

**MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Special Board Meeting**

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF MADISON)

Proceedings of the County Board of Health of Madison County, Illinois, was held telephonically due to COVID-19 restrictions on May 8, 2020.

**THURSDAY, MAY 8, 2020
3:00 PM
SPECIAL SESSION**

The Board of Health met pursuant to recess taken May 7, 2020.

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The meeting was called to order by Kurt Prenzler, Chairman of the Board.

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all members of the Board.

The Roll Call was called by Vanessa Jones, Chief Deputy County Clerk, showing the following members present:

PRESENT: Messers. Chapman, Ms. Dalton, Ms. Dutton, Foster, Goggin, Gray, Guy, Hankins, Ms. Harriss, Holliday, Jones, King, Kuhn, Madison, Malone, McRae, Michael, Minner, Moore, Parkinson, Petrillo, Pollard, Valentine, Walters and Wesley

ABSENT: Dodd, Ms. Glasper, Ms. Novacich-Koberna and Trucano

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Public comments were received and placed on file.

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Mr. Prenzler: As I did in the interest of time in the last meeting, I basically had Kim Thomas send each of you by email, the public comments. We're doing things a little bit differently in the Board of Health and I would like to invite Dr. Loren Hughes, to come here and just introduce for a little three to four minutes get a little radical perspective.

Dr. Hughes: Hi, everybody, I really appreciate the opportunity to be here. For those who don't know me. I'm a longtime family physician, ER Director, been a 30 year resident of Madison County, had primary care and actually, several of you on this call, I think I was your physician when I was in my practice here locally. Then I also spent the last nine years as a physician executive with one of the large Catholic health systems that covers this area, as well. So, I was involved very deeply with the implementation of the COVID response for most of the central Illinois working with a lot of the other physician leaders that we had in Central Illinois. Then we brought it down here met with all the physician leaders of our local hospitals, most of all of our systems are represented on the meetings that I was involved in, as well as those in St. Louis. So, our general approach that we've had to COVID has been much involved with meetings and

committees that that I've been part of. So, now that I've just recently left the company and so I'm kind of a semi-retired spot right now. I really thought I could help out with this and Kurt had reached out to me and asked if I could help give some medical advice. So, what I just want to do is kind of look at this from a family physician and just sort of a health point of view. Also, look at it from somebody who's worked with a large corporation and healthcare, in terms of how we do things. So, let's just start the beginning and let's just reset things because, I think things have really changed a lot. This is something we've never experienced before and we are really, you know, dealing with new territory every day. So, as we you know, as we found out at the beginning of this several months ago, this virus came out of nowhere, and it is a killer. I mean, we know that, it's taken a lot of lives around the world and has taken a lot of lives in our own country. That's the nature of these viruses, these infectious processes. They do take lives and they are things that they survive because of the fact that they can infiltrate people and they can spread from person to person with fair ease. So, that's one thing that really had us mobilized initially and so we were projecting, you know, millions of deaths. You know, I've heard 1 million that I even heard as high as 2.1 million, which is the highest I've ever heard. Now, I think we're thinking of somewhere come down around maybe 75 to 100,000 deaths, or actually 100,000 deaths, or maybe even a little bit more. But again, that's what's frightened everybody, the nonstop news media really had it going. I think at that point in time, we were just really looking at what in the world do we do. So, we talked about flattening the curve, and that's a term that we're getting tired of now, but basically, we just did not want to overwhelm our healthcare system to the point where we were having patients die for lack of health care availability. So, because of that, we started putting all of the stay at home orders, all of the masking, the quarantining, we started the whole Public Health Department approach to how we dealt with COVID and we've tried to flatten the curve. The thing that most of us don't think about anymore is the fact that the curve had an area, there's a certain amount of area under a curve by pushing down on that curve, we certainly flattened but all we did was extend the duration of the curve further out, almost you know, to an infinity point. So, you would expect that we did not eliminate the curve, we only pressed it down and tried to suppress the curve so we would not overwhelm our ability to care for people that were needing intensive care services primarily. So, because of that, this virus doesn't have an end date, we can't tell you for sure when this thing is going to end. What we can tell you, the only way it's going to end, it's going to end if we put every single person in the world under quarantine for 14 or 21 days until the last speck of virus in the world goes away. Because, even one location that this virus lives in can spread it back to the rest of the world or we have to wait until we get a vaccine that's 100% effective or nearly so and we get a vast majority of Americans that take that vaccine and develop immunity, which eventually, when you get to around 60% of the US population that's immune now you have herd immunity or you develop herd immunity by just natural spread of the disease among our population. At some point, we will get 60% of our population immune to this virus. Then, when you have more people that are immune than are susceptible, you'll start to see a drop in cases, the severity of the cases, and you're still going to have that bell curve where you're going to have the elderly at high risk, and you're going to have the others younger. So again, the whole concept here is that we're in a mode and it seems like we sort of think that every death we have is a huge loss and there should not be deaths. But again, at the beginning of this, we expected a certain number of deaths to occur and so what we've done is learned a lot about how we can mitigate the spread of the disease but that still doesn't necessarily mean that you're going to have a total fewer deaths at the end than you did at the beginning. Until we get herd immunity, a cure of some sort, or we have everyone quarantine so this thing extinguishes on its own. So, that's why you're hearing all of this talk now about, you know, is it going to come back, you know, things like that. Those are the areas we just don't know about. It's sort of a long and ongoing infection, that sort of a parallel line, not a dropping line, because as soon as you open things back up a bit, you will expect to see an increased case number because we have the same number of people sitting in their homes that do not have immunity. Once they go outside get exposed, they have a chance of getting it. So, we need to take advantage again, if we if you all decide that you want to open the county back up, as many places are doing, my advice would just be let's just take my best things we've learned from around the country and put those in place. We do know that social distancing works, we know that PPE masking and personal hygiene helps, you know wiping down surfaces and keeping areas as possible work. Those are the biggies. We do know that, we also know that finding out

who has the disease with testing, tracking those people down for all their contacts and also going to the hotspots that develop and having these ability to do that through our health department, which, you know, we are blessed to have such an incredible health department here in Madison County, compared to many of the counties in the state and nation. We do have a lot of talented people here. So, we do have a good area. So, the decision will be yours as to whether or not you're ready to open things up. If we do, I do think we have mitigation plans so we can put those in place. I've looked at a lot of them and there's an excellent one out right now called Back to Business that's been put together by some legislative congressman from Illinois, in Springfield, here in the southern part of the state that really go almost job by job and sort of business by business on what mitigation plans could be on how to limit the spread of this infection if we do open things back up and do it in a stepwise approach. The other thing I would just comment is nothing that you would decide to do is written in stone. This is a very volatile fluctuating process and I think that watching data and assessing the situation as you go and making adjustments on the fly, that's just the nature of business, all of you do that every day, or all of our people who run businesses adjust. So, that's where I would just like to say is that whatever decision you all make, I do think we have ways we can help and do it but, it's going to take a lot of collaboration between your health department along with the businesses, and the people in our communities, you know, following guidelines and doing the right thing. We can't always control that, I was an ER guy for a long time and I saw a lot of stupid human tricks that take place, did that a lot. But, you know, again, we can set up rules and regulations to try to make that as safe as possible so, with that, I will leave it's your decision. I know you're all voted in because people trust you, and I think this is one of those moments where it's going to come to the bear. So, thanks.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Dr. Hughes. County Board Member, Jamie Goggin had a suggestion today that we would maybe just let every county board member have the opportunity to speak, and you certainly don't have to say anything if you have nothing to say. I would like to just kind of go through all the county board members and let them let them speak a little bit before we come to the resolution or maybe we could put the resolution in discussion and so if I could perhaps begin with, I would invite a motion for the resolution.

