

FOREST COUNTY MEETING MINUTES

COMMITTEE: HEALTH
DATE: October 5, 2020
TIME: 3:30 PM
PLACE: COUNTY BOARD ROOM

MINUTES

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 3:32 by Lynne Black
2. Roll Call: present: Lynne Black, Cindy Gretzinger, Cheri Collins, Candy Dailey, Susan Moore. Absent: Amy Kuebler
 - a. Others present: Jacee Shepard
3. Approve meeting agenda: Motion by Collins to approve agenda, second by Gretzinger, all ayes. Motion carried.
4. Approve minutes of previous meeting: Motion by Gretzinger to approve minutes from previous meeting, second by Collins, all ayes, motion carried.
5. Public Comment: Comment from Gretzinger that new county board members will be appointed October 20th and Tina Anderson will be added to Board of Health Committee.
6. Discussion and Possible Action – COVID-19 updates: Shepard shared that the health department started flu vaccine community clinics today. Reporting additional 17 cases today from Friday evening through Monday afternoon. The state Department of Health Services has launched a new COVID-19 data page with community disease activity and hospital capacity. Their office is also working on a weekly data document that they will likely debut this week. This weekly data document will include information on cases by race, ethnicity, gender, age, census tract. Shepard shared they continue to have regular meetings with Forest County School Districts for assistance and planning and working with them on a daily basis. Crandon School district is closed for at least two weeks. Shepard shared it was mentioned on a meeting that the Governor's mask mandate extension may be shut down by the state legislature. If that would happen, Shepard would like to issue a Public Health Advisory strongly advising masks for Forest County. Motion by Collins to support Public Health Advisory regarding masks from the Forest County Health Department if the mask mandate would be rescinded, second by Gretzinger, all ayes, motion carried.
7. Discussion and Possible Action – hiring additional COVID contact tracers: Shepard shared current staffing and additional contact tracing support that the health department has been able to hire on. Shepard explained that there are support staff that are helpful with contact tracing and then nurses

that they have been able to hire on that can better assist with disease investigations of positive cases and then assign those contacts to contact tracers. Shepard is requesting that the nursing staff receive \$25 per hour and support contact tracing staff receive \$20 per hour. These positions are paid by reimbursement from Public Health Emergency Preparedness dollars that are received by the health department. Motion by Collins to pay nursing staff \$25 per hour and support staff \$20 per hour, second by Moore, all ayes, motion carried.

Shepard shared concern and acknowledgement of the amount of hours health department staff have been putting in since March and needing to provide some relief. Shepard explained there are many other important programs and objectives that are also priorities of the health department that have not been worked on since the start of COVID-19, much like every other health department across the state. Shepard explained more of a systematic weekend call schedule to at least allow for one staff person to have a weekend off. Dailey shared her concerns of the physical and emotional health of the health department staff and concern of burn out. Board of Health continues to encourage Shepard to seek and hire additional support for the department.

8. Discussion and Possible Action – extending the officer in the entry of the courthouse: Motion by Gretzinger to extend officer in the entry of the courthouse, second by Collins, all ayes, motion carried.
9. Discussion and Possible Action – New position in the health department: position description for WIC Project Nutritionist/WIC Director/Community Health Specialist and financial documents provided to committee members. The health department has additional dollars in the health general fund of \$152,080. The department also is planning for additional dollars to be added to that this year as many hours from their nursing staff has been redirected from tax levy to the Public Health Emergency Preparedness dollars provided by the state for COVID response. This could be roughly \$50,000 at the end of 2020. The new position would be partially grant funded and partially funded from general health fund dollars. The approximate amount that would need to be requested from the health fund is \$50,181 per year. Shepard explained dire need to replace the WIC project nutritionist as their current nutritionist will be leaving at the end of November and the need for additional help in the health department with various programs and objectives with the remainder of the hours for this position. Motion by Gretzinger to support new position for health department and send position description and information on to personnel committee for possible approval, second by Collins, all ayes, motion carried.
10. Future Agenda Items: officer at entrance of courthouse, additional committee members
11. Next meeting date: Wednesday, November 4th, 2020 at 4:30pm

12. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Collins, second by Dailey, all ayes.
Meeting adjourned at 4:28pm.

Submitted by Jacee Shepard, Health Director on 10/7/2020.

