

## OPEN MEETING MINUTES

### Waukesha County Health & Human Services Virtual Microsoft Teams Meeting Public Health Advisory Committee Thursday, September 10, 2020

**Present Committee Members:** Steven Andrews, Sarah Butz, Ross Clay, Andy Dresang, Jessica Kadow, Betty Koepsel, Colleen Peebles, Mary Reich

**Absent Committee Members:** Kerri Ackerman

**HHS Board Liaisons:** Mary Baer

**HHS Staff Liaisons:** Bridget Gnad, Mary Jo Hamman, Theresa Imp, Benjamin Jones, Elizabeth Laatsch, Brittany Leising, Mary Smith

**Guests:** None

**Quorum = 5**

#### I. Call to Order

Dresang called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

Dresang stated Sarah Butz would be the ProHealth Care representative on this committee moving forward. Butz joined the virtual meeting at 8:34 a.m. Dresang thanked Butz for joining and said the next meeting would have formal introductions.

#### II. Review and Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Reich moved, second by Koepsel, to approve the minutes from August 13, 2020. Motion passed without negative vote.

#### III. Business

No Update

#### IV. Committee Reports

##### A. Health & Human Services Board

Baer reported the HHS Board would discuss the Family First Prevention Act, review Advisory Committee Bylaws, and have a Veterans report at the HHS Board meeting. Baer said the new Veterans Department head was amazing in the work he was doing. Baer suggested having him report at a future Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) meeting. Dresang asked the minutes to reflect the committee would invite the Veterans Department head to report at a future PHAC meeting.

##### B. Environmental Health Division

No Update

##### C. Aging & Disability Resource Center

No Update

#### V. Public Health Division Reports

##### A. Manager / Health Officer

- COVID-19 Updates

Jones shared his screen and presented information from the COVID-19 Dashboard for Waukesha County:

<https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/HealthAndHumanServices/PublicHealth/public-health-preparedness/COVID19/>.

He reviewed the “Daily Reported Positive Case Count” section of the Dashboard. Waukesha County was averaging under 40 cases a day for the first time in quite a while, which was one of our targets of where we want to be. 10-40 cases per day was where Waukesha County was for the majority of the pandemic. Masks help prevent the spread of disease. Jones said our team was working incredibly hard to do contact tracing, and the sooner we contact people, the less people are spreading it. He was anticipating a lot of activity with school and the fall. These types of viruses spread more easily when more people are indoors.

Jones then looked at the “Active Cases” number and informed Waukesha County had less than 500 cases at that time. He looked at the “7-Day Rolling Average of % Positive Tests” numbers. Jones stated being under 8% is good but not great. The goal is to have less than 5%. Two factors affect this: (#1) How many sick people are out there, and (#2) how much testing is happening.

Every Monday and Tuesday Waukesha County was bringing out the National Guard for COVID testing. They are looking at ways to boost testing since they are only using about 300 of 600 tests per day that are available.

Jones referred to the Dashboard’s graph and said Waukesha County has seen an increase in COVID cases for the age group of 20-29 year olds since July. The Dashboard’s “Active Child Cases in School District Boundaries” tab includes any child that lives within the Waukesha County boundaries. They have a section for “Active Cases by Age Range.” Jones reported schools are very happy with this data, and the data gives schools a better idea and more information on the community around them and what is happening.

Jones said they would like to be over 800 tests per day. We were averaging about 600, but it has dropped since. We do not know why this number is dropping. On some level, the availability is there and messaging is out there. The percent positive is not astronomically high, which indicates they are not only testing positive people. Waukesha County is exploring opportunities with schools, first responders, long-term care facilities, and other avenues for testing.

Reich asked a testing clarification question, and Jones confirmed the data on the Dashboard represented all tests in Waukesha County.

Dresang stated the CDC’s guidelines continue to change and maybe if one is symptomatic, one assumes s/he has it and does not get tested. Jones agreed the messaging got confused. It softened/lessened the push to get close contacts tested. The State’s stance and Public Health’s stance is still to get tested – this is a strong recommendation.

Dresang commented that through the Milwaukee HealthCare partnership, a group of individuals was working on specific communication for school districts and sports teams to create that equity of care to understand where to go if they have a confirmed or suspected COVID19 case. Once the document is complete, Dresang will have full authorization through Froedtert Health to share it. It has information on testing and best practices. It will help eliminate confusion. 11 health departments in Milwaukee are part of this group. It will be an additional navigation tool for COVID19.

Reich stated the Lake Area Free Clinic was not doing COVID19 testing. They refer people to Sixteenth Street Community Health Center, with whom they are in partnership. Those people they refer can get tested within 24-48 hours.

Jones said Gnadl could speak to some testing opportunities. Reich said they were not strong on staff, and many clients were not interested in coming into the clinic.

Dresang commented volunteers were not yet allowed back at the free clinic he runs. He does direct referrals to Sixteenth Street Clinic or other Southeast WI clinic sites. There is no testing at Dresang's clinic.

Jones said the National Guard testing will go through the end of November or early December. Gnadl has outreached major healthcare systems. They fear they will not have places to send some people. They have just hired a resource coordinator.

Baer asked a question regarding the correct guidelines for testing. Jones replied, (#1) anyone symptomatic, and (#2) prioritize anyone who was a close contact to a known case and are in quarantine. The time window was day 5 to 7, approximately. Day 5 allows if that contact results in infection. On average, one would see the infection on day 4 or 5. If positive, can concurrently do isolation. Would be capturing asymptomatic carriers. In theory, anyone who wants testing can get it. Certain subpopulations are being targeted, such as long-term care facilities. Certain universities like Carroll University, go through their own testing symptoms per Jones.