The following resolution was submitted and read:

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR THE RESPONSIBLE
RE-OPENING OF MADISON COUNTY**

WHEREAS, we are a Constitutional Republic in the midst of a national public health crisis which has created a necessary tension between Constitutional rights and protecting the public; and,

WHEREAS, this nation was founded upon the ideal that government is best when it governs the least; and,

WHEREAS, while we recognize there are certain aspects of this public health crisis that are appropriately managed at the Federal or State level, we also believe that local governments are best suited to promulgate rules and regulations that affect citizens locally; and,

WHEREAS, we recognize our duty under Illinois State Statutes to function as the Board of Health of Madison County, taking into consideration national and state rules in regard to this public health crisis, recognizing the unique local problems presented in Madison County, and believing in the innate common sense, responsibility and reasonableness of our Madison County citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Health wishes to balance the goals of (a) public health, (b) constitutional rights, and (c) improving the local economy and helping businesses and churches “re-open” in a safe and responsible way; and,

WHEREAS, the Madison County Board of Health recognizes the economy of Madison County has suffered a sudden and severe decline, evidenced by:

- a. 15,000 citizens of Madison County filed new applications for unemployment during the months of March and April, and
- b. the county received a WARN notice from US Steel indicating that 737 union and management jobs may be lost in the next 90 days, and
- c. the decline in gasoline use is impacting the Roxana refinery, which is the largest in the Midwest, employs 800 workers and as many as 1,000 contract workers, and pays more than \$24 million in property taxes to various taxing districts; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Health wishes to provide an efficient process for businesses and churches to re-open in an way consistent with the goals of public health, due process, and strictly in accordance with the laws of Illinois (20 ILCS 2305/2(c)) and the rules and regulations of the Illinois Department of Public Health (Section 690.1330 Order and Procedure for Isolation, Quarantine and Closure).

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County Board of Health of Madison County, Illinois, hereby promulgates the following Rules and Guidelines for conduct during this public health crisis, and the following procedures to re-open any business in Madison County is hereby adopted:

1. If a business, church or other entity desires to re-open, it should send a Notice of Re-opening to the Board of Health by mail or email. Such Notice should include a plan detailing how the business, church or other entity plans to re-open in a safe and responsible way, with phasing, if appropriate. For purposes of efficiency, the plan should be copied to the Madison County Health Department.
2. The business, church or other entity may re-open once it has submitted the Notice and Plan to the Board of Health.
3. The Madison County Health Department shall evaluate the plan submitted and conduct an investigation if necessary. The Health Department will determine if the plan is reasonable and does not jeopardize public health. The Health Department may suggest modifications to the plan and shall discuss any modifications with the business, church or other entity to attempt to come to an agreement with the business, church or other entity before proceeding with any court action.
4. If the Department disapproves the Plan, and if the Department and the business, church or other entity cannot reach an agreement on a plan to re-open, then the Department shall notify the business, the Board of Health and the State's Attorney's office.
5. Upon notification from the Board of Health or the Health Department, the State's Attorney's office may file a court proceeding to close the business pursuant to law.
6. If the State's Attorney's office files such a court proceeding to close the business, church or other entity, it is required to prove by clear and convincing evidence that operating according to the Plan will endanger public health.
7. Any general Stay-at-Home directive is hereby lifted. Elderly and others at risk are advised to exercise extra caution when going out.
8. All businesses are deemed essential. Businesses are free to impose their own restrictions on entry or use of their stores or shops as they deem appropriate and the public is encouraged to observe and comply with these restrictions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board of Health of Madison County, Illinois, encourages all citizens to conduct themselves in accordance with these Guidelines, IDPH and CDC guidelines and common sense, in a socially responsible manner. As in the criminal law, we recognize that some will not act reasonably or within the spirit of these Guidelines. For anyone who does not adhere to these common-sense reasonable and responsible Guidelines and who acts recklessly, we will direct the

Madison County Health Department, under the authority of the county Board of Health, to seek enforcement for individual violations of this Resolution.

Adopted this 8th Day of May, 2020.

Kurt Prenzler
Chairman, Madison County Board of Health

Mr. Walters moved, seconded by Mr. Wesley to approve the resolution as presented.

On the question:

Mr. Parkinson: I'd like to make a motion to amend the resolution.

Mr. Prenzler: Well, before we do that, I'd like to hear from all the county board members and give everyone an opportunity to speak tonight. Beginning with Ms. Judy Kuhn...

Mr. Parkinson: I would still like my motion entertained. I would like to make a motion to amend the resolution to ask the state's attorney to seek a lawsuit on behalf of the...

Mr. Prenzler: Let's give everyone an opportunity to speak before we go there.

Mr. Parkinson: I'm allowed to make a motion, sir.

Mr. Prenzler: You sure are.

Mr. Parkinson: I'm allowed to make a motion.

Mr. Prenzler: You sure are.

Mr. Malone: I second that motion.

Mr. Parkinson: I'd like to make a motion. I want to I want to make a motion that we amend this resolution to ask the state attorney to file a lawsuit on behalf of the businesses in the Madison County area and the citizens of Madison County to determine the validity of Governor Pritzker's rules in keeping businesses closed.

Mr. Prenzler: Ok, before we begin discussing that, I'd like to hear from all county board members this evening beginning with Ms. Kuhn.

Mr. Parkinson: I have a motion on the floor.

Mr. Prenzler: Yes, I understand. I think that we go through a lot of these meetings and we only hear from say four or five county board members and I think it was quite a good suggestion from Jamie Goggin.

Mr. Parkinson: Point of parliamentary procedure, there was a second to my motion.

Mr. Prenzler: Mr. Parkinson...

Mr. Madison: Point of order, point of order, Mr. Chairman, point of order.

Mr. Prenzler: Yes.

Mr. Madison: I believe we can have discussion either way.

Mr. Prenzler: Ok, we can have discussion either way. Ms. Kuhn, if you could please just share with us your thoughts this evening. We'll just go to all the county board members.

Ms. Kuhn: Yes, well, I for one thing, I think I've sat on the Board for a long time and everyone knows that I am not political. I have thought this over and thought it over and I really appreciate everyone's thoughts. I don't want to see anything political about it. I feel that this is a very *inaudible* where I live, it doesn't make sense to me that you have businesses that are huge, that are getting oodles of people in their facility, and you have a small business that is not allowed to open. Now, I'm totally concerned about the businesses but the way this is set up, you're having people congregate in larger groups. It doesn't make sense to me. Most of the people are actually their employees, they're the boss. The legislators are not the boss. We're supposed to be there to help the people out and I'm very, very concerned about the people. I really appreciate the doctors who made a lot of sense. I think we just have to consider, I understand this is really scary, but southern Illinois is totally different than up north, it's totally different.

Mr. Prenzler: Very good, thank you, Ms. Kuhn. Mr. Don Moore, County Board Member, Moore?

Mr. Moore: Yes, Mr. Chairman, thank you, and thank you very much, Dr. Hughes for your comments kicking this off. Just a general comment, probably like most of us think, this is sort of a no brainer for me, I, wholeheartedly, support the spirit and intent of this resolution to lift the stay at home order and get businesses open as long as they do in a responsible fashion, which reading public comments that were submitted to us, overwhelmingly, they feel like they're ready to take this on and open in a responsible fashion and still keep in mind the health and safety of every person that would come into and be associated with their businesses. A couple comments specific about the resolution, I think, there's probably going to be some opportunity for some revision. I'll just make a couple of brief comments that whenever we do that, at some point, I'm assuming that whenever you speak of businesses and churches to reopen, you're including all different types of businesses. I just want to make sure like summer camps or sport leagues, I don't know if they need to be specifically identified but that should be definitely noted in what we talked about as far as opening businesses. On the second page, number two, at the top of my second page, it says, therefore be it resolved, it talks about the business church or other entity may reopen once they've submitted a notice and plan to be to the Board of Health. I don't know if that was really meant to be put there because it sounds like all we're saying is that you submit your plan and go ahead and open. I don't think that's what we have in mind.

