

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING MINUTES
March 4, 2021
7:00 a.m.

PRESENT:

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS

Bryon Reed, Commissioner, Chairman
 Bill Leake, Teton County, Trustee
 Blair Dance, Commissioner
 Leah Madsen, Commissioner
 Shayne Young, Commissioner
 Barbara Nelson, MD, Vice Chair
 Greg Shenton, Commissioner
 Brent Mendenhall, Commissioner
 Wayne Butts, Commissioner

STAFF MEMBERS

Geri Rackow
 James Corbett
 Angy Harwood
 Cheryl O'Connell
 Amy Gamett
 Kellye Johnson
 Steve Thomas
 Mallory Johnson

1. Call Board Meeting to Order

Chairman Reed called the meeting order at 7:00 a.m. This meeting is being held virtually and it is being streamed live through EIPH's YouTube channel. EIPH staff is present at the Idaho Falls office where there is also a space for the public to view in person.

MOTION: Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to amend the agenda to include Madison County in agenda item #7, Discussion and Vote regarding Rescinding Order of Restriction.

SECOND: Commissioner Dance

ACTION: MOTION CARRIED

Bill Leake requested agenda item #7, Discussion and Vote regarding Rescinding Order of Restriction, be discussed prior to agenda item #6, Discussion and Vote Regarding Revising the EIPH COVID-19 Regional Response Plan.

Chairman Reed requested agenda item #11, Division Reports/Presentations, be move ahead on the agenda and follow item #3, Reports from Regional Healthcare Partners.

2. Approval of the February 4, 2021 Board of Health Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Young made a motion to approve the February 4, 2021 meeting minutes.

SECOND: Dr. Nelson

ACTION: MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Reports from Regional Healthcare Partners

a. Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center (EIRMC)

David Hoffenberg, Chief Operating Officer, reports an uptick in COVID cases, which had been as low as 6 but are now up to 20 with 4 in the ICU. COVID cases from outside our area are from Wyoming, Teton Valley, and Lost River. They are seeing a much lighter flu and RSV season and feel masking has been a factor in this. They are in a good position with staffing.

b. Idaho Falls Community Hospital (IFCH)

Casey Jackman, Chief Operating Officer, reports they have also seen an increase in COVID cases. They currently have 14 COVID patients with 1 in the ICU; all the patients are from our health district's region. Of the 14 patients they have 2 that have been vaccinated with two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. While the number of patients has increased, the acuity is down. They are doing well with supplies and staffing; they did have contract staff through February.

c. Madison Memorial Hospital

Dr. Rachel Gonzales, Chief Executive Officer, reports an uptick in cases as well, but also reports the severity is less. They have seen no flu or RSV this year. Since the employees have been vaccinated their employee absences have gone down.

4. COVID-19 Situational Report

a. COVID-19 Data Review

Mr. Corbett reviewed the active case rates and hospitalizations by county. There has been an increase in cases over the past couple of weeks with multiple factors contributing to this, including individuals who are not isolating when they are ill or have been exposed and the schools being in full session (not necessarily due to students in the classrooms, but associated extracurricular activities).

b. Vaccination Rollout Update

- The state dashboard is down this morning, so Ms. Gamett was not able to review the numbers. Providers are working hard to get the 65+ population vaccinated. EIPH has administered 100% of their vaccine with no wasted doses.
- The next priority group, Idaho Subgroup 2.3, will be eligible to start receiving the vaccine on 3/15/2021. Ms. Rackow reviewed those professions included in this subgroup. She also reported that EIPH and the providers in our district are prepared to move forward with this group.
- The Johnson & Johnson vaccine was approved by the FDA for emergency use. EIPH received some of the vaccine this week and will have an additional clinic in Idaho Falls on March 6. At this time, clients are not able to choose which vaccine they receive. The national recommendation is that people take what vaccine they can get and not wait for their preferred brand.
- 260,000 people have been vaccinated in Idaho. EIPH has administered 20,000 vaccines.
- In the nation, there has been a reduction in cases for healthcare workers since they have been vaccinated.
- The COVID-19 Vaccine Advisory Committee (CVAC) will meet on 3/5/21 to discuss Idaho Subgroup 3.0, which includes people age 16-64 years with underlying health conditions and other essential workers.
- On 3/5/2021, the state will rollout a registration tool that will allow people to sign up to be connected to a provider for COVID-19 vaccination. EIPH currently has our own waiting list that people may register on via our website or by calling our office.
- A Spanish clinic was held last Saturday but participation was low. Ms. Rackow reports EIPH will continue efforts with outreach to this population.
- Mr. Corbett reports we are currently receiving vaccine based on the population of individuals aged the 65 and older; however, beginning next week, allocation will be based on total population numbers.

5. Division Reports/Presentations

a. Hepatitis C Treatment Program

This program implemented at EIPH helps individuals with Hepatitis C navigate treatment options, insurance and other funding options. Ms. Gamett reports the first client we served in this program has been declared cured. A second client is now being served in the program.

b. Drug Overdose Prevention Program

Mallory Johnson provided an update on the Drug Overdose Prevention Program (DOPP). DOPP focuses on opioid prevention work through public safety partnerships, public and prescriber education, local capacity building, and the social determinants of health. They are currently providing Drug Overdose Prevention and Response Training to participating organizations, distributing Narcan boxes, and Deterra bags.

c. WIC Food Package Update

Ms. Harwood provided an update on WIC (Women, Infants, and Children Program) and reported that EIPH currently serves over 6,000 participants. She also provided information on remote WIC, curbside assistance, breastfeeding support, online application, and national legislation on increasing fresh fruits and vegetables for participants.

d. **Environmental Health**

- i. **Septic Program:** Ms. Johnson provided information on findings during an audit done last fall, with overall good results. She is working with our Environmental Health software vendor, Paragon, to make changes to the septic permitting program, including changes to the septic permit language.
- ii. **Childcare Inspection Program:** Ms. Johnson reviewed the checklist for childcare inspections that includes new requirements that went into effect in October of 2020.

