

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of the Madison County Board of Health Advisory Committee was held in-person at 157 N. Main Street, Suite 203, Edwardsville, IL on November 1, 2022.

Members Present: Paul Malcherek, M.D., Joy Birk, R. N., B.S.N., Rebecca Dunn, D.M.D., Paul Hoover, D.C., Jennifer Loethen, M.D., Paul Frohnert, MD., PhD., Jean Schram, M.A., and Laura Burton, NP-C, CRMP.

Members Absent: MaryAnn Niemeyer, Ph.D., and Laura DeLuca, R.N.

Others Present: Amanda Pruitt, Interim Director Public Health; Stacey Counton, Office Manager; Mark McGranahan, M.D., FAAP, Medical Consultant; Erin Boester, Health Protection Director; Kurt Prenzler, County Board Chairman; Cynthia Ellis, Public Relations and Communications Manager.

The meeting was called to order by Paul Hoover, Chair-Elect at 5:30 p.m.

A motion was made by Dr. Rebecca Dunn and seconded by Dr. Paul Frohnert to approve the September 6, 2022 and October 4, 2022 minutes. Motion Approved.

Public Comment/Announcements: Speakers opposed to mandating or recommending COVID vaccinations to children's immunization schedules. Let the families decide what is best for them: Wanda Cerny, Amy Santarrelli, Andrew Jansen, Richard Quayle, Paul Nicolussi, Jen Lensing, Steven Showheart.

Summary of public comments in writing read by Chairman Prenzler. All are opposed to the COVID vaccinations to children's immunization schedules. Those comments were from: Jan Abbott, Erik Johnson, Kristin Hickey, Karen Boulanger, Christi Dea, Mary Woodcock, Judy Hereford, Angela Berczek, Katelynn Schuetz, Bridget Fleming, Chad and Diane Boeving, Kimberly Venarsky, Rebecca LaZella, Alicia Triplett-Janssen, Mary Haberer, Anne Collins, Lewis Jones, Beth and Tony Hemann, Cheryl Johnson, Jason & Amanda Dreyer, Jerry & Jean Wieter. Refer to audio for full content.

https://files1.revize.com/revize/madisoncountyilus/document_center/CountyClerk/HealthDepartmentAdvisory/11-1-2022_HAC.mp3

Public Health Administrator's Report: None.

Dr. McGranahan: Practicing pediatrics, I can tell you that there are optional vaccines on the schedule that have been on there many years and in real world practice, there is lots of room for choice about it. Flu vaccine is on universal schedule and completely up to the parent, and the HPV vaccine has been approved and on the schedule since 2007. Every child we see for our well child checks, we counsel them about the risk and benefits of the vaccines, so there is parental choice and it is important and has been that way for a long time. In real world practice, just because something is added to the schedule as an option doesn't necessarily mean that it is a requirement. The COVID vaccination should never be mandatory.

Unfinished Business: The nominating committee slate of officers recommendations for FY 2023 are: Paul Hoover, D.C. – Chair, Joy Birk, RN, BSN – Chair-Elect, and Laura Burton, NP-C – Secretary.

New Business: Discussion on mandating or recommending COVID vaccinations to children's immunization schedules.

Dr. Hoover commented that it is his understanding that this recommendation by the CDC is just that, a recommendation. It is the decision of each state on whether this vaccination is added to the standard program of childhood vaccinations. The county can put our input into the IDPH of what our feelings are

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concerning this, but the county really doesn't set the standards for the school systems in the county, it will be up to the state to do that.

Joy Birk thinks the schools districts need to be aware of the liability issue also. What would be the counties liability of that if we are just following the recommendations of the state that is following the recommendations of CDC that unanimously recommended this without regard for the safety of the vaccine compared to the risk?

Jennifer Loethen - that agreed with everyone's comment. The childhood vaccination schedule is for public health and to put something on the schedule that has not been studied long enough, does not prevent the spread and has not been vigorously tested. There are a lot of questions about the potential side effects. I would not support giving this as a requirement for schools.

Jean Schram – I thought that Vaers data does not show cause and effect so this is just associative?

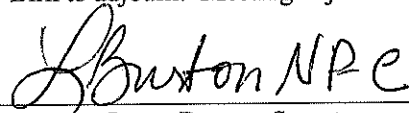
- Dr. McGranahan – that is correct. Vaers data are reports that is raw data (something like a tip line to the police). These are events that are associated in time with administration of the vaccine but they are not at all necessarily positive. It is important for the public to understand that if you see a spike in reports, you absolutely need to investigate.
- Chairman Prenzler spoke about how difficult it is to report anything on Vaers.

Dr. Frohnert agrees that if it is not stopping the spread, we have no business mandating the COVID vaccination.

The Nominating Committee recommended Slate of Officers for FY2023 was approved by acclamation: Paul Hoover, D.C. – Chair, Joy Birk, RN BSN – Chair-Elect, and Laura Burton, NP-C – Secretary.

The next scheduled meeting for this committee is **Tuesday January 3, 2023, 5:30 p.m.**, 157 N. Main Street, Room 145, Edwardsville, IL.

A motion was made by Rebecca Dunn, and seconded by Joy Birk to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.



Laura Burton, Secretary