

Board of Health: Kenosha County Public Health

Meeting Minutes: Re-organizational 1.11.22

In person – N2/12:00 Noon

Agenda Item	Talking Points	Action Step (Who & When)
Call to Order, President	The meeting was called to order at 12:02 pm. (00:00:24)	
Election of Officers a. President b. Vice-President	Nomination for Board of Health President. Rita Ventura nominated Dr. Gerlach, Julia Robinson seconded. Health Officer read Bylaws Article 4: Composition 4.4 and 4.5 No other nominations. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY Nomination for Board of Health Vice-President. John O'Day nominated Julia Robinson. Health Officer read Bylaws Article 4: Composition 4.6 No other nominations. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (00:00:28)	
Appointments a. Secretary	Karen Kersting nominated as Board of Health Secretary. No other nominations. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (00:03:27)	
Approval of 2022 Meeting Schedule	Approval of 2022 Meeting Schedule. Julia Robinson motioned to approve, seconded by Rita Ventura. Health Officer read Bylaws Article 6: Attendance 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY (00:03:44 – 00:05:08)	
Adjournment	Motion to adjourn meeting by Rita Ventura, seconded by Roger Perez. Meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm. (00:5:10) Prepared by Karen Kersting, Board of Health Secretary Respectfully submitted by Jen Freiheit, Health Officer/Director	

Present: Dr. Diane Gerlach, John O'Day, Jen Freiheit, John Moyer, Roger Perez, Lori Plahmer, Dr. Dominique Pritchett, Julia Robinson, Rita Ventura, Dave Cole-WGTD, Karen Kersting

Not Present: Dr. Foster (excused absence)

Board of Health: Kenosha County Public Health

Meeting Minutes: Regular 1.11.22

In person – N2/12:00 Noon

Agenda Item	Talking Points	Action Step (Who & When)
Call to Order, President	The meeting was called to order at 12:07 pm. (00:05:18)	
Approval of Minutes of October 12, 2021, November 9, 2021, and December 14, 2021	<p>Motion to approve the minutes of October 12, 2021 by Julia Robinson, seconded by Rita Ventura. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> <p>Motion to approve the minutes of November 9, 2021 by Rita Ventura, seconded by John O'Day. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.</p> <p>Motion to approve the minutes of December 14, 2021 by Rita Ventura, seconded by John O'Day. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. (00:05:23)</p>	
Public Comments	None	
President's Comments	Dr. Gerlach stated that within the Advocate Aurora System (Wisconsin & Illinois), 94% of hospitalized patients with Covid are not vaccinated. In the ICU, 95% are not vaccinated. Of ventilated patients, 98% are not vaccinated. Kids cases are skyrocketing. For Aurora Kenosha, unvaccinated rates are hovering from 70% – 82% unvaccinated. (00:06:28 – 00:08:36)	
Health Officer/Director's Report a. Disease Investigation & Contact Tracing b. Testing c. Vaccination d. Other Public Health Services	<p>COVID</p> <p>Between our two hospital systems, patients are averaging 81-85 per day. This is the highest we've ever been and largely due to staffing issues. Over the Christmas and New Year's holidays, there were 12 deaths each of those weekends. Currently we are at 3-4 per day. For the month of December, there were 80 Covid deaths.</p> <p>Because home tests are not reportable, case numbers will be higher than what is stated on our website. Pharmacies resupply home tests daily. KCHC has received a small amount of home tests. Waiting for more information on the Biden Plan.</p> <p>Many schools going virtual due to staffing issues. Some of our schools that have higher proportions of students of color and need don't have the high Covid numbers that other schools report. We need to investigate this as it points to equity issue.</p> <p>Refer to our Covid website for testing options. National Guard is in Twin Lakes. 24/7 sites in Milwaukee as well as sites in Racine and Walworth. The systems are overwhelmed, but results are coming back within 48 hours. We are working with 6 Illinois Labs to get them set up properly for testing. Some have already</p>	

	<p>leased buildings.</p> <p>Vaccinations have slowed down. 12 years and older can now get a booster after 5 months. Only 15% of our 12–15-year old's are vaccinated. Average age of those hospitalized is 58.6. Our over 65 population has a much higher vaccination rate.</p> <p>The health department has formed a new Covid Team. Covid is currently a Category 1 disease which means we are statutorily obligated to disease investigate every case. We have now been given some flexibility from the state to realign our pandemic response. Our focus will be the over 70 population who are unvaccinated as well as our Hispanic population. Will continue mobile street missions, visiting churches, grocery stores, etc. Additional resources are going to our Call Center with messaging around this.</p> <p>We meet with all 11 schools districts, as well as private and parochial schools, on a regular basis. They are aware of the health department's stance on masking. Ultimately it is up to school boards which guidance they choose to follow.</p> <p>Health department had 7 people out with Covid. Our public facing staff are most at risk. We have placed a large order for KN95 masks. N95 masks are respiratory fit tested while KN95 masks are not. We will distribute these to libraries, Shalom Center, senior centers, etc.</p> <p>Question regarding why the National Guard is not in the city of Kenosha testing. We cannot find a location in the city that meets National Guard requirements (temperature control). We also needed to fill the need for testing options West of the I.</p> <p>For the past year, we have been doing weekly homebound visits. Good Value Pharmacy will now be doing homebound visits as well. Our Call Center will set these up.</p> <p>Working with KHDS and Crisis in placing Covid positive people who are homeless. Outreach to hotels to place people as well as creating a policy.</p> <p>Given our new strategy, would like the board's input. What should public health focus on now given this flexibility? Debunk myths and reach minority populations. We use our Health Equity Task Force for this. Many deaths are people with BMI over 30. Need to focus more on comorbidities.</p> <p><u>Other Health Department Services</u></p> <p>Since 911, every health department in the country has received an Emergency Preparedness and Response Grant which requires a yearly exercise to prepare for an emergency. Through an exercise, we must develop an official After-Action Report which is part of the Homeland Security Exercise and</p>	<p>Karen will send this to the board once</p>
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	<p>Evaluation Program. Our 2021 After Action Report, which is largely a quality improvement process for within the health department, is soon to be completed.</p> <p>A current issue is that physicians are still not lead testing. This will have ramifications in the future.</p> <p>Currently have two Board of Health vacancies. The County Executive appoints all open members. One letter has been sent out to a potential member. By February 17th this will go back to the County Board. Interviewing for second vacancy. The noon hour has proved a difficult time for people to commit. We may want to revisit this timeframe in the future. (00:08:38 – 00:51:38)</p>	<p>finalized. Will also be placed on our website.</p>
Corporation Counsel's Report	Working with Mark Melotik to update the Food Ordinance. Also looking at updating/modernizing our entire health department website. (00:51:40)	
Other Business as Allowed by Law	None	
Closing Board Comments	We will be meeting virtually until the October Meeting. January – September meeting minutes will be approved at the October in-person meeting.	
Adjournment	<p>Motion to adjourn meeting by Dr. Diane Gerlach, seconded by Julia Robinson. Meeting adjourned at 12:58 pm. (00:56:18)</p> <p>Prepared by Karen Kersting, Board of Health Secretary</p> <p>Respectfully submitted by Jen Freiheit, Health Officer/Director</p>	

Present: Dr. Diane Gerlach, John O'Day, Jen Freiheit, John Moyer, Roger Perez, Lori Plahmer, Dr. Dominique Pritchett, Julia Robinson, Rita Ventura, Dave Cole-WGTD, Karen Kersting

Not Present: Dr. Foster (excused absence)