



JOHNSON CO. HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Vital Records
460 N. MORTON STE. A
FRANKLIN IN 46131

(317) 346-4367
FAX: (317) 736-5264

December 8th 2021

The Johnson County Board of Health met on December 8th, 2021 at 7:30 am. Those of the board attending were Dr. James Pease, Dr. Michael Pauszek, Dr. Steve Stropes, Amanda Stevenson-Holmes and Ruth Freese. Those in attendance from the Health Department were, Attorney Paul Hass, Dr. Jefferson Qualls, Betsy Swearingen, Cheryl Snider, Jennifer Warner, Lisa Brown, Liz Schultz, Randy Pease and Jaycie Blanford.

Dr. Pauszek moved to approve the minutes of the October board meeting and Amanda Stevens-Holmes second the motion.

Heath Officer's Report:

Dr. Qualls thanked everyone on the board for the service. He mentioned Dr. Small would be resigning his position on the board due to health issues and the board would need to be finding a replacement for him. The board and the Health Department will make recommendations to the commissions and they will pick from the list. Doctor Pauszek's and Dr. Stropes's terms expire at the end of December. They both have expressed their desire to continue on the board.

Randy was acknowledged for his years of service. He will retire at the end of December.

The schools and COVID are the main focus right now for the Health Department. Children's numbers are going down for a couple of reasons. Many of the children have already have had COVID-19 which contributes to herd immunity. Children ages 5-11 have had their first COVID vaccine and over 500 of them are already full vaccinated with 2 doses.

Dr. Qualls had his leadership conference in October. He will be contacting State leadership to find out what the Health officer's job should entail. He would like to start a program to help other Health Officers in training.

Nursing Report:

Lisa reported their new billing program for Vaxcare will go live this week. The new program will help offset some of the cost for our vaccine program.

There are seventeen open cases of latent TB. Atterbury has two, one of the seventeen is the case we talked about last meeting who was hospitalized at the Methodist Hospital. One is suspect and we are waiting on Labs results. Five are active cases and 11 are suspect.

Annie has a couple of Hep A cases.

We have been asked by the State to speak with travelers coming from the eight countries who have the Omicron variant. The recommendation will be that they quarantine seven days and then get tested.

There was an outbreak of Ecoli in one of the suites at the Lucas Stadium. Marian Co. is in charge of the investigation however, one of the participants was hospitalized for five days and then discharged with antibiotics. That person was a resident of Johnson County. Three days after being discharged, that person was re-admitted with renal failure. Marion Co. is following the case and will keep us informed.

Environmental report:

Betsy reported food licenses went out. As of December 31st, if payment is not remitted, the fee for their license is doubled. There are many calls placed to try to avoid late fees. There are no excuses when it comes to not paying on time however we also have a one week grace period to give the benefit of the doubt.

Indian meat market is opening.

Several businesses are moving to different locations within Johnson County. This can get difficult as it is taking longer to get supplies to remodel or build.

Liz mentioned in the last meeting concerning a need for a policy for perimeter drains. There was a concern there was not a policy and one needed to be implemented. While going through some files, Randy found a policy from 1987. This policy will be looked at and brought up to date.

Emergency Management:

Betsy tried to return unspent money from our first grant for Covid testing and vaccinations clinics. When she called to find out how to return it, the ISDH said no, use it for something COVID related. The Health Department will take the money and try to get a program with "ASSIST". ASSIST is an agency that helps with trauma based mental issues. The plan is to help those with trauma from COVID. The Health Department would help pay the bill they (ASSIST) owe to the prosecutor's office and in return would provide mental health aid to the Health Department. The program is still in the infancy stage and details still need to be worked out. There is also some thought on what the Health Department might need in the next 5 years to help us up that money.

Because of some issues between ISDH and Abbott (pharmaceutical company who makes the COVID rapid test), we have not been getting the complete amount of test needed and we will be out of test probably by the end of the day. The criteria for the remaining test are school aged children with symptoms, county employees and first responders. We are holding out for a big grant so that we could hire someone to go into the schools and be a liaison between the schools and Health Department.

We are part of a collaboration for mental health and substance abuse based programs.

Betsy was approached by EMS concerning more para-medicine programs.

There was discussion concerning people who still don't know about our COVID clinic. Amanda suggested we use Facebook among other venues to boost awareness of the clinic.

Vital Records:

Numbers: for October

COVID deaths – 10

Drug intoxication – 1

Suicide – 5

Total deaths for October – 95

Food Permits: about 50% payments are in.

Tattoos: approximately 25% payments are in. These typically are paid last minute as the fee is so high.

Call reminders for food permits payments and Tattoo payments start next week.

A fairly new trend in Tattooing which has come out in the last few years is microbladding. This is a process that tattoos eyebrows and permanent makeup onto the face. It has become quite popular. Because of COVID and its mandates, some nurses are leaving the hospitals and learning microbladding. It is told that they are making more money doing this than in the nursing profession.

Breast Cancer Awareness:

JoEllen is running the Breast Cancer program and has received her first grant. It is a \$10,000 grant. She worked very hard on it and we are very proud of her.

New Business:

Amanda shared her concern about Dr. Qualls signing death certificates and working with the Coroner's office. Dr. Qualls stated he will not be signing any death certificates on behalf of the Coroner's Office. As of December 31st, he will step down as Chief Coroner but will be available for consultations. As the Health Officer, he will be looking over each death certificate as it comes through the Vital Records office.

Betsy also reported she had a couple of cases that required the help of Jerry Keifer with Adult Protective Services. One was a hoarding case and the other was a woman living in her car in the parking lot at Our Lady of Greenwood. Dr. Qualls went and sat down with the woman to see what could be done to help her. After some discussion, she agreed to go to a psychiatric facility. Dr. Qualls stated Johnson County is one of a few counties this size that does not have adequate homeless facilities. Homeless shelters are typically owned and funded by county government agencies. A few are owned privately and run with donations.

One of the pushes in 2022 will be to get a housing code. Currently the commissioners do not see a need for one. A good housing code would take care of some issues and other problems the Health Department can't get resolved without said code.

There was no new business and the meeting was adjourned.



Dr. James Pease Chairman Date



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December 7, 2021

On December 7th at 2:00pm, Cheryl Snider spoke with Carol Small, the wife of Dr. George Small. She stated the Parkinson's disease has aggressively gotten worse and he does not feel that he can fulfill his term on the board. She feels we should replace him on the board as he will not be able to attend meetings.


This notice, signed by the Johnson County Board of Health President and the Johnson County Health Officer, will serve as the resignation notice of Dr. George Small from the Johnson County Board of Health, effective December 7, 2021.

Dr. James Pease



ICBH President

Dr. Jefferson Qualls



JCHD Health Officer