6. **Discussion and Vote regarding Rescinding Order of Restriction in Teton and Madison Counties**

- We currently have Public Health Orders that require face coverings in Teton and Madison Counties. Teton County has met the metric of an active rate under 15/10,000 for more than 14 consecutive days; however, for the past two days, the active rate has been above 15/10,000. Madison County has not yet met the metric for rescinding its Order.
- Mr. Leake has discussed the lifting of the order with Teton County elected officials on Monday. They would prefer a transition period prior to lifting EIPH's Public Health Order which would allow them to educate community members and businesses on the importance of continuing to follow mitigation strategies and the local mask orders in place in the County.
- Discussion followed.

MOTION: Commissioner Mendenhall made a motion to lift the Order of Restriction in Teton and Madison County effective March 18, 2021.

SECOND: Mr. Leake

ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Bill Leake, yes; Commissioner Dance, yes; Commissioner Madsen, yes; Commissioner Young, yes; Commissioner Shenton, yes; Commissioner Mendenhall, yes; Commissioner Butts, yes; Dr. Nelson, no.
MOTION CARRIED

7. **Discussion and Vote Regarding Revising the EIPH COVID-19 Regional Response Plan**

Ms. Rackow provided an overview of EIPH's response to the COVID-19 pandemic over the last year. The Regional Response Plan was devised to help slow the spread of the virus and assist in not overwhelming hospitals with COVID patients so hospital capacity could be maintained for all people needing hospital care. With a reduction in COVID cases and hospitalizations since December (until the past two weeks); reports from hospitals that they have been able to better manage COVID patients; some effective COVID treatments now available; healthcare staff as well as staff and resident of long term facilities now being vaccinated; 50% of those aged 65+ years being vaccinated; and the general public being educated on the measures to take to protect themselves and slow the spread of the virus, the imminent threat of COVID-19 has subsided and Ms. Rackow feels that public health orders are no longer justified. However, this does not mean that EIPH does not still strongly recommend that everyone continue to follow the mitigation strategies that we have been promoting and providing education to the public over the past year. Ms. Rackow reviewed proposed changes to the EIPH COVID-19 Regional Response Plan. Discussion followed.

MOTION: Commissioner Young made a motion to approve changes to the Regional Response Plan as presented.

SECOND: Commissioner Shenton

ACTION: Roll Call Vote: Bill Leake, yes; Commissioner Dance, yes; Commissioner Madsen, yes; Commissioner Young, yes; Commissioner Shenton, yes; Commissioner Mendenhall, yes; Commissioner Butts, yes; Dr. Nelson, no.
MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Rackow will draft and distribute a Public Health Notice that will provide recommendations for everyone to continue following until the pandemic is over.

8. Discussion and Vote Regarding Potential Actions to Protect Life, Health, and Safety Within the District as to the COVID-19 Pandemic, to Include Consideration of Orders that Include, but are not Limited to, Mandating Face Coverings in Bonneville, Fremont, and Jefferson Counties

In light of the action taken to revise EIPH's COVID-19 Regional Response Plan, no action taken on this agenda item.

9. Legislative Update

Mr. Leake and Ms. Rackow provided an update on current legislation affecting Public Health. SB1060 is legislation that would require that any Public Health Orders issued by a Board of Health that is applicable to an entire county be approved by the respective Board of County Commissioners. There have also been a number of bills introduced limiting prohibiting limitations on gathering sizes and mask requirements as well as. Public Health has been working with the Idaho Association of Counties on some draft legislation involving the public health districts; however, it has not yet been introduced so details cannot be shared at this time.

10. Ratification of Subgrants/Contracts

Ms. Rackow and the Division Administrators provided information on new, renewed, and amended subgrants.

MOTION: Commissioner Dance made a motion to ratify the new, renewed, and amended subgrants as presented.


SECOND: Mr. Leake

ACTION: MOTION CARRIED

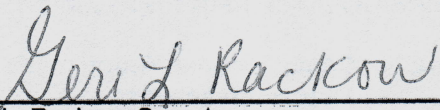
11. FY21 YTD Financial Report

- Mr. Thomas provided a FY 2021 YTD financial report.
- For the 7 months ended January 31, 2021, EIPH's total expenditures for the year were 7.72% below the approved budget. This is based on the amended budget including new COVID-19 related funding.
- For the 7 months ended January 31, 2021, EIPH's total revenues were 4.6% above approved budget. Revenue will rise as we receive funds requested from CARE Act reimbursements for COVID-19 response expenses. \$381,888 was received from CARE Act in February.
- In the Environmental Health Division, fees in the Septic Program have increased significantly.
- In October of 2020 the budget was increased by \$1.6 million for the COVID-19 emergency response; we are spending that faster than anticipated but may have to adjust the budget in April.
- Ms. Rackow feels we will be able to cover the costs of administering the vaccine with insurance reimbursement and grant funding for the time being.

Chairman Reed adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m. The next meeting will be held on April 1, 2021 at 7:00 a.m. The FY2022 Budget will be presented at the April 29, 2021 meeting.



Commissioner Bryon Reed, Chairman



Geri L. Rackow, Secretary