

Klickitat County

Board of Health

Minutes – Meeting Thursday November 19, 2020

Call to Order/Roll Call:

Chairman Jim Sizemore called the meeting to order at 10:03AM via Zoom Meeting. Board members present were Jim Sizemore, Sue Pennington, Paul Moyer, Rex Johnston, and David Sauter. Health Department employees present were Erinn Quinn, Dr. Amy Person and Kelly Sizemore. Several members of the public were in attendance.

Agenda and Minutes:

Approved: (M/Dave, S/Sue Pennington. Passed unanimously): **Business agenda as presented.**

Approved: (M/Sue Pennington, S/Paul Moyer. Passed Unanimously.): **Adoption of October 15, 2020 meeting minutes.**

COVID-19 Clinical Update:

Dr. Amy Person gave a COVID-19 update. She informed the Board that there has been a rise in cases all over the State, including Klickitat County. She stated that one of the main goals of the Health Department right now is to keep kids in school. As of now, there have been some cases in the schools but there has not been spread through any of Klickitat County schools. She informed the Board that there is still no timeline yet on the COVID-19 vaccine distribution and that initial doses will be prioritized to the front line workers and the elderly or high risk.

COVID-19 Current Situation:

Erinn Quinn gave an update on the current situation. The Health Department is currently working on local plans for vaccine distribution and public messaging and is confident that the vaccine will get distributed smoothly. Sue Pennington asked if there would be anyone in the County with the ability to store the low temp type of COVID-19 vaccine. Erinn informed the Board that Klickitat Valley Health has ordered a low temp freezer to accommodate that type of vaccine. Erinn is hopeful that the Health Department will receive the type of vaccine that requires the temperatures that the Health Department has the ability to store. The vaccines should be coming with the items, like needles and syringes, required to administer the vaccine. Currently there has been no spread of COVID-19 in any of the County schools.

Erinn gave an update on the isolation housing. There are currently 4 trailers left and there has been a total of 7 guests that have utilized the isolation housing so far. Funding for the housing will likely be extended to June but Erinn is looking into other options for winter as the camp trailers may not be a good option.

The Health Department is pushing the flu vaccine and has done several flu shot clinics around the County in Lyle, Goldendale and for farm workers while also promoting WIC.

Currently, Klickitat County has had 253 cases of COVID-19, 12 active now, and 3 deaths. There are no current hospitalizations. Some counties in Washington are no longer calling close contacts of positive cases but Klickitat County will continue to do this as long as it is possible for staff to keep doing it. The Health Department will have a new nurse starting on December 1st and she will start off primarily with COVID-19 case investigations and contact tracing. The Health Department will be promoting safe choices for gatherings over the Holidays.

Rex inquired about the death rates in this County and if they have all had underlying conditions. Erinn stated that although our County has been fairly lucky, they are starting to see an increase in deaths in healthy people.

Sue requested that the Board schedule an update in December considering the current situation. Erinn and the Board agreed and the meeting will be scheduled.

Paul inquired about the amount of staff currently working on calls. Erinn stated that the Health Department currently has two full time nurses, one part time weekend nurse, and one 12 hour person. Five cases a day is about the limit for the current staff to be able to investigate well.

Board Discussion:

Jim stated that it seems that the citizens are tired of hearing from government and suggested reaching out to other sources to help with messaging. Erinn agreed and stated that the Department has been sharing other sources messaging on social media.

Public Comment:

Janet Warren thanked the Board and Erinn for increasing and talking more about messaging. She stated that she doesn't think that all citizens are understanding the messaging or how to get the information. She also inquired about the Health Department budget and what could be changed to be help the department. Erinn discussed that there are a lot of unknowns about the budget at this time due to unknown amounts funding that will be coming from the State and Federal level at the beginning of the year. Janet also asked if volunteers are needed. Erinn stated the she does have a list of volunteers if needed.

Motion to Adjourn:

Approved: (M/David Sauter, S/Sue Pennington. Passed unanimously.): **Motion to adjourn at 10:52AM.**