



MINUTES

Jefferson County Board of Health

Regular Meeting, January 21, 2021, 2:30 p.m.

Jefferson County Public Health, 615 Sheridan Street, Port Townsend WA 98368

Virtual Meeting

Board Members

Pamela Adams, Port Townsend City Council
Greg Brotherton, County Commissioner, District #3
Kate Dean, Chair, County Commissioner District #1
Kees Kolff, Public Hospital District #2 Commissioner
Denis Stearns, Vice Chair, Citizen at large
Heidi Eisenhour, County Commissioner, District #2
Sheila Westerman, Citizen at large

Staff Members

Michael Dawson, Water Quality Manager
Alisa Hasbrouck, Environmental Health Manager
Vicki Kirkpatrick, Public Health Director
Thomas Locke, Health Officer
Apple Martine, Community Health Director
Pinky Mingo, Environmental Public Health Director
Veronica Shaw, Public Health Deputy Director

Chair Westerman called the January 21, 2021 virtual meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Health to order at 2:30 p.m. A quorum was present.

Members Present: Chair Sheila Westerman, Vice-Chair Pamela Adams, Commissioner Greg Brotherton, Commissioner Kate Dean, Commissioner Heidi Eisenhour, Member Kees Kolff, and Member Denis Stearns.

Staff Present: Public Health Officer Dr. Thomas Locke, Community Health Director Apple Martine, Environmental Public Health & Water Quality Director Pinky Mingo, Director of Jefferson County Public Health Vicki Kirkpatrick, Water Quality Manager Michael Dawson, Environmental Health Manager Alisa Hasbrouck, Code Compliance Coordinator Deborah Murdock, Co-Executive Director CHIP Lori Fleming, Community Health Educator Lindsay Scalf, Community Health Educator Karen Obermeyer, and Community Health Educator Denise Banker.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Westerman requested a motion to approve the agenda for January 21, 2021.

Member Adams moved to approve the agenda. Member Dean seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR 2021

Chair Westerman called for nominations of officers for 2021.

MOTION: Member Adams moved to nominate Member Dean for the position of Chair. Member Brotherton seconded the motion. Member Kolff moved to nominate Member Stearns for Vice-Chair. Member Adams seconded. Chair Westerman called for a vote on both motions. The motions carried by a unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chair Dean requested approval of the minutes for the December 10, 2020 Joint Special Meeting with the Board of County Commissioners and for the December 17, 2020 Regular Meeting.

MOTION: Member Brotherton moved to approve the minutes as presented. Member Adams seconded the motion which carried by a unanimous vote.

OLD BUSINESS AND INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Jefferson Healthcare Update

Member Kolff provided the Jefferson Healthcare Report. He stated the following:

Our report today is once again focused on how Jefferson County Public Hospital District is working to combat the COVID-19 pandemic with a remarkable commitment to getting people vaccinated.

75% of hospital district staff have been vaccinated. This makes it even safer for people to get the health care they need and we urge the community to do so. This level of protection is outstanding this early in the game, and it's pretty cool to think Jefferson Healthcare has nearly achieved herd immunity. Next is the entire community!

Our drive through vaccination center, behind Manresa Castle, is working well and we have 300 people scheduled for today. We will run two drive through stations Friday, Saturday and Sunday and will have given 4,000 vaccinations by the end of this weekend. Our current eligibility for vaccination is 75 years of age and above. Due to the size of this group we will be pulling folks from this bracket for quite some time. We have departed from our carefully organized, oldest and frailest first approach because of the Governor's requirement that all vaccines must be used right away. We urge the community to be patient since we are dealing with weekly changing eligibility tiers, reporting rules and incentives, as well as uncertainty regarding our next vaccine shipments. The next few weeks will be frustrating with slow moving sign-up lines, but we expect things will get better in 4-6 weeks when we expect to get more vaccine.

The good news is we are working on a dynamic, interactive web site that will track vaccinations, supply levels, percentage of community vaccination and hopefully other interesting data. The site will allow appointment setting for eligible tiers when vaccine is available and a "get in line" feature for folks in later tiers to input their names, ages, addresses and email addresses or phone numbers. We can then reach out to them when they become eligible. This should relieve some of the "why isn't my line moving" and "I don't want to be left behind" anxiety.

Unfortunately, this newly-mandated rushed approach means we can no longer reserve vaccine for booster shots. We hope to see more vaccine next week, but have some concerns about the state getting us enough vaccine for us to keep up with timely booster shots. This process will likely remain confusing and needlessly complicated because of the unpredictable supply and poor communication from the government. We do however have good reason to expect major changes for the better from the Biden administration.

