

Minutes of the Health Committee

The Health Committee of the McLean County Board met on Monday, August 31, 2020 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 404 of the Government Center Building 115 E. Washington Street, Bloomington, IL.

Members Present: Chairman Susan Schafer, Members: Carlo Robustelli, George Gordon, Randall Martin, Catherine Metsker George Wendt and Sharon Chung (all via remote attendance)

Members Absent: None

Other Members Present: Member Shayna Watchinski

Staff Present: Ms. Camille Rodriguez, County Administrator; Ms. Cassy Taylor, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Cathy Dreyer, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Julie Morlock, Recording Secretary; Mr. Chris Spanos, First Assistant State's Attorney – Civil Division

Department Heads/

Elected Officials Present: Ms. Jessica McKnight, Health Department Administrator (in person); Ms. Terri Edens, Nursing Home Administrator (in person); Michelle Welch, Adult Detention (remote), Jason Tabb, Juvenile Detention (remote);

Others Present:

Chairman Schafer called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and declared a quorum.

Chairman Schafer presented the minutes from the July 21, 2020 special meeting and August 3, 2020 regular meeting for approval.

Motion by Robustelli/Chung to approve the minutes from the July 21, 2020 special meeting and August 3, 2020 regular meeting for approval.

Motion carried. Roll Call Vote – all present voted yes including the Chairman

Chairman Schafer confirmed there were no members of the public to appear.

Ms. Jessica McKnight Health Department Administrator presented for action a request to approve a Resolution Amending the Funded Full-Time Equivalent Positions Resolution for 2020 Fund 0112 Health Department. Ms. Metsker asked about grant funding continuing to pay for this position if that discontinues. Ms. McKnight stated they currently pay for .4 promotion specialist and this would take it to a full FTE and the grant is to help with the 2021 budget. Ms. Metsker asked for plan after 2021. Ms. McKnight stated they would look at it again next year to see if they had funding to continuing the position. Ms. McKnight indicated they would let individuals know dependent on funding when interviewing. Mr. Robustelli asked how many full-time communications positions they currently have. She said they have 3 FTE, and this would add the 4th. Mr. Robustelli stated he felt it is important to having people to communicate in a crisis and that we need to have them on staff instead of trying to train them during the crisis. He stated if this is not enough, he hoped she would come back. He said he felt we need to get out information and not depend on social media and hearsay.

Motion by Robustelli/Chung to recommend approval of the Resolution Amending the Funded Full-Time Equivalent Positions Resolution for 2020 Fund 0112 Health Department.

Motion Carried. Roll Call vote – all members present voted yes including the Chairman.

Ms. McKnight presented the Health Department's monthly reports to the Committee. Ms. McKnight indicated they have been interviewing for contract tracing personnel that would be paid for through their contact tracing grant. Ms. McKnight indicated they have hired 10 contact tracers and hoped to bring on another 10 in the next week or two and would continue to interview for another 10. She said they had a goal of 30 but positive test numbers now indicate they need more and so have been looking at grant funds to see if they can afford more. She said initially IDPH was going to hire them and then make them regionally available to us but that changed so we now have to interview and hire. She said IDPH is going forward with their own hiring of staff to help regionally.

Mr. Robustelli thanked staff for all of their work and the hours they are putting in. He stated there is concern regarding the resources we have to mitigate COVID. He stated normal chain is federal and state lead and then regional. He said he felt we are going to have to take the lead on preparations and not wait on the federal and state government. He said our tracing program did not meet CDC standards in anticipation of the increase of 20,000 students in our area. He said in the past the Committee has said that if they need additional resources they should come back and ask for more resources. Mr. Robustelli said we are behind in what we need currently, and numbers are spiking locally. He said if resources could fix this then he hoped we could address that. Mr. Robustelli stated he wanted to see a list of what she would need if she had unlimited resources. Ms. McKnight stated she talked with IDPH about what they needed and what it would take and that included testing on campus, and 70-90 individuals at this moment to help with contact tracing. She said community is putting in place mitigation that the Health Department cannot, to help prevent further spread and outbreaks. She stated by the time they receive a positive test result to do the contact tracing the individual does not know all of the individuals they have come in contact with, so the need is to work on the preventative side and those preventative measures do not fall in their purview.