Mr. Prenzler: Actually, what I did have in mind, but again, I put this out there as a draft for everyone to comment on but that's indeed what I did have in mind.

Mr. Moore: I would just add, if you want to keep that there, fine, but I was thinking of removing that and putting in its place, once notice of reopening is received by the health department, the submitter will be notified within 10 working days of the Board's decision. I think it's important we put ourselves on the hook to get back to the business as soon as possible because there could be waiting with bated breath of the decision to open or not. I would like to put a little pressure on us by having us get back to them within one mile time. That's my comment.

Mr. Prenzler: Very good. Mr. Phil Chapman?

Mr. Chapman: I have looked through all of my emails and I don't see a copy of the resolution, I only see a copy of the agenda that says there will be a resolution, so it's difficult for me to comment on a document that I don't have seem to have a copy of. Oh, wait a minute here, it came out at 11:16am. There's no 24-48 hour rule on these things? We can just do them? I guess we can just do today? I would like to read this and have you come back to me, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Prenzler: Very good, Mr. Chapman. Mr. Michael?

Mr. Michael: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yeah, I mean, my comment is pretty much in line with everybody else's. I'm very disappointed in the plan the Governor put forward, I don't really see that as a plan to reopen at all. It's a horrible plan to extend his current order. We know our businesses and the individuals and the county have a pragmatic and serious sinful approach to things and how they can open. I think we need to give them that freedom and with the health department as very capable as they are, they can oversee this in a reasonable way so everybody can have a win-win here. That's my opinion.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Mr. Michael. Mr. Madison?

Mr. Madison: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'll just kind of voice my opinion. I believe we need to get open as soon as possible. I realize that nobody's going to think that the resolution is perfect. I, honestly, don't know that we need a resolution because the law is the law in Illinois. I think it's very, very clear what the law says and it's been violated. *inaudible* sends a message to the residents of Madison County that your reopening your *inaudible* that you can do that. I think as far as the health department, it's a case by case situation and liability. *inaudible* and do testing to see if the businesses remain open or not. I just think we're going to have to play this smart. We'll do what we have to do and to learn to ride. I agree with the doctor that we basically are delaying and we are not going to stop the virus, it's going to stop when it stops. We can be smart, we can reopen. Right now, we're devastating many individuals and honestly, a lot of people are being deprived of liberty and property. That's a bill of rights violation, the Fifth Amendment, so we need to get this thing open. I would discourage attorneys from workman's comp lawsuits and trying to get *inaudible*. I would discourage attorneys to go out and sue business trying to win money and sue people over this opportunity, because it would bankrupt America. We need to get better economically *inaudible*.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Mr. Madison. Mr. Wesley?

Mr. Wesley: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I want to let you know that I thank your work and leading this effort to get citizens this county back to work and back to normal life. My primary concern is returning the workforce to their workplaces. We have to do it in a responsible manner and we can take your plan and we can propose and we can make it stronger, as long as we protect the county's interests. My only concern is that we have everything in here that we need to protect the county. I think this resolution is a great starting place to begin with the process opening businesses. We have to amend it, fin, I'm okay with that too. As long as we strengthen it to protect not only the county but also aid and assist in the businesses that are that are out there ready and willing to go back to work. We're the eighth largest county in Illinois and as far as the Governor's plan, we've got to set a region. I think we should, personally, be in a county by county process and I think we ought to be in a standalone region with our county. We've got again, the eighth largest population in the state and I believe we've got not only staff that's qualified and committed, we've got business leaders in this county that can certainly lead us through their own efforts and how they open their businesses so I'm ready and willing to get this county open.

Mr. Prenzler: Very good. Thank you, Mr. Wesley. Mr. Walters?

Mr. Walters: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also want to extend my thanks to you for leading this charge, we do need to get our county open. By the way of information, I don't know if anybody knows the last time a Governor did what Governor Pritzker did but, it was after 911 and that was Governor Ryan. The legislators made it perfectly clear to him that they were not going to extend this past the 30 days, they weren't going to give him an additional 30 days. That was that you got 30 days also, it was noted that after 30 days, the Governor needs to get the approval of the legislators in order to extend it. He has not done that therefore, most people that I've talked to, mostly lawyers, agree that his executive order has come and gone. A couple things, I also looked at this plan, he has five stages, which most people I've talk to can't explain these stages. The biggest problem I have, stage five, we have to not only come up with a vaccine, but it has to be readily available. Now, the problem I have with that, there are other viruses that we don't have vaccines for. HIV is a virus that is 25 years old, we still don't have the vaccine for it, there's no guarantee we're ever going to find a vaccine for it. Once it is done, how long will it be until it's readily available? Therefore, as far as I'm concerned, this stage is not going to happen for years and years and years. I think that he has removed the goal post and I don't think we can do that. The 2019-20 CDC report shows the flu vaccine is only helpful in 37-45% of all people that get the vaccine and only 10% of deaths are prevented by the flu. Last year, 50,000 people died of the flu. If you go around and you look at the different websites, you see 76,000 people have died. Well, the CDC website actually says it's only 47,000 and if you saw Governor Pritzker's press conference, one of his individuals got up and said, if you die and you had the COVID-19, we say you died of COVID-19. The reason why some of these places are happy to do that is they're getting more money from the federal government if they died of COVID-19. So, some of these numbers are bloated and they are blown completely out of proportion. You know, then you've got, obviously, for the vaccines, people want to be guinea pigs to do this. What about kids? Kids aren't really that affected by it. So, there's a lot of parents out there that aren't going to want their kids to have additional vaccines shot into them and they don't really think it needs to done. So, I think we need to get it open. People that want to keep it closed, I understand your view, but here's the great thing about this country, if you want to stay home, stay home, you don't want to go get your hair cut, don't. What we're doing is we're allowing people, not only businesses to get on with their business, but people get on with their life. Do we want more deaths? No. We have to do this properly and I think, Mr. Chairman, you started in a great manner. As for Mr. Parkinson wanting to have the state's attorney file a lawsuit, I say after we get this county opened up to go ahead and file the lawsuit, but I want to get the county opened up. I don't want to wait around for answers on a lawsuit that could take months to get it done.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Mr. Walters. There are quite a few folks that have open mics and we're getting some feedback. Rob, what do you think about that?

Mr. Henke: We'll mute them if it starts to act up.

Mr. Prenzler: Ok, very good, thank you, Rob's watching it, Rob Henke here. County Board Member Holliday. Yes, Mr. Holiday?

Mr. Holliday: Can you hear me?

Mr. Prenzler: Yes, we can. Yes, we can.

Mr. Holliday: I am in favor of businesses opening up in Madison County, but under our theses of what the Governor and the Illinois Department of Public Health has put forward. One thing is, I would not like for the people that have taxes be jeopardized when they reopen, you know, there's stipulations that we have to follow. I am not against the Governor's position that he has put forth. But, I think they're in compliance with what we need to do to look out for the health of the citizens of Madison County as well as Illinois. Also, you know, we may jeopardize getting money from IDPA if we do not follow their rules, so it's

important that we open, but we open in a way that is not a hazard to the people of Madison County and Illinois.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Mr. Holliday. Mr. Dodd?

Ms. Jones: He's not here.

Mr. Prenzler: Mr. Malone?

Mr. Malone: Yes, Mr. Chairman, thank you. I'm sure glad we're not making this political today. I would like to yield my time so we can hear the opinion of State's Attorney, Tom Gibbons on this resolution. That's what I'd like to hear.

Mr. Prenzler: Well, I certainly, Mr. Malone...

Mr. Malone: He was inquiring about that and I'm going to ask you if he had any input.

