

Emergency Menard County Board of Health Meeting – 9/16/20

Attendance:

Board of Health:

Dave Bagot
Dr. Hartman
Brienne Satorius
Diane Markley
JD Stewart

Menard County

Dara Worthington

Health Department

Director Gail O'Neill
Assistant Director Bill Dart

I. The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m. with a roll call vote. With five members answering the roll call, a quorum was established.

II. Motioned and seconded to approve the minutes from the 9/2 meeting. On a roll call vote, the minutes were approved unanimously.

III. Discussion of the new COVID-19 numbers; 5 positive cases today and 4 yesterday. Discussed demographics of latest cases.

Report that county fair compliance with masking and social distancing was not high. There are stories circulating about several teachers and a few students have tested positive; the staff cases of perhaps 6-7 staff prompted shutdown. Porta schools were closed and this is week 2. Porta includes reports of children with any symptoms in quarantine numbers as those children are told to stay home. Community masking patterns haven't changed. Greenview has been contacting the HD frequently and has had no cases.

IV. The BOH letter will be published in the Observer and Review beginning 9/3 and 9/4 respectively; it will run through October. Discussed supplying masks for local businesses. Everyone liked the idea but distribution not settled. Possibility of a few locations was proposed and also that individuals may also pick them up.

V. The Sunny Acres Nursing Home received their machine, a BD Veritor Plus. Supplies are expected to be an on-going expense that's new. A proposal was made to write a letter of appreciation to Sunny Acres staff for their work and repeated testing experience. Another thought is to publish this too as an ad.

The testing discussion led to a brief discussion of the grant funds in place: CURES, Contact Tracing and Supplemental preparedness. Whether these funds could be leveraged for greater community service needs such as substance abuse. This could be related to COVID-19 because of the collateral damage of the pandemic.

There was some discussion whether the machine could be moved to the schools. If person qualified to do the test and the paperwork, then perhaps so. Although, symptomatic persons are not supposed to be at school. Need to proceed cautiously with moving the machine so perhaps a second machine or even a different machine would be wise. Perhaps a temporary person could be added to administer any additional testing and paperwork.

Most of the group expressed disappointment that other community leaders didn't choose to sign on to the community letter that's being published as an ad in the Observer and Review..

Gail discussed the on-going Narcan grant program. Someone in the community has complained to the Casey's in Petersburg about the safety and efficacy of the Narcan. Family Dollar and Dollar General also have taken Narcan distribution out. Law enforcement also has it. There is a record of having lives saved. Besides side effects, the safety concerns may be that people pick-up the Narcan so that they can push recreational abuse to the limits, knowing the Narcan is available.

VI. Next meeting set tentatively for 9/23.

VII. There was no public comment.

VIII. The meeting adjourned at 6:25.