

## MINUTES

Linn County Board of Health Meeting  
May 13, 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

**Dr. Tarbox, Board Chair, established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 4:01PM**

**Board Members Present: Dr. Tarbox, Dr. Levett, Leslie Wright, Karl Cassell, Stacey Walker and Heidi Carmer - Legal (via phone) and Kim Honn - Recorder**

**LCPH Staff Present: Pramod Dwivedi – Health Director, Jim Hodina, Tricia Kitzmann and Larry Hlavacek**

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

3. Approve Agenda \*

**Motion made to approve the agenda as presented.**

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

- BOH member/s excused absences

4. Approve April 29, 2020 Minutes \*

**Motion made to approve the April 29, 2020 minutes.**

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

5. Discussion associated with a public health issue – Stacey Walker

**Supervisor Walker addressed the Board in regards to a letter of support for a medical marijuana license dispensary in Linn County. Linn County was not selected to be a site originally. He is requesting the Board of Health support Linn County being considered as a dispensary licensed location. There are five licenses in the state. At this time the locations in Iowa are located in Council Bluffs, Davenport, Des Moines, Sioux City and Waterloo. He believes the Davenport location is closing, which is why a license has become available.**

**After some discussion it was decided to have the Health Director to do some background on the request before any action from the Board. Health Director mentioned there is no evidence regarding medical marijuana - everything is just anecdotal, but he will do some research. There is more information/background needed before the Board will take a stance.**

6. Health Director's Report – Pramod Dwivedi

- **Celebrated National Nurses Day last week and expressed our gratitude to our nurses and partners.**

- **Governor signed a new Proclamation continuing the State PH Emergency Declaration and read a few highlights.**
- **COVID-19 Update / Unified Command and related activities:**
  - **Nearly all of Community Health Division staff continue to be busy with COVID-19 Response.**
  - **Contracted nearly one dozen people to help with contract tracing and surveillance.**
  - **Test Iowa is running between 8 AM – 6 PM at Kirkwood M – F. Share some of the aggregate data.**
  - **Meetings: Unified Command briefings are on Wednesdays at 9 AM. Strategies, Tactics and Assignments briefings on Wednesdays at 9:30 AM. Linn County Elected Officials COVID-19 update call is on Wednesdays at 10 AM. Bi-weekly BOS update at 12 PM.**
  - **Incident Action Plan is being issued once a month.**
  - **Receiving lots of calls on re-opening. Planning section established re-opening guidance based on best practice for 15 different types of facilities.**
  - **Released four toolkits: mental health, long term care facility (LTCF), business and multi-lingual.**
  - **Press Conferences will be on Wednesdays only at 3:30 PM.**
  - **Town Hall meetings will be twice a month.**
  - **Mental Health data was shared with the respective section to include mental health related emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and calls to emergency hot lines for Linn County.**
  - **Based on some demand; do some research on serology testing and indicators. Also, researching health effects of children with COVID-19. Research on health effects of middle-aged individuals with COVID-19 in regards to blood clotting disorders and stroke.**
  - **Mass testing support for LTCF is ongoing. To date, 870 test kits have been delivered.**
  - **New guidance from CDC and IDPH on the recovery period criteria: 10-days from the onset of symptoms, 72 hours fever free without reducing fever medication and symptoms improving, asymptomatic individuals who test positive cannot return to work at least for 10 days from test date.**
  - **Following up with individuals who have positive COVID-19 serologic test as well.**
  - **CDC also added new symptoms to include repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, and sore throat and lose of taste or smell.**
- **Internal activities:**
  - **Reached out to DNR and DIA: DNR established template for continuity of operations if unable to perform our contractual duties.**
  - **Administrative staff issued many open burning permits.**
  - **Restaurant renewals continue to be paid, along with septic and well applications continue to come in. All being a good source of revenue at this time.**
  - **Many calls still coming in about COVID-19 response. The front staff is doing a great job answering questions, but may need to forward those calls on.**
  - **Lab continues to perform water and blood lead analysis.**
  - **Slowdown of grant to county activities due to the winter months, but now picking up. Received additional funds from IDPH for this activity.**
  - **County is in the process of implementing a new accounting system and will go live July 2020.**
  - **County is looking into a new program for time management to replace the existing one.**
  - **Air quality work continues and picking up with large projects coming in.**
  - **Septic permits are being issued.**

- Food Rescue governance committee have selected a name; Food Share Linn. DeNovo is currently working on logos.
- Staff also processing food license applications.
- One of our staff members resigned and took a job with the city of Iowa City. The position has been posted.
- Food, Aquatic Safety and Tattoo supervisor has been working with Jones County, as well as Linn County, of how they are re-openings.
- Director shared currently there is seven individuals contracted for COVID-19 response. Another training is scheduled tomorrow. Working with CDC Fellowship for a yearlong stint – looking through resumes. Ms. Kitzmann feels that another 10-13 people would be helpful, but it is changing rapidly.

7. Board of Health Attorney Report – Heidi Carmer

**None**

8. Next Meetings:

**Board of Health Meeting – Wednesday – May 27, 2020 at 4:00 PM**

**(Will go back to normal meeting dates starting with the meeting in June)**

- **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**

9. Adjourn

**With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:57 PM**

*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).*