Mr. Prenzler: The reason we're doing this is to survey all the county board members. We'll certainly give Mr. Gibbons time to speak a little later, but the purpose of what we're doing here is just to give every county board member an opportunity to weigh in.

Mr. Malone: Ok, I got you. I'm sure everybody's going to tell you they support the opening the businesses as I do, too, but I just want to make sure we're doing it the right way.

Mr. Prenzler: Very good, thank you. Mr. Gray?

Mr. Gray: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm in support of the businesses opening, I think we need to do in a responsible manner. I think everybody has their hearts in the right places and we need to look out not only for the businesses, for the citizens and their health, as well as the rights that each and all of us as Americans share. So, I'll keep my comments short this evening.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Mr. Gray. Mr. Pollard?

Mr. Pollard: Yeah, I'll keep mine short too, Mr. Chairman, thank you. I obviously think we need to get the county open again. I truly believe that most all businesses want to do it safely and responsibly. So, leave it up to the people if they want to go out as Mike said, you're going to get people that aren't going to go out, they're not going to feel safe, that's fine. You're going to have some people, they're going to kind of get their feet wet, see what's going on out there. You're going to have other people, they're just going to go balls to the wall and that's fine, that's what it's all about. But, at the end of the day, we got to make sure they do it safely and responsibly and I think every business owner I've talked to wants to do just that. So, that's all I got to say.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Mr. Pollard. Mr. King?

Mr. King: I'm always for business, but you got to be responsible, and that's all I got to say.

Mr. Prenzler: Very good. Mr. McRae?

Mr. McRae: Can you all hear me?

Mr. Prenzler: No.

Mr. McRae: Can you guys hear me?

Mr. Prenzler: Maybe scoot up over here a little closer.

Mr. Madison: I can hear you fine, Tom.

Mr. McRae: Sorry, guys, I'm here at the county, I spent most of the afternoon here. Yeah, I think we should either, I'm all for filing a lawsuit at some point, but I don't think that we have time to go through a laborious process. A matter of fact, I met with Mr. Gibbons today, just a few hours ago and I don't know that he's on board for doing that, so that's news to me. He didn't mention anything about filing a lawsuit. The unemployment numbers today nationwide were almost 15%, and so, I think the nation and our state and our county has done its obligation in bending the curve. Bending the curve, in addition to what we've already done, I think is breaking the backs of a lot of small businesses, it's time to get Madison County back to work. I think we should either pass this resolution and work on it tonight as much as we need to perfect it or come back, you know, maybe over the weekend or whatever we need to do to let business owners know that there's a path forward. I know that we have to safely responsibly as Mr. Walters said, there's going to be some people the most vulnerable, unfortunately they're going to have to remain, you know, sheltered in place for the foreseeable future. As Dr. Hugh said, until we get a vaccine or have herd immunity, that's really the only resolution to making everyone completely safe. That's not going to happen. So, we have to do is have a responsible path forward and we have to work on that. Like I said, we have to do other things, lawsuits or whatever we may need to do in addition to this, that's fine. But, I think we need to have a path forward in the next few days and for businesses to reopen so thank you.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Mr. McRae. Miss Dutton?

Ms. Dutton: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you to Dr. Hughes for your comments at the beginning of the meeting. I can reiterate everything everybody just said. I spoke to many businesses in the last week, particularly hair salons. I've heard stories from hair stylists who are considered self-employed, and they haven't qualify for unemployment and they've been out of work since the middle of March. It's really hurting them. I'm a dental hygienist, I work in Missouri, I could probably start back up in a week or so, but I don't have childcare. I'm in Illinois and I talk to daycares who are struggling, they're worried about their license, they're ready to open up, they think they can be safe and responsible. I've heard from sports leagues, SWIBL in particular, they are working with various coaches to come up with plans on how they can have practices and games safely this summer, they're ready, their kids are ready, they all want to get back and playing again, obviously in a responsible way. I just feel like we can give people the right and trust that they will act responsibly. Those who are vulnerable should still stay home if they feel they need to. Businesses who want to open should reopen, if you don't want to open, don't reopen. I think it's that time that we put it into their hands to make those decisions and obviously, I know we have to do it in a legal and responsible way as well. I've looked at the resolution, I do have a few minor problems with it and I don't think it's anything we can't work out. If we work together on this, there's just a couple points. I'll save those for when we talk about the resolution, but I think the spirit of it is all intact and appropriate. I think everybody's heart and mind are in the right place. I am convinced that most everyone in this meeting feels the same way and as long as we don't play politics with it, and we act appropriately, I think we can get a lot of work done today.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you. Mr. Hankins?

Mr. Hankins: Thank you, Chairman. I also support opening up Madison County businesses as soon as it's safe and responsible. I've heard some good things, I liked what Don Moore said about putting a timeframe on. I think this has just been rushed a little bit. I'd like to hear from the State's Attorney, he's involved in this as far as he's got responsibility. I'd like to hear from Toni Corona, her responsibilities with their

department. What I'd really like to see is for Chairman Prenzler to appoint a couple from each side, work on it this weekend, whatever, and get these bugs worked out, take the suggestions and get a good resolution we can vote on at one time and pass and everybody can support it. That's all I have Chairman.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Mr. Hankins. Mr. Valentine?

Mr. Valentine: I'm in agreement with opening and everything, but I kind of want to echo everyone else that has talked already, that we have to be responsible, it has to be safe. We just have to use good judgment, we just can't openly just go out and open the doors and think that it's back to normal. I really just want us as a Board, to be rational. I kind of agree with Chris, that we should maybe have two from each party along with Kurt and discuss it and work out the resolution, and then come back maybe on Monday and vote on it. But, I don't think that we should rush it. We really should work out the bugs that we need to work out in the resolution and make a strong vote and all the fan favorite and not be party related.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Mr. Valentine. I want to say that I've been I've been working on this and focused on nothing else hour by hour over the past couple of weeks and indeed, I just sent it out to the County Board at 11 o'clock today, which was just four hours ago. So, I appreciate that you really haven't seen it that long, I do appreciate that. Mr. Minner?

Mr. Minner: Yes, I'm well aware of the suffering that is going on in this county, both fiscally and financially. I'm very concerned with the businesses that may not even be able to open up, some of them will probably have to go out of business so I'm definitely wanting to open the businesses up as soon as we can responsibly. I have a problem with the resolution in the fact that I checked my emails at 10 o'clock this morning, and I came back at two o'clock and I saw this and I've read it, but I haven't really read it to review and studied it. So, I think that I'm going have trouble with this resolution until I can study it for a while. Thank you.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Mr. Minner. Mr. Parkinson?

Mr. Parkinson: Yes, thank you. I too am in favor of getting the businesses back open. No city is probably more effective in Madison County than we are. Can somebody close their mic, please? You know, my concern with this the way it's written is and I strongly, strongly want everybody realize I want to do this, I want this to work, I want to work together to get this past to get our businesses back open and people to work safely for the workers and for the customers. But, I do have some concerns over businesses who based on our vote today, will defy the Governor's orders, and may lose their business license from the state of Illinois and possibly have sanctions that may end up causing us to get into litigation over that. I agree with Mick Madison in the fact that there is legalities here that are in question as to whether the Governor has the right to do this, that's why I am calling for the State's Attorney to have a quick, quick filing of a lawsuit to sue on behalf of our county, the state to get this to get this resolved, once and for all. If you guys really want to do some meaningful legislation today, it would be to file a lawsuit and get the court to rule that this is unconstitutional and that would forever end this argument and get this open. I do have to advise you that this vote today, to me, imposes civil disobedience and due to my oath of office in my other occupation, I will not be able to vote on this issue today, as it would violate my oath of that office. I do encourage all of us to work together, I think Chris is right, we need to put some more time in this quickly and get this resolved, once and for all, but I do think a lawsuit filed today would be in the best interest of resolving this forever. I implore you to vote with me to have this lawsuit filed on behalf of the businesses that will rectify this once and for all, it would be meaningful legislation today. Thank you guys.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you. Mr. Foster?

