

## **BOARD OF HEALTH COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

COMMITTEE: BOARD OF HEALTH  
DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2020  
TIME: 4:00 P.M.  
PLACE: FOREST COUNTY BOARD ROOM

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Gretzinger called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and read the agenda.

### **ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Black, Burl, Collins, Gretzinger, Candy Daily & Susan Moore (Go-to Meeting)

Absent: Amy Kuebler

Others present: Jacee Shepard, Nora Matuszewski, Jason Theune, Terry Lukas, Rebecca Perry, Paul Payant, Stephanie Mattson, Mary Mattson, Holli Denton, Kathryn Kincaid as well as others by Go-To Meeting.

### **APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Collins to approve the agenda as presented, second by Black. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

### **APPROVE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 27, 2020 MEETING**

Motion by Black to approve the minutes from the April 27, 2020 meeting, second by Collins. All present voting (AYE). Motion carried.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **COVID-19 UPDATES**

Shepard presented a thorough overview of contact tracing. She explained that contact tracing is not something new it is done for all communicable diseases and that her staff and herself are trained and are tacking on WEDSS daily including the weekends. When there is a positive result, staff immediately will call the person and ask for information on anyone the person has been in contact within the past 2-days prior to testing positive, as well as contact with people more than 15 minutes without a mask. All information is entered into the WEDSS system.

She explained that all facilities have been getting communications from the state and health department since March. The department attends virtual meetings and webinars daily. They hold a virtual EOC meeting every Thursday, which includes the tribes, Nuroc, Ascension, police, various county departments, as well as first responders. The department is working daily with many local and state agencies.

Burl said there is public concern and his suggestion would be to issue a joint statement with the nursing home because people are worried. Shepard did not disagree, but thought Nuroc would have to take the lead on this indicating she is very willing to issue a joint statement with them. She will put out a public press release about what the health department and county has been doing in regards to contact tracing and assisting with Nu Roc. She explained the department does daily briefings and has been sending press releases to both local papers.

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Shepard explained the department contacted WEAVER a couple weeks ago to help with shortages of staff for Nuroc, and the department supplied them with needed gowns as well as the Emergency Director supplying PPE to them. Black asked how often Nuroc has been testing staff. Shepard told her they have done 3 blanket testing in the last month and a lot in between that time. She explained that in order for someone to be released from isolation they would need to have (2) negative test results for residents; Employees are time based released. They would have to be symptom free for 72-hours and it must be at least 10 days since their symptom onset.

It was asked why Shepard has not gone into Nuroc, it was explained that the Health department does not have the authority, the nursing home is governed by the state Division of Quality Assurance. Gretzinger told everyone that Jacee and the Health department have been doing their job and they should be commended on the job they have done. No one in the Country was ready for a pandemic as this.

Shepard also explained she has been trying to get a formal statement from the National Guard, but, they do not come in and set up tents for nursing homes and they do not provide medical staffing- the WEAVER request to the state that the county did place is who provides medical staffing. The National Guard's mission and skills do not easily translate into staffing a skilled nursing facility. The isolation facilities that they have set up are more temporary and for people who do not need skilled nursing care that those at Nu Roc do need.

Shepard and Theune are working on a regional testing unit and will find out after the Crandon School Board meeting tonight if they are able to use the Crandon parking lot for a testing site.

Shepard also explained she has had to use valuable time responding to inaccurate information that is out in the public and wanted to make it clear, the majority of public feedback has been good. There is concern with the Facebook webpage, but, she felt the amount of people she is able to reach from the venue outweighs the negative posts on the page. The Sheriff, Corporation Counsel and the District Attorney are aware of the inaccurate information out there and are monitoring it. She felt the transparency and the amount of people she can reach to be a positive for the community. There were many suggestions on what to do that ranged from closing down the page to putting a disclaimer on the site, indicating that the views of others are not the views of the public health department.

Discussion was had on the negativity being put out against those who have come out of quarantine and the health department needs to protect these people. If someone is released from quarantine they are no longer contagious and people need to leave them alone. Gretzinger felt a reply should be given to the people coming out of quarantine who are no longer infected. The committee was also in support of a disclaimer for the Facebook page that the Forest County Health Department will not be responding to comments on the Facebook page. Shepard passed out a press release that will be going out tomorrow and everyone thought it looked good as well.

### **FCHD SUCCESSION PLANNING**

Shepard explained what is in place when she takes her leave of absence.

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### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS AND SETTING DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Legal follow-up on false accusations
- Meeting frequency

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, motion by Black to adjourn, second by Collins. All present voting AYE. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

These minutes are not official and are subject to change. They will be officially approved at the next scheduled Board of Health meeting.