

**LOUISVILLE METRO BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**November 4, 2020**

**Voting Members Present:** Dr. Dwayne Compton, Dr. Karen Cost, Dr. Kate Probst, Dr. Tony Zipple, Margaret Handmaker, Heidi Margulis, Dr. Fernanda Nota, Dr. Erin Frazier

**Advisory Board Members Present:** Dr. Sarah Moyer, Dr. Valerie Briones-Pryor, Bill Wagner, Dr. Craig Blakely, Angela Hayes

**Others Present:** Eva Stone, Ben Goldman, Rebecca Hollenbach, Gabriell Gassaway, Amanda Clark, Paul Kern, Connie Mendel, Kathy Turner, T Gonzales, Dr. Lori Caloia, Dr. SarahBeth Hartlage, Jon Moore, YuTing Chen

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am. This was a virtual meeting as per an Executive Order for social distancing due to Covid-19. All voting members were visible and audible on WebEx. A quorum was reached.

As per open meetings requirements, the meeting information was posted 24 hours in advance, the public was able to call in or view on LMPHW's Facebook page.

**Approval of Previous Month's Meeting Minutes**

***MOTION:*** *Approve the minutes of the October meeting as distributed*

***MOTION APPROVED***

**Chair's Update: Heidi Margulis**

JCPS is offering flu vaccinations to employees and families. Norton Prevention and Wellness and La Casita are offering flu vaccines to Latinx community.

Chair Margulis spoke to her School Board member and communicated with the School Board chairwoman about transitioning the system's vulnerable children, ex. English-as-a-Second Language and those with Special Needs back to school.

Chair Margulis, Dr. Moyer, Dr. Zipple, Dr. Cost and Dr. Kelley Singletary will have a call with Interim Police Chief Gentry and Public Safety Chief Amy Hess to offer the Board's help with transformational reforms in justice and policing. Their priorities will be better policy and practice on de-escalation, reduced focus on command and control, reduced density of people in the jail and providing support services to people before and after release to reduce recidivism.

In an educational discussion related to potential criminal justice reform, Dr. Zipple noted that the intersection between public health and criminal justice is a problem we have created ourselves, and people with mental health issues are at greater risk of harm and arrest. Many national pilot projects are

examining improvements that can be made. The International Association of Police Chiefs launched the “One Mind Campaign” looking at interactions between police and people with mental health issues, working on de-escalation strategies, and other interventions which have shown positive results.

Other reforms can include cash bail reform, special docket courts, a focus on education rather than control, restorative practices, community services, transition services, and support after release.

### **LMPHW Director’s Report Highlights: Dr. Moyer**

The Board received the Director’s Report.

LMPHW has 38 open positions and hired 17 people in the past month. There are three key leadership positions open: two Community Health Administrators and Medical Director.

A media campaign called “Stay Strong Louisville” is launching Monday, November 9. The campaign encourages mask wearing and following the Governor’s Red Zone recommendations.

The Center for Health Equity was highlighted in the APHA Thought Leaders Film series at APHA’s annual meeting.

LMPHW is engaged in vaccine planning; a vaccine could potentially be approved in mid-November, although the first round will go to hospital workers. The second round of vaccine would come to LMPHW to vaccinate first responders and then the community.

Positive COVID-19 cases are increasing exponentially. Our hospitals have capacity at present, but there are concerns about hospital staffing. More than half of cases are from household contacts. People are also traveling, having parties and attending religious services, going to their workplaces, visiting restaurants and attending school. In order to stop the spread, we need to reduce activity, and employers need to allow employees to work from home if possible. LMPHW has moved all inspectors back to investigating COVID-19 complaints. ABC is helping with enforcement of bars after hours.

Two tobacco ordinances passed Metro Council. They will limit the density of shops and require licensing of retailers. Councilman Coan filed an ordinance which would grant paid parental leave for Metro employees.

Rebecca Hollenbach and Ben Goldman provided an update on LMPHW work with vulnerable populations, including the incarcerated. LMPHW has worked with Corrections since March on CDC guidance related to COVID-19. The jail population was reduced from 1900 to 1200, but adequate distancing remains a problem. Policies which would be helpful to advocate for include the release of at-risk individuals, reduced bail, more use of home incarceration and revised sentencing. Most helpful would be a systems approach including abolition of cash bail and moving to surety bonds, using less restrictive pre-trial actions, reentry support and improving social determinants (such as housing and behavioral health services). Greater funding is needed to support these initiatives, because if fewer people are incarcerated and homeless, the community will be safer.

### **Immunizations Committee: Dr. Probst & Dr. Nota**

The next meeting will be Friday at 10:00. The agenda includes updates on community activity around vaccines.

**Enrollment & Coverage Coalition: Bill Wagner**

The coalition met on October 12 and will meet again December 14. The Coalition's goal is to ensure that everyone has health insurance coverage. Open enrollment for both Medicare Advantage and the exchanges has started.

**Open Discussion**

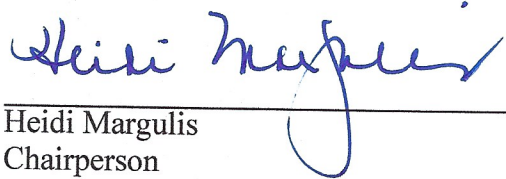
The physicians on the Board are observing that many children are struggling with online learning and mental health is a challenge. Dr. Nota is working on a media campaign in Spanish around COVID-19 fatigue. The COVID unit at Jewish Hospital is full, and they are experiencing staffing issues. The patient census at the hospital is higher now than at the beginning of the pandemic; patients represent community spread rather than residents of long-term care facilities as was experienced during the last surge. Patients are staying longer than flu patients, and doctors are worried about capacity during the flu and holiday season.

Family Health Centers has had more staff test positive in the last month than the rest of the pandemic combined, and all transmission occurred outside of the workplace. FHC is administering about 1,000 tests per week. The positivity rate among the Hispanic population is double that of White patients.

The next Board meeting will be December 2 at 8:00am.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:30am.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Heidi Margulis", is written over a horizontal line.

Heidi Margulis  
Chairperson