To end on good news, we are still getting 6 shots out of most of the 5-dose vials. Our diligence has also led to a remarkably low wastage rate of 0.03%. We are truly committed to doing what we can to deal with this pandemic and we urge the residents of this county to do the same. Please be patient and please, continue to follow all of the recommended masking and other safety precautions even after you receive your vaccine. You can still catch the virus and we need to protect each other.

2. Jefferson County Public Health Program Reports

No report this month.

3. Jefferson County Public Health Compliance Amnesty Program

Staff Member Mingo and Code Compliance Coordinator Deborah Murdock gave a presentation regarding the amnesty program. Questions and comments from board members and staff were taken after the presentation.

4. Infographics – Tobacco Quitline, Cannabis Control, Smoking/Vaping and COVID-19

Community Health Educators Karen Obermeyer, Lindsay Scalf and Denise Banker, gave a presentation on the Tobacco Quitline, cannabis control, smoking/vaping and COVID-19. Discussion followed.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Jefferson County Community Health Improvement Plan and Behavioral Health Consortium-Update and Next Steps

The Board agreed to postpone this topic and discuss at the next meeting.

2. Proposed Regionalization of Local Public Health in Washington State: SB5173, HB1152, and HB5149

Dr. Locke discussed the Governor's proposed bills for the local public health offices restructuring into a regionalized/centralized public health system. There are positives and negatives on regionalization. Dr. Locke and Chair Dean both serve on the Association of Counties and Health Officials Task Force representing Jefferson County. Chair Dean and Dr. Locke will keep the Board updated on the status of the bills. Chair Dean proposed a sub-committee to formulate a position regarding regionalization, propose amendments and outline the county's primary concerns. Chair Dean with Members Kolff and Westerman, with support by Staff Member Kirkpatrick, will serve on the sub-committee.

MOTION: Member Kolff moved to approve formation of this sub-committee. Member Brotherton seconded the motion, which carried by a unanimous vote.

3. COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment-Understanding Phase 1b and Preparing for Mass Vaccination

Dr. Locke gave a report on Jefferson County and Washington State's vaccine deployment. The challenge right now is a supply issue. The supply will increase but not for another 2 to 3 weeks. The Governor diverted many of the vaccines to state-run mass vaccination clinics. It is uncertain what the allocation formulas will be at this time or how the second dose will be provided. Dr. Locke applauds Jefferson Healthcare in terms of how quickly they organized their vaccination efforts. We are currently in the process of recruiting, credentialing and training volunteers for the next stage of mass vaccination clinics. This will be in addition to what the hospital is able to do. This will be a four to seven-month effort to get everyone vaccinated. The State's goal is 45,000 vaccinations per day. Work is being done to simplify the vaccination priority categories. Discussion followed.

4. Healthy Washington-Roadmap to Recovery Plan

Dr. Locke included Washington State's Healthy Washington Roadmap to Recovery, issued by the Governor, in the agenda packet. Dr. Locke added that the data sources driving this are entirely at the State level and they don't match up with our local data. There is a considerable time lag in some of them as well. The bottom line is that COVID-19 prevalence is so high in Washington State right now that opening up to in-person restaurants and some other activities would likely make it a lot worse. The situation is dire in many counties. We are not isolated from those counties. The only thing keeping a lid on the pandemic are the economic restrictions currently in place. Dr. Locke does not recommend that we back off on mitigations. We must get COVID-19 under better control. Questions and comments from board members and staff were taken on this topic. Member Eisenhower recognized and thanked Dr. Locke for his levelness and consistency throughout his reporting on COVID-19 issues.

ACTIVITY UPDATE

Staff Member Mingo provided information on her previous update regarding the resolution and letter concerning fee waivers, particularly food waivers.

Member Brotherton requested bringing the Public Comment period back to the Board of Health meetings.

AGENDA PLANNING CALENDAR

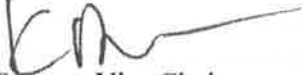
The next Board of Health meeting will be held online as a virtual meeting on Thursday, February 18, 2021 from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Dean adjourned the January 21, 2021 Jefferson County Board of Health meeting at 4:35 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting or Special Meeting as properly noticed.

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

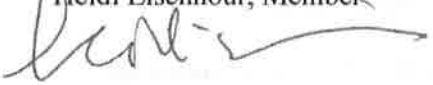
Kate Dean, Chair



Denis Stearns, Vice Chair

approved telephonically

Heidi Eisenhour, Member



Pam Adams, Member

Approved telephonically

Sheila Westerman, Member

Approved telephonically

Greg Brotherton, Member



Kees Kolff, Member

Approved telephonically

Respectfully submitted
K. Abbott