Mr. Robustelli stated there is no way we can sustain a failed contact tracing program for much longer and he would define our program as a failed program as it is not connecting the positives but is relying on people to report to others they have been in contact with. He said he felt we need to invest in more contact tracers. Ms. Schafer asked her to explain how the State determines the guidelines we are to follow and how those are always changing. Ms. McKnight indicated the response to COVID 19 is a lot of pivoting as IDPH learns new information from CDC and CDC learns new information WHO. Ms. Schafer asked her about contact tracing and the requirements they have for contact tracers that we have no control over. Ms. McKnight indicated that contact tracers have special skills and need to be available seven days a week and not just a few hours a day a few days a week as tracers follow up with people throughout their isolation. Mr. Wendt stated it is his understanding they have funding, but problem is getting people who are qualified to do the tracing. Ms. McKnight confirmed they have reserves

and had discussed with the Board of Health the things they need. Ms. Schafer also reminded members there is training time that needs to be included as well. Mr. Martin stated there are a lot of positive tests, but only 3 to 4 individuals are in hospitals and asked about numbers of those who are positive that are actually sick. Ms. McKnight indicated she did not have the specific numbers with her but asymptomatic have been about 10% and seeing a lot of very mild symptoms. She indicated she could pull more information.

Ms. Chung agreed with Mr. Robustelli as she felt contact tracing is a mess right now because we do not have the number of people we need. She asked how many we had before the 10 were hired and if any hired would be dedicated to the university. Ms. McKnight stated about 5-7 would be dedicated to ISU and will work with student health services and they would train University staff as well. She stated that internally 6 staff do contact tracing as part of their daily routine and they also trained an additional 10-14 internally, so there are about 20 internal employees trained in addition to the tracing staff being hired. Ms. Chung thanked her for IDPH information regarding change in hiring tracing staff.

Mr. Robustelli stated we are not using local funds for contact tracing but grant funding so he felt Ms. McKnight should have followed her outline from June that said we needed 30 contact tracers, utilized local funds to hire them sooner and then reimbursed our accounts with grant funds once those were received. He said appreciated moving goal post but contact tracing has been a need all along and felt we should be more proactive. He said she should come to us for whatever she needs because otherwise he felt we were going to fail to mitigate COVID 19. Ms. McKnight said in June they did start planning but it takes time to write the positions, get approval for the positions through the Committee and Board cycle, list the positions and hire and train. She stated that even if they had used money out of their budget it would have taken the same time to get individuals hired and trained.

Ms. Schafer said numerous places closed because staff tested positive and asked how they contact trace when place is serving many people in close proximity such as a bar. Ms. McKnight said go through the media and other public platforms to let people know that if they were at a location on a date, they should monitor themselves.

Mr. Wendt asked about false positives. Ms. McKnight indicated she was not aware of false positives in McLean County. Mr. Wendt agreed difficult to contact trace when there are large gatherings. Ms. McKnight stated that Walmart or Menards is a low, quick interaction rate, but at a bar people are closer with no face coverings for a longer period of time. Ms. Chung asked about lag time for ISU numbers and County numbers. Ms. McKnight indicated the Health Department get reports from labs from all over – private, state, etc. ISU is reporting numbers they get from their own lab to the State, so those numbers take longer to reach them. Ms. Chung asked if ISU numbers are only those by their lab not students who might be going to the Interstate Center. Ms. McKnight confirmed.

Mr. Robustelli stated we have seen bars pushing capacity and asked about getting recommendations on best practices out to our municipal partners about those situations. Mr. Robustelli suggested making bars and restaurants take reservations so then we would have a name attached to reservation and help with contact tracing. Mr. Spanos stated that from a

legal standpoint Ms. McKnight does not have the authority to put those practices into place. He said he met with Mayors, Administrators, and Presidents of Universities to discuss authorities Ms. McKnight has. He stated that she can make recommendations but not sure that she has the authority to close facilities. Mr. Robustelli stated municipalities state they do not have the expertise to make decisions and since the Health Department has expertise, they could make recommendations to the municipalities.

Ms. Rodriguez stated they have offered the expertise of our Health Department and engaged in conversations with Municipalities and answered specific questions and continue to be willing to help offer expertise. Ms. McKnight said they started those conversations before and will continue to share strategies they receive from IDPH. Ms. Schafer stated that whatever a municipality decides there needs to be enforcement that means something to people.