Dresang read from the DHS Health Alert Network (HAN) Health Alert #13 – WI residents are recommended to seek testing if fall into 1 of 4 categories. Jones summarized that he agreed, and if a physician thinks or Public Health thinks someone should get tested, then that person should get tested.

Dresang inquired into the Health Department's status for flu recommendations. He said his clinic will be doing drive-thru flu immunizations. Jones replied with information on outreach efforts this year. Jones would love to partner with anyone who wants to get the message out about flu immunization. Last year, the Waukesha County Executive did a Facebook live with the executive at ProHealth. Jones said Public Health knows the intersection with COVID and flu will be challenging. More people immunized for flu hopefully can decrease flu. Waukesha County averages only 40% of people get flu immunizations. A number of leading officials from the CDC and Academy of Pediatrics are telling people to get the flu vaccine by Halloween. If we can decrease the amount of flu and complications due to flu, then this will help the healthcare system.

Jones said the State just released a grant opportunity for community flu, and he will look at that grant on Monday. Public Health was looking for more opportunities to collaborate for flu vaccine messaging. If on Medicare, it is free, per Baer. Baer said promotion to Medicare/Medicaid populations that flu vaccine was free would be great. Anti-vaccine messaging has grown. Herd immunity for flu depends on the strain, per Jones. 70-80% at a minimum was needed to have a significant impact. Baer requested the committee members let her know if they have something for her to push out to the HHS Board.

Butz shared that on 10/18/2020, the Project Homeless Connect event would take place in Waukesha. It is a ProHealth Care hit distribution event. Last year it was in-person at Carroll University. The format is different this year. ProHealth Care will provide all attendees with a free coupon for a free flu shot. ProHealth Care will be

sending representatives to homeless shelters to provide immunizations. They hope to increase numbers to this vulnerable, high-risk population.

Dresang said Froedtert will also have some staff and pharmacists out, and Froedtert can help cross-promote these opportunities.

Jones said almost every resource he has in Public Health is primarily on COVID. They are pulling on other resources. Public Health will be putting together a team to focus on collaboration and cross-promotion.

Reich stated the Lake Area Free Clinic has given vouchers that people can get filled at Pick 'N Save location of voucher.

Peebles gave a COVID and flu updated. She stated Sixteenth Street found out last week that Google posted that “no appointments were necessary” at their facility. Peebles stated that was incorrect. They are unable to make changes to this information on Google. She reached out to her marketing team, and they will have a giant site banner that appointments are needed. They continue to have a 12:30-3:30pm drive-thru daily, which is by appointment only. They have a call center to register. They are packed every day for this drive-thru. They are seeing patients from the Lake Area Free Clinic and college students. They are testing symptomatic and asymptomatic individuals. They have no restrictions on what testing they are doing. Somewhat limited, but daily.

Peebles said they are planning to add flu immunizations hopefully as continue COVID drive-thru. Sixteenth Street will mainly offer free flu vaccine because they receive it from the state. People will have to register, and then they can determine if it is free or if there is a minimal charge based on insurance.

Kadow stated ProHealth Care clinics were doing walk-in flu clinics. Go to the consumer site for times/hours for each clinic. Waukesha Family Practice was not doing appointments just for flu; however, they will offer it if a patient has come in for another appointment. Kadow reported the Hispanic Health Resource Center will be doing a by-appointment flu vaccine at no cost as soon as they receive their supply.

Jones stated he knows that we will not be able to stop COVID cases, but we aim to contain COVID so cases do not grow too fast, affecting vulnerable populations and affecting the healthcare system. Jones reported they now have all hospitals in Waukesha County reporting data to us for the COVID Dashboard. They continue to monitor the Dashboard.

Jones said we/Public Health have a difference of opinion with the State, which has an academic approach that is challenging to operationalize on the local level. Public Health is struggling and continuing conversations with the state. Jones said he knows we will have cases with schools. The goal is to keep schools open and contain it.

Dresang thanked Jones and the Health Department for the great work being done to mitigate COVID cases within Waukesha County. He requested Jones let the committee know how they can continue to support efforts moving forward.

Jones reported Waukesha County has hired 225 contact tracers. They started out with 8 Public Health Nurses. He gave huge credit to Laatsch and the management team for overseeing it. Laatsch is the key person to keeping that operation running

with the management team. Gnadt has taken on testing coordination. They are looking at automating a lot of data seen on the COVID19 Dashboard. They are doing a lot of work with schools. They meet with the school superintendents and school nurses every week on how to safely open schools. Jones stated there was an incredible number of people working on this.

- **General Updates**

Jones informed that Public Health was due to be formally recertified as a health department and would undergo the 140 Review process on 10/01/2020. Per Jones, it will be an abbreviated review process and will be a statutory continuation. They may do a further review at a later time. The 140 Review is a statutory requirement every five years. Jones added WIC was going through their review, which occurs every two years, and their review and recertification was in about two weeks.

Jones said Public Health presents their budget to the HHS Committee on 10/08/2020 in the afternoon. If that changes, Public Health may have to reach out to the PHAC and have a fill-in for Jones. This will be Public's Health third budget presentation. The following week, they will present to the Budget Committee.

**B. Coordinator**

No Update

**C. Communicable Disease**

No Update

**D. Family & Community Health**

No Update

**E. WIC**

No Update

**F. Preparedness**

No Update

**VI. Agency Announcements and Updates**

None

**VII. Public Comment**

None

**VIII. Adjournment**

Dresang asked committee members to send agenda items to him and Teri Bull, recorder. Dresang noted he would provide an update on the Milwaukee Healthcare partnership at next month's meeting on 10/08/2020.

MOTION: Reich moved, second by Dresang, to adjourn at 9:15 a.m. Motion passed without negative vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Teri Bull.

Minutes Were Approved: 10/8/2020 \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_