

**LOUISVILLE METRO BOARD OF HEALTH  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
May 6, 2020**

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

**Advisory Board Members Present:** Dr. Sarah Moyer, Natalie Johnson, Dr. Craig Blakely, Dr. Monalisa Taylor, Bill Wagner

**Others Present:** T Gonzales, Connie Mendel, Kelly Monahan, MK Eagle, Amanda Clark

**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 except Dr. Erin Frazier were visible and audible on WebEx. A quorum was reached without Dr. Frazier.

As per open meetings requirements, the meeting information was posted 24 hours in advance, the public was able to call in or join with video and the meeting was live-streamed to LMPHW's FaceBook page.

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

***MOTION:*** To approve the March 2020 meeting minutes

***MOTION APPROVED***

**Amendment to Articles of Incorporation of Family Health Centers: Bill Wagner**

A recent HRSA federal grant Operational Site Visit revealed that the process being used to appoint members to the FHC Board did not match the process laid out in the FHC's Articles of Incorporation. In order to satisfy HRSA requirements, FHC needs to address these compliance issues. The Board of Health must approve any changes in the Articles. FHC proposes changes to the Articles to clarify the "selection/nomination" process for the patient and non-patient Board of Governance members so that it meets the compliance requirements.

The proposed changes better reflect how FHC currently selects and recommends new Board members. It does eliminate the previous provision that required the Mayor to nominate five members for appointment by the Board of Health. However the Mayor does appoint the Board of Health Members, who then vote on the members of the FHC Board.

Natalie Johnson, the Jefferson County Attorney's Office liaison to the Board of Health stated that she reviewed and approved the changes but that the Mayor's office has not responded.

***MOTION:*** To Approve the proposed changes to the FHC Articles of Incorporation and give Dr. Karen Cost, Board Chair, the authority to sign the required FHC paperwork on behalf of the Board of Health.

***MOTION APPROVED***

### **Covid-19 Update: Dr. Moyer**

To date, there have been 1,476 cases and 108 deaths in Jefferson County. Since the last BOH meeting, the city stood up the Incident Command Structure (ICS) and has been utilizing this structure to respond to the crisis.

In the beginning of the crisis, the ICS worked extensively with local hospitals in preparation for a possible surge. The ICS has also developed plans to protect our vulnerable populations such as the homeless, incarcerated people, those in long-term care facilities, those living in dense housing conditions and those working in essential businesses such as factories.

LMPHW worked with SPHIS on modeling and our Health Economist, Dr. Seyed Karimi, did exceptional work creating a model that says we should have about 150 cases per day. We are seeing many fewer, which means that we are likely not testing adequately. The city is planning to ramp up testing and we expect cases to climb as we do so.

Based on the modeling, we need a large and rapid expansion of public health in order to perform testing, contact tracing, essential needs delivery and case management. LMPHW will be hiring 38 additional permanent full-time employees and the city is currently writing an RFP for a vendor to supply contracted contact tracers.

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

We have had many retirements recently and there are 20 positions in process to hire. LMPHW is the only Louisville Metro agency able to hire right now due to Covid-19-related budget issues the city is experiencing.

Our communications team has been extremely busy, working closely with the Mayor's Office of Communications to provide timely, accurate response to news media questions, to provide daily updated information to the public through social media, the website, news briefings, and public service announcements. Our team also creates educational materials to share including materials in numerous languages.

The Health IT team transitioned many employees to telework on top of various projects which they had started pre-Covid-19.

Our mosquito control team have begun mosquito pre-treatment activities of areas historically known to breed mosquitoes.

The Food Safety Program is addressing Covid-19 response. Inspectors spend most of their time conducting complaint investigations of businesses that are reported as non-compliant with the Governor's Executive Orders. Program staff continue to perform several of their normal duties including opening inspections and complaint investigations on urgent issues such as foodborne illness. They have investigated 276 complaints on businesses that were reported as non-compliant with the Governor's Executive Order and issued 21 orders to either cease operation or for social distancing.

In addition, two inspectors are assisting LMPHW's Communicable Disease Program by conducting contact calls with individuals who have tested positive for COVID 19.

The Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) is in the final stages of contract approval to work with IDEASxLab on a community engagement and community-informed media campaign focused on healthy housing in our target communities (Smoketown and West Louisville). Program Supervisor, Gabriell Gassaway, has continued to work on Health in All Policies mini grant activities. All interviews are being done via phone and non-emergent home visits are on hold. In-person education and outreach activities have also been postponed.

The Onsite program remains busy, conducting site evaluations for new homes and system repair work, answering questions from installers, homeowners and realtors and responding to sewage complaints. The site evaluations and complaints require the inspector to visit the location, so inspectors practice social distancing and utilize PPE. Other activities are done via telephone.