Mr. Foster: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you for bringing us all together and taking the lead on getting Madison County back open. Recently, I've spent a lot of time over in the state of Missouri which opened up last weekend. As usual, you have a lot of people abiding by what's required and you're always going to have those few that aren't going to comply with no matter what we do. I am all in favor for opening up Madison County. The State's Attorney feels necessary to file a lawsuit, I'm all for that too as well. I feel we can no longer deprive people the right to open their business and do business as normal with precaution. I, fortunately, am considered a central company. All my vendors have taken the necessary precautions to make sure people can visit their stores, get what they need in a safe and timely manner. Is it inconvenient? Yes, there's going to be a lot of inconveniences over the next six to eight months. But, I think we should open Madison County as soon as we possibly can and that's about all I have to say.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Mr. Foster. Mr. Petrillo?

Mr. Petrillo: Well, you know, all I can do is just echo what everyone said, I don't think there's anyone that doesn't want to see these businesses open, in particular, the smaller businesses that, you know, their livelihood depends on it, putting food on the table and things of that nature. But, at the same time, I think also that with this resolution that we're going to draft that we haven't had much time to read. We don't have the opinion of our State's Attorney on it and we do know that there's laws on the books, with that being said, I kind of look at the incident that we saw in Texas with the young lady that opened up this salon and of course, in my opinion, that judge made a horrible decision. We've heard his comments that I think were incorrect, as far as I'm concerned. But, that was all rectified and she's free and I've heard it, she's even had a number of dollars sent in to take care of the fines that that were placed upon her. With that being said, you know, input from our State's Attorney and Toni Corona, but I would also say this, I remember a few years back that someone had said, let's vote for this thing and we can make adjustments after we voted it in. I didn't like that at that time and I do have a lot of questions about this at this time. So, but as far as businesses open, who could be against that?

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Mr. Petrillo. Mr. Goggin?

Mr. Goggin: Thank you. I have several things that I've written down here and they aren't all based towards an argument, they're kind of from both sides. I talked to Public Safety in Edwardsville and they're wanting to bring forth their concerns. They were concerned about the lack of testing in Madison County, not necessarily to blame Madison County for that, but just the fact that well, it's not very transparent when we see the daily reports. But, when I go look in the state's data, it looks like Madison County is testing about four to one, four tests for every positive, but nationally, it's six to one. So, you know, we aren't able to do the test in Madison County. Then another thing, looking at the data is we can't tell where it's coming from. You know, a lot of these deaths have been in nursing homes, but we don't really know exactly how many, and the people don't know how to interpret the data. You know, what their real risk is, people feel like it's being hidden from them. They had eight people die in one nursing home and didn't even know that that was going on. The Firemen in Edwardsville didn't know they had an outbreak in a nursing home and they're worried about liability. If we open things up, they're going to have people exposed, and they're worried about their employees and the City being on the hook for that. Those are the concerns that I wanted to bring. On the other side of all that, I have a lot of physicians, my friends and family are physicians and healthcare professionals and I personally talked to three physicians, a nurse and a pharmacist and they all tell me that this is a bad flu and it is overblown what society has done. It's just completely overblown to the risk to the public into force our country into a great depression is out of control for the risk to the average citizen. If we keep this shutdown going, there's going to be bankruptcies, people are going to lose their homes, going to have mental health issues, drug and alcohol issues, suicides, it's just going to be devastating. So, there's more at risk than just people that are going to die from the illness itself. Then, onto Pritzker's plan, it's a joke. It's a joke, it's an insult to the down state. There's no end of the timeline. We're in phase two, to get to phase three, where we open up small businesses, it could go on indefinitely. It could go on a year just to

get to the next phase and is unreasonable. Our governor does not hear the cries of Southern Illinois and I don't know a way to get his attention, then through this vote. He's, not listening to letters. You've seen the videos where he laughs at Southern Illinois when people ask about opening businesses in southern Illinois, he laughs at us. So, I don't know how else to get his attention. As for Mr. Parkinson's amendment, I would like to see it, I would like to see a lawsuit. I would like to see it as a separate resolution. Mike introduced the amendment, but he can't even vote on this, he tells us, so, I think it should be a separate resolution. Thank you for your time.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Mr. Goggin. Mr. Guy?

Mr. Guy: We in Madison County identify ourselves more in the St. Louis region, I see the papers, St. Louis is talking about reopening May 18th. Our issues are vastly different than the City of Chicago. The same guidelines for Chicago shouldn't be the same for Madison County. I don't like the fact that the big box stores remain open, but not our small businesses. It's ridiculous a family of five can't enjoy boating together, it's forcing parents to choose between one person or one child in their family to enjoy an afternoon on the Mississippi River or enjoy a lake in our state. I care about the individuals unemployed right now, I care about the businesses which are closed, if the state forced them to shut down. They want to support their families, they want the government to stay out of their lives. I think our residents are looking for someone to fight for them. When we get open, I would like our health department to consider a plan for contact tracing and increased availability for testing. I think this resolution does send a message to our Governor that we want to take a regional approach to reopening and we disagree with this. His plan really does not plan on opening us up anytime soon. I do think we need to move towards that, but I still do think we have to be careful and make some tweaks to somethings and not rush into anything but I do think we need to practice our plan. I appreciate the hard work Chairman Prenzler and the members of the Reopening Committee have done on this resolution. It's important to note the health of everyone in Madison County is not taken lightly, which I see section three, states that the Health Department shall evaluate the plan submitted, conducted an investigation, if necessary, so I did see that in there. I am concerned for businesses if we do vote to reopen the businesses in the County, I'm concerned about the retaliation from the state if they lose their liquor license or barber license or salon or their insurance liability to, I'm concerned about that. I'm glad we're having this discussion to reopen the state. Like I said, I think we're different in Madison County than the City of Chicago, we identify ourselves with the St. Louis Region. I can go on and on but that's what I have to say for now

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Mr. Guy, Ms. Harriss?

Ms. Harriss: It's kind of breaking up on my end, I'll do my best. Most of us find ourselves here in office or positions of influence because we care about people and we want to make a difference in our communities. Some of these decisions which are common with laws are not easy, and this is certainly one of those times. Here in Madison County, I think like the rest of the country, there's been a wave of information, panic, misinformation, an overall feeling of anxiousness, frustration and anxiety. At the recent changes in our communities, we've all come together to do our parts to flatten the curve and to keep our neighbors and our loved ones safe and that is absolutely commendable. Locally while our numbers are up, we are testing more people more, testing sites have opened and the curve is going down. As a member of the Opening up Madison County Again Committee, I've talked to numerous businesses over the last several weeks and many are feeling increasingly devastated who have not received financial assistance and feel as if they're being treated unfairly, like open with the same safety precautions the essential businesses are currently operating under but we aren't allowing them to do that. These businesses have relationships with their clients, they care about them and they don't want to endanger people. They understand customers also need to feel safe to venture back out into their businesses. I listened on yesterday to the meeting of our Health Advisory Board and I learned that health care providers are also concerned about other issues, which as a society, we're ignoring. *inaudible* how patients with minor issues have not been able to be seen and

how these minor issues are now becoming emergencies. A healthcare person on the call mentioned the children who are no longer getting immunized now that we're opening ourselves up to a disease and another healthcare professional talked about mental health and the impact that it's having on people. Local news recently celebrated how the number of child abuse numbers is down. Our friend shared with me how this isn't actually a reason for celebration. Numbers haven't likely decreased but we're simply not able to talk to vulnerable kids that are no longer attending school or daycare where mandated reporters are providing a lifeline to them. So, this pandemic impact has been diverse, we need to remember that. We need to remember its far, far reach. A shut down is not a long term solution. I'm afraid a lawsuit will drag on and on and on. I think it's time to have conversations, it's time to make tough decisions, we have been elected to do so and we need to figure out how we can safely open our community.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Ms. Harriss. Mr. Jones?

