are working with interpreting handouts and etc. Finding out that most of the meat packing plants employees do not speak English as their first language. They are apprehensive to answer public health's questions. There are needs that need to be addressed other than medical – example lack of food and etc. Can plug one of LAP-AID's groups to help.**
- **Ms. Kitzmann is competently representing public health at Unified Command:**
  - **EOC EMA briefings on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:00 AM**
  - **Legislative updates on Monday at 10:00 AM**
  - **Bi-weekly BOS update on Mondays and Wednesdays at 12:00 PM**
  - **Bi-weekly Linn County Public Health staff touch base Tuesdays and Fridays**
  - **Incident Action Plan is weekly**
  - **Town Hall on Fridays on different topics**
- **Mr. Walker shared LCPH is very transparent, which is recognized as a positive. He hear the community and other governmental agencies are paying attention to how LCPH is handling the response.**
  - **The Governor announced deploying Strike Teams on Thursday of last week. The local public health agencies are not prepared for the surge this could potentially cause.**
  - **The Test Iowa initiative will also cause local public health agencies causes a trust issue. If this will be used to find infected people and identify priority location for mass testing it would be helpful.**
  - **IDPH has two databases that staff are entering the same data in two different databases.**
  - **How many cases is LCPH dealing with – roughly take the number of active cases and divide by 10 staff members. The first initial calls are the most intensive and longest.**
- **Ms. Tarbox asked if we are looking at our own infrastructure. Ms. Kitzmann wants five MPH students for the next 12 weeks and then another five in the next 12 months.**

- **Will also need interpreters.**

8. Board of Health Attorney Report – Heidi Carmer

**Mr. Walker asked Ms. Carmer about researching the authority of Linn County Public Health during public health emergencies.**

**Ms. Carmer explained what authority, if any, the Board of Health or local Public Health Department has in regards to businesses due to positive tests results and spreading so quickly. Ms. Carmer said the Code statutorily mandated that it's the Governor, then the Iowa Department of Public Health who have the power at this point. It can be delegated down the chain of command, but that has not happened. The Linn County Board of Health would have the ability for isolation, quarantine or area quarantine – the process would be the same as any other time.**

**Mr. Walker wanted to clarify what the isolation, quarantine or area quarantine means for the Board. Ms. Carmer indicated the Board could quarantine a facility/business due to community spread, but the rules/process/steps need to be met before ordering a quarantine. There also is an issue of cost associating and possibly be reimbursed by the county, be aware of the cost. It should be noted that IDPH jurisdiction trumps local public health – even in 139A because they have cross jurisdiction in two Code sections. Should review Code Section 139A and the Iowa Code annotated 641 IA 1.9 to understand the process.**

**After some discussion, Mr. Dwivedi will review LCPH's current BOH policies/procedures on isolation and quarantine. He will have a document ready for the Board to review at the next meeting.**

9. Next Meetings:

**Board will virtually meet on Wednesday – April 29, 2020 at 4:00 PM**

Board of Health Meeting – Wednesday – May 13 and/or 27, 2020 at 4:00 PM

- Finance & Administrative Review committee meeting May 21, 2020 at 2:00 PM
- BOH Policy & Government Relations committee meeting May 21, 2020 at 3:00 PM

10. Adjourn

**With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.**

**Respectfully Submitted  
Kim S. Honn, Recorder**

*To adhere to social distancing requirements, Linn County employees and the public may participate in this meeting as follows:*

- 1) Conference call – telephone #1-888-904-9570 Access code #4266846
- 2) Email questions or comments prior to or during the meeting to: [health@linncounty.org](mailto:health@linncounty.org)

*For questions about meeting accessibility or to request accommodations to attend or to participate in a meeting due to a disability, please contact Linn County Public health at 319-892-6000 or [health@linncounty.org](mailto:health@linncounty.org).*