

MADISON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

The meeting of the Madison County Board of Health Advisory Committee was held via teleconference on August 3, 2021.

Members Present: Raymond Weber, M.D., Dorothy Droste, R. N., B.S.N., Jean Schram, M.A., Loren Hughes, M.D., MaryAnn Niemeyer, Ph.D., Paul Malcherek, M.D., Rebecca Dunn, D.M.D., Laura DeLuca, R.N., and Paul Hoover, D.C.

Members Absent: David Yablonsky, DO.

Others Present: Toni M. Corona, B.S., L.E.H.P., Director Public Health, Stacey Counton, Office Manager.

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m.

A motion was made by Dorothy Droste and seconded by Dr. Hoover to approve the July 6, 2021 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment/Announcements: Dr. Weber discussed with the committee the recent Health Board Resolution regarding wearing masks in schools and expressed a concern that the Health Board did not seek medical information or advice from the Committee on this topic. Discussion. The HAC requested that Dr. Weber express their availability to the Health Department Committee at the August 6, 2021 meeting.

Dr. Weber, Dr. Hughes, Dr. McGranahan, Dr. Young, and a representative from Chestnut had a zoom meeting with Edwardsville District 7 Superintendent asking for feedback as they were starting to develop their policy. District 7 has published their protocol for the students for this school year. The mental health professional commented that the children were not depressed because they have to wear a mask, they have been depressed because they couldn't go to school and attend their classes in person.

Dorothy Droste announced that March 3, 2021 meeting minutes on the Madison County Juvenile Justice Council were available. Youth violence and hot spots shown are Alton and Granite City which may have come from across the river. Tom Haine, States Attorney, set up a task force called The Cross River Crime and Violence. The task force was created to prevent crime from flowing across the river into Madison County.

Public Health Administrator's Report: Vaccine Update – Madison County is in high community transmission of COVID-19 cases. For the last 5 weeks Madison County has been “Orange” on the IDPH County Level Risk Metrics for COVID-19. Orange indicates there are warning signs of increased COVID-19 risk in the county. The 7 day case rate is 218 case per 100,000. Anything over 100 cases per 100,000 is considered to be high transmission. We are busier this year at this time than we were last year. Comparing data from last year to this year at this time, we have exceeded all our numbers of where we were last year. However, the mortality rate is lower than last year at this time. The take home message is that this vaccine works. The population that is hospitalized are primarily young unvaccinated people. Today we had over 37 COVID cases reported in the hospital, with 6 individuals on ventilators. We are currently monitoring roughly 1200 individuals, either in isolation or quarantine. Last year we had 30 contact tracers, this year we have a lot less and it is again all hands on deck. We started our clinics back and do not want to shut that down again, therefore, we are looking to get additional help. Delta is the predominant variant. About 10% of our positive samples are sent out to various labs for sequencing to

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identify that variant. The CDC is recommending masking whether you are vaccinated or not.

Today we received our budget packet for FY2022. We have about 3 weeks to go through and get a working budget together for the next Fiscal Year. Additional staff will be added to that component.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business: None.

The next scheduled meeting for this committee is **Tuesday, September 7, 2021, 5:00 p.m.**, via GoToMeeting.

A motion was made by Dorothy Droste and seconded by Jean Schram to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Rebecca Dunn, Secretary