Mr. Jones: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't be that long, I echo everybody else and I want to see the businesses get open. I think everybody does in the safest manner as possible, quickly as possible, to allow everybody to get back to a little bit of normalcy back to their lives. I think it's an issue that a lot of people are not really thinking of, just about the ability to travel, you know, go to work, go to church, the things that we all just kind of take for granted. One thing I would like to say on this too, though, is if we pass this resolution, the battle for some of these businesses aren't over because they still have to deal with their local municipalities for their business license. We don't supersede all the local municipalities. So, they're going to have to go to each and every municipality in our county. They will still have the right to say whether or not they can or cannot open. So, we actually just think we're covering the county, not every business. That's something a lot of these business owners are going to have to take into consideration before they open up. They're going to have to check with their local municipality too. Thank you.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Mr. Jones. Ms. Dalton?

Ms. Dalton: Thank you, Chairman. I echo what the rest of the Board has already said about we need to reopen our businesses, especially the small businesses. I realize how they are hurting and that some of them may not be able to reopen again. But, in the same sense, I'd like to have our State's Attorney give us some advice about what's going on, rather than us just jump out there and say we accept the ordinance that's put before us, especially the last part of the ordinance is talking about the fact that businesses can just reopen and do their thing. You know, I know that they're responsible business people, and they will do the right thing, but I still have to look at the fact that each day when we get our health report, the numbers are still climbing and so are the deaths. I know people are getting tested, but I think that we need to know how many people are being tested because that number never shows up, where other areas are showing their testing numbers are out there. I realize, especially that we need to open our churches again, for people to be able to come together and pray but they have to do it in a responsible manner, just like the rest of us. We need to get on with our lives, but we have to do it in a responsible manner and what we're trying to do in the county, we need to be on legal status. We don't want to cause the repercussion or lawsuits brought against the county or our small businesses or big ones, that they lose their license because we're doing something incorrect. Thank you.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Ms. Dalton. I promised Mr. Chapman I would get back to him so Mr. Chapman?

Mr. Chapman: Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for sending this very detailed plan to us, proposed plan to us. I believe continuing the Governor's plan is irresponsible and apparently illegal, illegal and it appears to encroach on the Bill of Rights, our personal liberties of religion, travel, commerce, the right to associate with people. The Coronavirus should not overpower the Bill of Rights. Also, currently illegal is the Governor can't legislate, other levels of government can and should not abdicate their responsibility. This includes our state legislature, our county boards, and our municipal governments, as

Mr. Jones pointed out. Reopening is essential. We don't need another Great Depression. Other states have reopened successfully. Entire nations such as Israel have reopened, and Sweden never closed down. Unlike the US Congress, we should not pass something we haven't read or given sufficient time to. Therefore, I agree with Mr. McRae and others who say that this proposed resolution needs to be fine-tuned, but it should not be an excuse to go on forever and ever. If people were willing to volunteer and work it out over the weekend, I would be most interested in whether whatever product they come up with On Monday, so I appreciate it very much all the comments of my colleagues. Thank you.

Mr. Prenzler: I'd now like to address Mr. Parkinson, Mr. Parkinson next, then I'd like to hear from Mr. Gibbons and also from our Director of the Health Department Toni Corona, if she would like to make some comments. Mr. Parkinson, your idea of a lawsuit, I do not see that as incompatible with what we're doing this evening. So, if we can first deal with the resolution and then I'd be happy to address what you're talking about. Mr. Gibbons, are you on the line?

Mr. Gibbons: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Prenzler: Mr. Gibbons I want to say that indeed, I think I just emailed it to you at 11:15 so I recognize that I was working very hard on this and I wanted to get it done at 9 in the morning but it took me until after 11 and so I just want everyone to know that, and so Mr. Gibbons, go ahead.

Mr. Gibbons: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to the members of the Board and to the members of the public who are with us today. I think that the members of this Board have shown an incredible and acute aware of the needs of our county and of the citizens. You know, and the need for a safe and balanced approach to move forward and to do everything we can to keep the members of the community safe and also fight for our business owners and fight for our economic engines here to make sure that the people can be back to work and businesses can be up and running and doing that in a safe way. I had a great meeting this afternoon with a couple members of the Board and discussed what I think are some things that we can probably start working on to improve what's in here to take this as a blueprint and move forward and I volunteered my entire weekend to forgo my honey do list this weekend and instead work on this very important resolution, and try to find a way to craft something that will support the reopening of our businesses in a safe manner. But also, most importantly, for me, as your attorney, make sure that we're not having the County, the County Board of Health, the Health Department, or the Emergency Management Agency run afoul of anything that's going to cause long term or substantial problems. I think it's also important that several members have mentioned about the potential ramifications for local business owners that relate to their state licensing and I think that's something that we need to be sure to be talking about and trying to make sure as part of the conversation so we keep our business owners up to speed on this. You know, at this time, this is all very new and Chairman Prenzler, thank you for sending this around and we all recognize, you know, there's a lot of work needs to be done, I and my staff are willing to do the research that I think we need to do to iron out some of the concerns that we see kind of on the face of this and try to find tweaks to it that would be effective, but also at least, reduce or eliminate potential liabilities for the County, for the Board of Health, the Health Department, etc.

Mr. Prenzler: Mr. Gibbons, I have a question, do you feel that you and your staff would like more time to review this before we vote on this resolution?

Mr. Gibbons: I certainly ask for that. I think that there are some things that give me just reading it, you know, at first blush, give me some concern for the Board of Health, for the County. So, I think yes, that we would greatly appreciate some opportunity to do some additional research, look at some of the other paths that have been followed in other areas, I think that we don't have to reinvent the wheel on everything, so I think that there are some good plans out there. I appreciate one of the members who provided me with several of those this afternoon. We can start digging into those. So yes, I would appreciate that because that

will give us some time to put us on a better legal footing, but I don't think we need more than early next week.

Mr. Prenzler: Ok, what would be a comfortable time frame for you and your staff to review some of the legal issues involved here.

Mr. Gibbons: I think by Tuesday or Wednesday, we're probably going to be safely in that zone where we will have a totally comprehensive understanding and be able to have back and forth with the members about some of the individual things, because I expect that you know, we're going to take a look at it as drafted. Also looking at other options and then try to craft with some of the members and yourself of course, and see how we put those things together and as new ideas surface you know, we're going to have to look at those individually as they come up. I don't expect that the conversation just ends with the information we have now. It's going to be ongoing. But, I would say early and really at the latest maybe Wednesday, I think we could we could have really a lot of solid work don and be ready for that. We're willing to dig in.

Mr. Prenzler: Would you be comfortable if we call the meeting for five o'clock on Tuesday?

Mr. Gibbons: I think that, yeah, I think that should work.

Mr. Prenzler: Okay.

Mr. Gibbons: I think so.

Mr. Prenzler: Then any other...

Mr. Gibbons: Can I address the lawsuit issue?

Mr. Prenzler: Yes, I want to deal with first the resolution. I don't see the two being compatible.

Mr. Gibbons: I understand.

Mr. Prenzler: So I think I could go forward.

Mr. Walters: From hearing what I'm hearing, maybe it might be best if I withdraw the motion. Maybe what we should do then, is withdraw the motion, set up a little committee and have them work through this. I'm just throwing that out there. And so Tuesday we would be ready with the committee's recommendations along with the State's Attorneys recommendation. That's just a thought.