Ms. Schafer stated Ms. Watchinski asked to attend and ask questions. There was no objection by the committee. Ms. Watchinski stated it sounded like they were having trouble getting candidates and asked about qualifications. Ms. McKnight said criteria is that they live in McLean County or locally and be available to work 7 days a week. She stated they prefer candidates have customer service experience as they will be speaking to people who may not want to hear what they have to say. Ms. Watchinski said Ms. McKnight had indicated they need 70 tracers and have 20 and asked what they were doing to get word out about that need. Ms. McKnight said 70 is what is needed during a surge, but they would not always need that number. She said they advertise in papers and through social media, media, community partners. Ms. Watchinski said she would like to see an easier way, such as a hotline or button on the website, for people to report businesses that are not following guidelines. Ms. McKnight said there is information on the main page but would look at ways to make it easier. She reminded them that we need to have evidence of business not following recommendation.

Ms. Chung said we have been above 8% for a week now, but nothing has happened in the past week and asked what it takes to get recommendations and get things to happen as she felt people feel they can keep doing what they have been doing. Ms. Rodriguez stated that Ms. McKnight has been saying since the beginning that people need to wear a face covering, wash hands and maintain distance. She stated that may sound like going back to the beginning, but in addition to the contact tracing the community needs to do their part by taking personal responsibility. She stated that individuals should not participate in large gatherings and they should wear masks. She said that may mean leaders taking steps to enforce matters but see the pictures of lines of young people in lines to get into establishments and we have to ask ourselves what our community is going to do to stop this. She stated that other parts are key, and she was not sure that contact tracking had failed but that people have not done their part to limit the numbers. She stated staff has been working 12 hours a day since the start of the pandemic and she did not want them to feel like they had failed.

Mr. Robustelli said it is important they hear from Ms. Rodriguez but disagreed with her as they have actively been talking about personal responsibility, but they do not have control over people and their individual judgement. He stated that however, we can only control the infrastructure in place to prevent spread. He stated that he did not feel any one person or unit had failed, but that we have lost control of spread in McLean County and do not have the

numbers to help with contract tracing. He said health workers are important; more important now than ever before. He stated that we need to call people and tell them what they need to do as there are limits to the amount of times members can put out recommendations on their social pages and talk to people. He stated we need to be prepared to handle the situation when individual people have not done what they should. Mr. Wendt stated that people need to be careful and not go out into large populations without taking precautions especially those that are most vulnerable. Mr. Gordon agreed need community wide approach as he is concerned about ability to respond and mitigate increased numbers.

Ms. Welch, Adult Detention Center and Mr. Jason Tabb, Juvenile Detention Facility presented their monthly reports. Chairman Schafer congratulated Ms. Welch on her retirement. Mr. Gordon asked if they could be provided the number of COVID tests performed at the Adult Detention Facility and Juvenile Detention Center as well as number of isolations and hospitalizations. Mr. Tabb said they have not tested anyone yet. Ms. Welch indicated everyone had been tested three times. Member Gordon asked that those numbers be included in future reports. Mr. Robustelli asked if there were any current positives in the jail. Ms. Welch indicated there are not. Mr. Robustelli asked if they are testing every one that comes in or symptomatic testing. Ms. Welch indicated they do not test everyone, they are screened and moved into quarantine for 14 days, then if they have no signs or symptoms they are put into the general population. Mr. Gordon asked if they become part of general testing protocols when they are moved into general population. Ms. Welch went over procedure where if they have a positive case then everyone is tested every five days until no positives. Chairman Schafer asked if there were any other questions; hearing none, she thanked both Michelle Welch and Jason Tabb.

Ms. Terri Edens, McLean County Nursing Administrator Home presented for action a request to approve the recommended bid for sprinkler system and electrical work at the McLean County Nursing Home. Ms. Edens indicated this was a result of a survey done in 2019 on the electrical and sprinkler systems where it was determined those were outdated. She stated they put out an RFP in which they received two bids. She stated that the company has indicated they will have the work completed by the end of 2020. Ms. Schafer indicated we have to approve this as part of the Enterprise Fund Budget and recommend it to the Property Committee. Ms. Metsker asked her to confirm Fund the money will come from for this project. Ms. Rodriguez confirmed it will come from the Nursing Home Enterprise Fund.

Motion by Chung/Martin to recommend approval of the recommended bid for sprinkler system and electrical work at the McLean County Nursing Home.

Motion Carried. Roll Call Vote – all members present voted yes including the Chairman.

