

Board of Health: Kenosha County Public Health

Unofficial Meeting Minutes: 09.14.21

Virtual Meeting – 12:00 Noon

Agenda Item	Talking Points	Action Step (Who & When)
Call to Order, President	The meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm. (00:00:02)	
Approval of Minutes of May 11, 2021, June 8, 2021, July 13, 2021	Motion to approve the minutes of May 11, 2021, June 8, 2021 and July 13, 2021 deferred until the October in person meeting. (00:00:09)	
Public Comments	None (00:00:22)	
President’s Comments	Dr. Gerlach stated that with the mandate, systems are starting to feel it because there are staff that are resistant and leaving their positions. The CDC is not recommending a booster dose for the public, only 65+ and high-risk people. (00:00:37 – 00:02:15)	
Corporation Counsel’s Report	John Moyer attended Alonzo Kelly’s training as well as the Board of Health orientation session and was very pleased with both. (00:02:17 – 00:02:36)	
Health Officer/Director’s Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. COVID Update b. Equity update c. Other Public Health Services Update 	<p>COVID UPDATE</p> <p>Jen welcomed Dr. Dominique Pritchett, the newest member of the Board of Health. Dr. Pritchett is a long-time community member of Kenosha and CEO of Beloved Wellness Center, which is a private mental health practice in Kenosha, speaker as well as mental health consultant.</p> <p>Sharmain Harris has resigned from the Board of Health due to time constraints which leaves a new opening to fill. The County Executive has been alerted.</p> <p>Between our 2 hospitals there are 45 patients with 7 ventilated. Staff are contracting Covid and some staff leaving due to mandate. Seeing more children’s cases as the new variants target children. We continue to work closely with the schools.</p> <p>Home tests are an issue as they are not confirmatory. They should then go to a pharmacy to get an antigen or PCR test. Public Health can’t verify who took the test and can only enter as a suspect case. Also, home testing doesn’t get reported to the health department.</p> <p>There is a lack of testing in Kenosha County. We had requested the National Guard to come this week, but they are taking a planning break, so it was declined. Waiting on confirmation that they will be here September 30 and October 1. UW-Parkside testing ends the end of September. Labs are also taking a bit longer to get back to us.</p>	<p>Please refer any recommendations to Jen.</p> <p>Karen will send out member’s term list</p>

46.9% of all Kenosha county residents have been fully vaccinated. Largely hospitalizations have been those unvaccinated. Case loads are greater than we can handle due to WEDSS and staffing issues. We are down to 6 part-time disease investigators. All other health departments are having trouble with staffing as people are not applying.

Currently there is no mandate for county government workers to be vaccinated. We still recommend that those in schools, indoor environments, wear masks and social distance.

This year every school district has a different plan. The state offers a free rapid testing program that the schools are aware of. Logistically it is a great deal of work and schools in our county chose not to pursue this. Information continues to be forwarded to the schools and they are free to work with the state on this.

EQUITY UPDATE

Health department has completed a 3-part series on Diversity Equity Inclusion – Crucial Conversations. We continue with our equity strategic plan, modifying policies and procedures and trainings.

OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH

Funding has been approved to move forward with our new electronic medical record system, Patagonia. This is a more robust system that has been developed for local health departments. Our Clinical Services Manager will begin planning and implementation in October. Hoping to roll out in early 2022. City of Milwaukee Health Department, Madison/Dane County and Eau Claire will all be using Patagonia. Working on interfaces and records sharing.

The health department is participating in a national public health workforce survey by the de Beaumont foundation. By participating in this, we can extrapolate Kenosha data that will be used to develop our workforce development plan. Helps to advance the field of public health nationally.

From 2019-2020, environmental health numbers took a hit due to Covid. By the end of 2021, we will have exceeded our 2019 numbers. 17% of our revenue is from licenses and fees. Kudos to environmental that we were able to bounce back so quickly in just a year's time and exceed where we were pre-pandemic.

Our Narcan grant expired August 31, 2021. We were recently awarded a sizeable, 3-year SAMHSA grant that will allow us to focus on substance use, mental health, expand our use of 2-1-1, allow mobile units to visit families after an overdose has taken place called KORI (Kenosha Overdose Response Initiative).

(00:02:45 – 00:27:25)

Other Business as Allowed by Law	John O'Day stated that Public Works and Human Services Committee have an open house tonight at the KHDS office to discuss remodeling and the new 52 nd Street relocation. This is a more centralized location in Kenosha. Easier bus route for the community. Jen shared her screen with an architectural mockup. Would like BOH input/involvement with this. On September 22 at 6:30 the board is taking a tour of the current job center building and on September 29 th there will be a walk-thru of the 52 nd Street location. (00:27:31 - 00:31:13)	
Closing Board Comments	Next meeting October 12, 2021 meeting will be in person – Budget Meeting	Please make sure to attend as we must have a quorum for this budget meeting
Adjournment	<p>Motion to adjourn meeting by John O'Day, seconded by Rita Ventura. Meeting adjourned at 12:38 pm. (00:33:14)</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, Dr. James Foster, Jen Freiheit, John Moyer, Julia Robinson, Dr. Regner-Hodge, Dr. Rita Ventura

Excused: Roger Perez