Mr. Prenzler: Would you like to withdraw that motion and then make a motion, Mr. Walters, to reconvene at Tuesday at five o'clock on the resolution?

Mr. Walters: Yeah, I'm willing to do that.

Mr. Prenzler: Yes, Mr. Parkinson, I'm trying first to deal with the first resolution. I'd like to talk about the lawsuit after we deal with the resolution.

Mr. Parkinson: I want to go along with what we're doing here and I want to withdraw mine as well in efforts to work together.

Mr. Prenzler: Ok, so we have now, Mr. Walters withdrew his motion, Mr. Wesley withdrew his second. So I would invite Mr. Walters for you to make clear your motion then regarding the resolution.

Mr. Walters: My motion is to withdraw the resolution. I would like to have a committee set up, I think it should be three republicans, two democrats and Chairman Prenzler to work with our States Attorney's Office and then we should reconvene on Tuesday to take a look. Hopefully, we'll have the information before that to vote on the resolution.

Mr. Prenzler: Mr. Malone, how do you feel about that?

Mr. Malone: I'm all for that, that's why I wanted Mr. Gibbons to speak during my time slot in the beginning, thank you.

Mr. Prenzler: Very good, well, we have this motion. Do we have a second?

Mr. Wesley: Second.

Mr. Prenzler: Mr. Wesley. We have a motion and a second. Any discussion? Hearing none, roll call.

Mr. Walters moved, seconded by Mr. Wesley to withdraw the resolution and create a committee of 3 republicans and 2 democrats to work on a revised resolution with Chairman Prenzler and the State's Attorney's Office to review on Tuesday, May 12th @ 5pm.

The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows:

AYES: Chapman, Ms. Dalton, Ms. Dutton, Foster, Goggin, Gray, Guy, Hankins, Ms. Harriss, Holliday, Jones, King, Kuhn, Madison, Malone, McRae, Michael, Minner, Moore, Parkinson, Petrillo, Pollard, Valentine, Walters and Wesley

NAYS: None.

AYES: 25. NAYS: 0. Whereupon the Chairman declared the foregoing motion approved.

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Mr. Prenzler: Thank you. I did promise an opportunity for our Health Department Director, Ms. Toni Corona, if she would like to speak, Ms. Corona, are you on the line?

Ms. Corona: I am, Mr. Chairman, thank you and I appreciate the opportunity to speak. I'm going to reserve, I had some other comments that I was going to say, but I'm going to reserve those comments. I would hope that I could bring some of the concerns that I was going to bring to the Board of Health today if I was afforded the opportunity to have discussion with the committee so that we can really talk about, you know, the real deal with how we would make this work within the scope of the Madison County Health Department. I've never not followed the guidance or directive of the Illinois Department of Health in all of my 30 years but there are certainly some questions that I have associated with how we would actually go about reopening the county outside of the scope of what's been handed from the state. But, what I'd like to do is to take a few moments because for some of you, this is really the first opportunity I've had as the Director of the Health Department to talk to all of you regarding what our response has been thus far. I appreciate some of the comments that some of you have made, they should not fall on deaf ears but you guys continually request to have additional data and information and I want you to know that we work diligently to provide you what we can provide you. The first positive case of COVID that was reported in a Madison County resident on March 17, 2020. I remember it well, because it was the very first death that was reported in the state of Illinois. You know, and mitigation measures were implemented then as the

doctor had spoken earlier about, you know, trying to slow the spread of the community, etc., flatten the curve, etc. I won't, you know, go into that anymore with you. What I want you to know that as of today, they were reporting 411 positive cases in Madison County residents. Of these cases, 81 individuals were hospitalized at diagnosis, 30 of these individuals have died. Our response has involved assisting in setting up testing centers, we'll always want more testing centers. I'm happy to say that as of last week, we finally got two more on the books and that's all good, things are moving positive to get where we want. But, part of our responses involves setting up testing centers, handling PPE requests, that's personal protection equipment requests for first responders, health care workers, long term care facilities, providing infection control planning and management of congregate settings with outbreaks. We have two outbreaks, significant outbreaks in long term care facilities. Ms. Dalton, I'll follow up with you offline to show you or maybe it was Mr. Goggin that asked about information. That information is very easily available on our dashboard through tabs going through Illinois Department of Public Health where you can see that. Of the 30 deaths that we're reporting in Madison County, 80% of those deaths have involved residents associated with long term care facilities, the other 20% have not been associated...

inaudible

Ms. Corona: Shall I continue?

Mr. Prenzler: Yes, go ahead.

Ms. Corona: Ok, sorry I digress, I was trying to report about long term care facilities. We provide infection control planning and management consultations. We have a staff with a multi-disciplined approach that we work with our congregate settings and this includes employers where we've identified group cases in the essential, you know, businesses, etc., the folks that are actually working right now. So, we provide infection control planning and management with every single cluster case that we identify, what that means is, we take a multi-disciplinary approach for we have environmental health staff, we have nursing staff, and we have Illinois Department of Public Health congregate setting staff. I've actually, Mary Cooper, who was our former Health Protection Director, who retired three years ago, she's actually been brought back to help us be that congregate settings expert, if you will, to be able to review infection control process and planning so that we can easily as quickly as possible, try to mitigate any risk and identify any risk associated so that we can stop the spread, especially within these long term care centers. We handle all the positive cases we conduct contact tracing of the positive cases. There's been a lot of stuff in the news recently about Illinois and even in Missouri, trying to build up contact tracers. Folks, we've been doing that from the very beginning of the 411 cases, we currently monitor and have monitored and placed in quarantine or isolation over 600 people associated with those 400 cases. So, there's an incredible amount of work that my small staff of 37 individuals is doing as an effort of response, we have worked tirelessly, tirelessly, since, frankly, the beginning of January and February, because we were actually preparing for a pandemic full scale exercise in October, which is really ironic that clearly, we don't need an exercise because we're in the midst of it. But, we've been going full speed since we had that first COVID briefing on March 4, 2020. We really haven't looked back. We're going to continue to see positive cases of COVID-19 in Madison County and unfortunately, we're going to continue to see associated deaths, that's the real life public health consequences of it. My lens that I provide with you is only through that public health end up. You know, as I said, we're all about doing what we need to do as the staff in the department. We are very proud people, of professionals and multi-disciplines that do a lot of things on the efforts of public health every single day. It's our skill set that I think lends itself to the competence and the skill level that the response has as already incurred and that's why I can report to you with confidence that we're handling it. The increased work that the resolution potentially implies on the Health Department's part, bring it on, but I'm going to tell you, hear me loud, we're matched for holding on by our fingernails right this second, and there'll be a lot of consequences, intended and unintended, certainly, as we continue on in this response. But, you know, that's probably my greatest pause on how we how we look at being everything that you want us to be in this lens

and continuing to do the response that we have to do. So, that's why I really hope that I'm able to work also and be involved with bringing my concerns, at least to the table of the groups that plan this because I do think that we really want to make sure that that we're addressing, we're leaving no stone unturned in that regard.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you, Ms. Corona. I would like to turn it back to State's Attorney Gibbons.

Ms. Kuhn: This is Judy Kuhn, I just wanted to ask Toni a few questions.

Mr. Prenzler: Yes, go ahead.

Ms. Kuhn: Can I ask Toni a couple of questions?

Mr. Prenzler: Absolutely.

Ms. Kuhn: Ok, thanks Toni for your hard work, you and your staff. I was just wondering, as I'm sitting here thinking, of the 80% of the elderly that are diagnosed, are they diagnosed once they're in the hospital or after they are hospitalized?

Ms. Corona: No, do you mean the elderly in general or are you talking about long term care facilities?

Ms. Kuhn: Ok, they're diagnosed before they go to the hospital, ok. Of that 80%, is there any similarity in their health condition? Are they using maybe the same medication or do they have the same diabetes or anything? Is there any similarity in their condition?

