



**MINUTES OF THE MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

March 11, 2021

**In Attendance:** Kay Leach, R.N.; Stephen Pritchard, D.D.S.; Carol Litten Touloukian, M.D.; Robert Wrenn, M.D.; Mark Norrell, FACHE, HFA; George Hegeman, Ph.D., Ashley Cranor, M.P.H

I. Meeting called to order at 4:11 pm by Board Chairperson, Kay Leach.

**II. Public Comment:**

- Bill Kershner – Mr. Kershner shared frustration about an email received stating Greek houses were not allowed to have guests this semester. He stated confusion arises when told being outside is approved in the COVID guidelines and when the University as a whole can host outdoor events, but Greek houses are being told no outdoor guests. Asking for possible permission to change regulation that states no outdoor guests for Greek houses. *This would be discussed later in the meeting.*

**I. Approval of February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes:**

- Kay Leach recommended that sentence duplication be corrected under Community Regulations. Mark Norrell corrected his initials in the attendance. Stephen Pritchard moved to approve the minutes with those corrections. Ashley Cranor seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**II. Public Health Reports:**

- *Public Health Legislative Update – Sydnee Cseresznyes, Richard Cockrum:* An update on current legislation before the General Assembly was given. Much of the legislation revolves around authorities during a pandemic and religious freedoms. Senate Bill 5 is the repeal of local health enforcement actions bill. House Bill 1123 covers emergency sessions in the General Assembly. Senate Bill 263 covers local authority regarding religious services. There is a possibility these bills will be combined, but that meeting will take place later. The Board explained their mission is protecting the people of Monroe County. They will follow scientific-based evidence and do what is needed to protect.
- *Administration – Penny Caudill:* Ms. Caudill noted that Senate Bill 1001 regarding cigarette tax is in the budget bill. This would allow movement of the tax revenue money so it could be spent on other things in the budget, not just on public health.

There have been two retirements, Randy Rains from the Septic division and Teresa Benassi in Vital Records. Ryan Cushman will be stepping into Randy's position and Shian'ah Cox will be filling the Wastewater Sanitarian position. Currently interviewing for the vacant spot in Vital Records.

\*\*Reports available upon request.



The vaccination clinics continue to go very well. Over 5200 people have been vaccinated at the Convention Center site. The department is preparing to move the site to Simon Skjot Assembly Hall, so soon there will be greater capacity. Also communicating with the National Guard and others to help expand once allotted more vaccine. On Monday, March 15 teachers and school staff will become eligible in any vaccine site.

The Health Department will be moving back to the health services building next week. The department will be closed from noon on Thursday, March 19 through Monday, March 22. County offices remain closed to walk-in traffic, yet are open by appointment.

There was a recent request from a pool facility that had paid for their pool permit last year but ended up not opening the facility. They have asked for a refund or to apply that to the 2021 fees. This is not the only organization having this issue. **With the Board's approval, this balance can be applied to 2021 fees.** This will amount to around \$3,000. These facilities did not receive any inspections, and permits were not processed. **Carol Litten Touloukian moved to approve the motion. Stephen Pritchard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Tandem, a new birth center requested attendance and will be coming to the April meeting to give a short presentation on the center's services.

- *Public Health Clinic – Amy Meek:* Two more nurses have been hired. One temporary full-time RN, to assist vaccine clinics. The other a PRN. Normally around this time, the clinic would be going into schools and updating kids on their vaccinations. Due to COVID vaccinations, the clinic is not going into the school during the day, but discussing with the schools about possibly providing some after-hours or weekend hours so students can still get their vaccines. Targeting 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, making sure they are up to date and receiving the HPV vaccine. The current HPV vaccination rate has gone down, but that was to be expected. Amy Meek will request numbers from the State of early childhood vaccination rates.
- *Security Pro – Aaron Waltz:* Have been busy reassuring businesses and residents that just because the state has changed COVID status, does not mean Monroe County has as well.
- *Underserved Populations Action Items – Nicole Wagner:* An intern has been secured to assist with the group activities including data collection. They are currently working with a professor at IU to develop a model that will help with the outreach portion of this project. Handouts will be created in English and Spanish listing vaccination information that will be shared with the community and posted on social media. Ms. Wagner attended the NAACP meeting to provide an update. A volunteer is translating the COVID portion of the MCHD website.

### III. Old / Continuing Business:

- *Regulation Discussion/Review:* The current occupancy in Greek houses is not set to change this term.; however, there are requests for increased capacity this fall. After discussion, the Board agreed to plan for 75% capacity for the living situation in the fall. There may be potential for more leniency as more people become fully vaccinated.

Residents of houses have expressed concerns about the regulations stating no non-essential guests are allowed on the property. Challenges include maintaining the city maximum visitor limit, guests going inside to use the restroom, the number already living in the house plus the number of guests, etc. The Board would like to make it known that the

\*\*Reports available upon request.



idea of making a distinction between outside and inside guests is being considered and concerns are being heard. However, guests are still not allowed inside. **George Hegeman moved to have the department's administrative staff work with IU and the legal department to find a resolution to the guest policy. Ashley Cranor seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

- *Community Health Regulations:* Staff presented revisions to clarify and update a few items including masks, bar service, and gathering sizes. Guidelines for mask mandates remain the same, except for stating that those who are fully vaccinated may be unmasked in their own home with others who are also fully vaccinated per CDC guidelines. Currently, there is a 50 person limit for gathering capacity for indoor/outdoor events. Discussion included maintaining a limit of 50 for all gatherings, social, those in commercial venues without regard for indoors or outside. **Ashley Cranor made a motion to postpone any changes to the gathering numbers until next month when we receive more data. Robert Wrenn seconded. The motion passed unanimously.** Discussion of bar top service occurred. The decision to approve bar top service is postponed until the following meeting to look more into rates. **George Hegeman made a motion to postpone a decision on bar top service. Ashley Cranor seconded. The motion passed unanimously. An addition has been added stating the Board recommends there be no buffet-style food service. George Hegeman moved to adopt this addition. Carol Litten Touloukian seconded. The motion passed unanimously.** Discussion of bar closing times clarified that bars are closing at 2 A.M.
- *Strategic Plan Approval:* **Carol Litten Touloukian moved approval of the strategic plan. Stephen Pritchard seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

IV. **Board Member Comments:** No Board member comments were made.

V. **Next Meeting and Adjournment:** The next meeting is scheduled for April 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 PM. The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Thomas W. Sharp, M.D., Monroe County Health Officer