The Rabies program has received fewer reports of animal bites/exposures. Last year in April there were 100 reports and this year 54 reports. Inspectors obtain the information about the animal over the phone and release animals from quarantine while social distancing.

Staff are assisting the Covid-19 Incident Command System in several ways: processing requests to assist people in quarantine by purchasing groceries, cleaning supplies, diapers, etc. for people who have been instructed to shelter at home and need assistance.

Staff conduct Emergency Shelter inspections at two Salvation Army locations, 911 South Brook and 3607 Kenjoy. The Brook location serves people and families that do not show any symptoms and Kenjoy serves people that exhibit signs of Covid-19 or who have tested positive. The inspections cover several different categories such as sanitation, solid waste, food service, drinking water, sleep area, children's area and health/medical.

Our Health Education Specialist is developing a process to certify lifeguards over WebEx so that there will be lifeguards available when pools open.

The lab is still conducting testing for STDs for Family Health Centers and Specialty Clinic. The lab has seen an increase in test volume from the MORE expansion. They received an extension for IRB for the Lead in Pregnancy Project due to COVID-19. Dr. Leslie Wolf and Gwen Nixon have been valuable consultants for the Incident Management Team to better understand Covid testing.

Public Health Preparedness participated in numerous interviews with the media, attended briefings for LMG, and participated in a Metro wide COVID-19 Tabletop Exercise (TTX) at Metrosafe. Three personnel from PHP stepped into positions with the Incident Management Team (IMT) in the Planning Section and Logistics Section. PHP has been instrumental in developing plans, particularly plans for our unsheltered population.

Most Center for Health Equity staff have been reassigned to the IMT and all other work, including the Health Equity Report, has been suspended.

Child and Maternal Health secured funding to provide 400 books to families served by the Healthy Start and HANDS home-visitation programs. These books promote literacy, parent child interaction and awareness about preventing two major causes of infant death in Kentucky—abusive head trauma and unsafe sleep practices.

WIC and Healthy Start have been given permission by the federal government to work virtually and there has been an increase in participation.

MORE Center is operating on a reduced schedule and their census is up to 162. The SEP has been giving out more Naloxone as a result of street drugs becoming more dangerous as supplies are interrupted because of Covid-19.

TB numbers are down, which is a national trend. We expect numbers to increase again once providers offices open to in person visits again.

The Board is interested in policy solutions that would position public health to better respond to emergencies like Covid-19 in the future. The virus is highlighting inequities that we were already aware of, such as a higher disease burden in communities of color, a lack of paid sick leave in certain industries, staffing shortages in nursing homes and other issues.

Bill Wagner notes that FHC has had 7 of 8 locations open throughout, has seen about 70% of their pre-Covid-19 volume of patients and is conducting about 60% of visits using telehealth. They are focusing on special populations and about 22% of their patients screened for Covid-19 are testing positive. Among their Limited English Proficiency (mainly Hispanic) patients, around 50% are testing positive. They have partnered with Americana to perform drive-through testing for their patients only and are opening 2 more sites. FHC has also partnered with LMPHW to screen people at the homeless shelters.

Dr. Blakely notes that he is hopeful that SHPIS will be able to resume classes in the fall, however if the reopening is not handled correctly that may not be able to happen. He is watching early-opening states like Georgia and using modeling to provide the best possible data to the Governor and Mayor.

The Board discussed serology testing. Dr. Cost noted serology testing in individual patients can be helpful but must be interpreted with all other clinical and laboratory data.

#### **ACA Update—Bill Wagner**

The committee met on April 13. Medicaid enrollment had dropped 5% under the Bevin Administration, but has increased over 9% from February 1 to May 1, 2020. We now have about 223,000 people covered in Jefferson County. He attributed this increase to Governor Beshear's policies and Covid-19. The committee will meet again in June.

#### **Information Sharing**

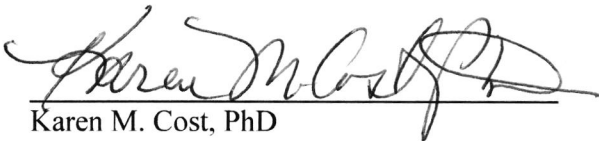
Dr. Nota asks that LaCasita Center be connected to Covid-19 positive Spanish-speaking patients to help with essential needs and mental health support.

Margaret Handmaker gave an update on TARC. Coach Operators now have plexiglass shields between themselves and riders, and riders are required to wear masks. Masks are being distributed to those that don't have them, but most riders do. Passengers now exit in the rear. There has been one Coach Operator who tested positive and was briefly hospitalized, but he has recovered.

The next BOH meeting will be June 3, 2020 and will likely be virtual.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Karen M. Cost", written over a horizontal line.

Karen M. Cost, PhD  
Chairperson