Ms. Corona: Judy, this virus, unfortunately, the most vulnerable populations are those that are already immunocompromised, have chronic health conditions, and certainly those that, you know, they're elderly from that end of it. So, you know, as this is unfolding and continues to unfold, the public health system continues also to look back and try to learn from you know, what's going on, but certainly, we want to keep this virus out of those congregate settings such as long term care facilities and you know, in that capacity because once the virus gets in, it just ignites. Unfortunately, those vulnerable populations are simply not able, in most cases, in some cases, I should say, to overcome, you know, what is happening as far as all the other comorbidities. One thing I failed to say, that I need to say, is that this public health approach to this response, it involves a lot of different partners and departments within the system. The Health Department not only has been, I think, critical in this response, Emergency Management is critical in this response, certainly the Coroner's Office has been really involved in this response and helping us along in the State Attorney's office as well, to have that enforcement capacity that we need to have available for quarantining and isolation from you know, within our normal duties. There have been so many different departments that have, you know, led into this that I would be remiss if I didn't call that out.

Mr. Prenzler: Thank you very much, Ms. Corona. Back to State's Attorney Gibbons, are you interested in speaking about this idea of a lawsuit, or would you like to address that at a later point?

Mr. Gibbons: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Really, what I was going to say was that, you know, over the last two days since this has been brought to our attention, moving this issue forward. We've had a lot of ideas come to us, and you know, what I promised everyone who's brought ideas to me is, you know, we will research these in due time. I think there are certainly grounds to consider something like that I have some concerns about what has happened at this point, you know, from the Governor's office and want to take a look at some of those things. So, you know, like many of the other good ideas that are coming out, it's one that we will definitely explore. I think that, you know, I certainly understand Mr. Parkinson's concern as a sworn law enforcement officer, that we swear and we have a duty to uphold the laws and to always act

within the laws and never encourage anyone to act outside. I think, one potentially important consideration is, if, you know, if we're able to secure a finding the Governor's orders, we're not, in fact lawful, that certainly places, you know, those with law enforcement, a much more solid ground and keeps us protected and within the bounds of our rope. So, I will add with all of the other issues, but we'll certainly explore that. So, I appreciate the opportunity to kick off on that.

Mr. Prenzler: Very good, any other discussion before I would entertain a motion to adjourn?

Mr. Walters: I would like to make a motion, if it's ok, to put a committee together with the names I'd like to put forward and I hope I'm not stepping on anybody's toes, Chris Hankins, Matt King, Ray Wesley, David Michael and Tom McRae and you as the Chairman, Mr. Prenzler.

Mr. Prenzler: Do we have a second to that motion?

Mr. Walters: To work on the resolution

Mr. Parkinson: I'll second that.

Mr. Prenzler: Ok and I don't think we need a roll call. All in favor?

Voice vote by all members.

Mr. Prenzler: Would anyone like to speak before I would entertain a motion to adjourn?

Mr. Moore: I just have two questions, one for you and if Ms. Corona is still available, one for her. Is there any consideration given to supplementing her staff with more people during this time to help her?

Mr. Prenzler: I can answer that question, that's been thought about both with money and employees at the county, but we thought about it but not in great detail. Yes, to answer your question. Any other questions or comments from the Board?

Mr. Moore: I have one more question for Ms. Corona. With this resolution, I got the feeling that she could be even more overwhelmed. I'm wondering if she could help me understand what would happen if we try to get these business back to work. In what way would this impact your department and is there anything maybe you could help us put into the resolution that may deviate some of that stress on your department?

Ms. Corona: Wow, I appreciate those questions Mr. Moore and that's where I, too, need to, you know, kind of see that as I said, we're 100% in. This is all we're doing right now is this COVID response. So obviously, the idea of reviewing plans to garner enforcement and compliance and that end of it, that would be another add into it. In addition, the potential exists that there could be more testing and positive results for a period of time that you know, it no longer becomes manageable outside of, you know, the group we have, so there's a lot of different potentials there. We have a couple different plans, you know, from that end of it, I just need to kind of think about that. I have to think about all those things.

Mr. Prenzler: Very good, thank you, Ms. Corona. Any other comments before I would entertain a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Guy: Ms. Corona, a question? I'm sorry if you already answered this. On our county website, well, first, thank you for these updates we're getting each day online and email. I see on the state website, it shows 2455 tested. Do we have on our county site, do you have a total of how many people we've tested in the county?

Ms. Corona: So, we're actually working on that right now, Mr. Guy. That is such a moving target, because we don't have all lab reports reported to us, they're only required to report to us positive labs. So, we don't necessarily know how many tests were performed at this particular lab or this particular hospital or anything like that and trying to get a handle on that to be able to provide something that we can confidently say is real, because I know that you all want to denominator, you're trying to figure out your positivity rate by yourself, I know exactly why everybody's asking for this. We have yet to identify the best way to gather that information and get it to you. You got to trust me that we're trying to figure out how we can make that, you know, at this point, that number that you drill into from Illinois Department of Public Health site, that's the easiest way but it's clunky, I know.

Mr. Prenzler: Ok, very good, thank you, Ms. Corona. Any other questions, Mr. Guy, or comments?

Mr. Madison: This is for Toni. Toni, I want to thank you like everybody else, we all appreciate you guys. I know a couple weeks ago you had all the data from Illinois you would like to have but I'm curious to find out if you were able to find out of the active 411 cases we are showing right now, can you give us a sense of how many you think might be active or do you have that data?

Ms. Corona: Well that figure we give you, recovered, on that website, I think today we reported like 111, let me just pull it up real quick and see, I believe it was 121 recovered. What that means is of those 411 cases, we know of at least 121 of them that are no longer under isolation. It doesn't necessarily mean they've recovered and, you know, are back to 100% or anything like that. We use that term meaning that we're no longer monitoring.

Mr. Madison: I just wondered if you had a handle on how many active cases might be going on at one time.

Mr. Goggin: I just want to thank you for running the meeting the way you did, just going through each district that I thought that was nice instead of having a free for all. Thanks for that. Appreciate it.

Mr. McRae: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I'm just going to ask if we may to expand that committee, I know Erica Harriss has put in a lot of time on this already, I would like to add her to the committee.

Mr. Prenzler: If it's ok with the Board if I could be flexible in terms of that committee

Mr. McRae: Chrissy Dutton, as well.

Mr. Walters: I second that.

Mr. McRae: Well let me finish, if I may. Chrissy Dutton, as well. Chrissy is a healthcare professional that I think has good insight as well. I'm happy to serve on it but I think that there, you know, if I needed to be removed that's okay with me. I'm happy to serve but I think Chrissy has valuable insight that I'd like to see added. I think as long as there is a threshold, I think of eight, right? County Board Members that we can get eight together, up to seven, is that right?

Ms. Jones: I think it's seven.

Mr. McRae: Ok, we still stay under that number then. I'd like to see them *inaudible*.

Mr. Prenzler: Ok, and then, of course, if we're adding more republicans, we can certainly add more democrats also. So, if I could just be given some flexibility going forward on that, I would appreciate it. I would like to entertain a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Parkinson: I would like to suggest also that Toni Corona be included in those meetings, her information will be invaluable. I, lastly, want to say how much I commend Toni and her staff for the diligent work they've done in keeping people safe in Madison County and keeping our numbers low. I greatly appreciate your work, and I'm sure the Board does as well. Thank you.

Mr. Prenzler: Very good. Any other comments before I would entertain a motion to adjourn?

Mr. Wesley moved, seconded by Ms. Dalton to recess this session of the Madison County Board of Health meeting until Tuesday, May 12, 2020. **MOTION CARRIED.**

ATTEST: Debbie Ming-Mendoza
County Clerk

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