Ms. Edens presented her Nursing Home monthly report. She stated they are continuing the weekly testing for staff and residents. She indicated they had five staff members test positive, but four are back to work. She stated no residents have tested positive and they are working hard to keep that number at zero. Ms. Metsker noted there were four admits and asked Ms. Edens whether or not the the 34 declined were because we did not have a dementia unit. Ms. Metsker stated the Committee had discussed adding a dementia unit and asked if that was

something they needed to consider as an immediate need. Ms. Edens indicated she did not consider it an immediate need but felt it would help the census. She stated families like the locked unit where residents can roam, and family does not have worry about them. She indicated she would need to get more information compiled. Ms. Schafer stated the Blue-Ribbon panel had not met because of the COVID 19 and the change in administration at the nursing home, but it is still being discussed. Chairman Schafer asked if there were other questions or comments, hearing nothing she thanked her.

Ms. Camille Rodriguez, County Administrator presented for action a request to approve critical hire requests.

Motion by Metsker/Chung to recommend approval of critical hire requests.
Motion Carried. Roll Call Vote – all members present voted yes including the Chairman.

Ms. Rodriguez presented her recent employment activities report. Chairman Schafer asked if there were any questions, hearing none she thanked her.

Chairman Schafer confirmed there was no other business and noted the next meeting would be October 5 at 4:30 p.m. She also asked Ms. Morlock to send out a doodle poll for a second budget meeting in October as it was determined they did not want to wait until November to have the second meeting.

Chairman Schafer then presented for approval the Nursing Home bills with a prepaid total \$201,419.36.

MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

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AS OF 8/27/2020

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND

Health Committee - Nursing Home

FUND	FUND TITLE	PENDING TOTAL	PREPAID TOTAL	FUND TOTAL
0401	NURSING HOME		\$201,294.10	\$201,294.10
0403	NURSING HOME CRAFT FUND		\$125.26	\$125.26
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			\$201,419.36	\$201,419.36


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Motion by Gordon/Chung to approve prepaid bills for the Nursing Home as presented.

Motion carried. Roll Call Vote - all present voted yes including the Chairman.

Chairman Schafer presented for approval bills for Jail Medical and JDC Medical with a prepaid total of \$32,639.76.

MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT
AS OF 8/27/2020
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND

Health Committee - Jail Med & JDC Med

FUND	FUND TITLE	PENDING TOTAL	PREPAID TOTAL	FUND TOTAL
0135	TORT JUDGEMENT		\$32,639.76	\$32,639.76
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			\$32,639.76	\$32,639.76


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Motion by Chung/Robustelli to approve prepaid bills for Jail Medical and JDC Medical as presented.

Motion carried. Roll Call Vote - all present voted yes including the Chairman

Chairman Schafer presented the bills for the Developmental Disability Board for approval with a prepaid total of \$114,661.07.

MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT
AS OF 8/27/2020
EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND

Health Committee - Dev. Disability Board

FUND	FUND TITLE	PENDING TOTAL	PREPAID TOTAL	FUND TOTAL
0110	PERSONS/DEV.DISABILITY		\$114,661.07	\$114,661.07
			<hr/>	<hr/>
			\$114,661.07	\$114,661.07


COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Motion by Metsker/Martin to approve prepaid bills for the Developmental Disability Board as presented.

Motion carried. Roll Call Vote. All present voted yes including the Chairman.

Chairman Schafer presented for approval the bills for the Board of Health with a prepaid total of 212,954.47.

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EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND

Health Committee - Board of Health

FUND	FUND TITLE	PENDING TOTAL	PREPAID TOTAL	FUND TOTAL
0102	DENTAL SEALANT GRANT		\$24,484.81	\$24,484.81
0103	HEALTH DEPT. - WIC		\$2,666.57	\$2,666.57
0105	PREVENTIVE HEALTH PROGRAM		\$115.69	\$115.69
0106	FAMILY CASE MANAGEMENT		\$6,151.53	\$6,151.53
0107	AIDS/COMM.DISEASE CONTROL		\$40,952.39	\$40,952.39
0112	HEALTH DEPARTMENT		\$138,583.48	\$138,583.48
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			\$212,954.47	\$212,954.47

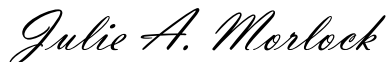

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Motion by Metsker/Chung to approve the Board of Health Bills in the amount of \$212,954.47.

Motion Carried. Roll Call Vote – all members present voted yes including the chairman.

Chairman Schafer asked if there was any additional business to come before the Committee; hearing nothing, she adjourned the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Julie A. Morlock
Recording Secretary