

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
MINUTES
August 13, 2020 AT 12:00 pm
Clinic Conference Room/Virtual**

Present: Via Phone-Liz Wheeler, Mary Cathleen Murphy, Karen Tvedt, Jonathon Ott, Michael Pekas,

In Person: Jo Pankonin,

Absent: Ranae Vink,

Staff Present: Jill Franken, Sandy Frentz, Lisa Stensland, Dr. Jen Tinguely

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Liz Wheeler with a vocal roll call at 12:05 pm. Y Michael
Y Mary Y Karen Y Jon Y Jo A Ranae Y Liz

A motion was made to approve the minutes from July 9, 2020 supported by Michael, seconded by Jo. Motion carries. Y Michael Y Mary Y Karen Y Jon Y Jo A Ranae Y Liz

New Business:

Board Update:

Karen Tvedt and Mary Murphy introduced themselves to the board. We are excited to have them serve on the board.

COVID-19 Situation Update:

In an effort to keep the community informed, a dashboard has been created for the Sioux Falls website. To view the dashboard go to <https://coronavirus-cityofsfgis.hub.arcgis.com/> for all the latest updates. The positivity rate is calculated weekly and has remained very level. The hospitalization rate has also been very steady. At this point we will not be changing any messaging to the public and continue to stress prevention methods so that the schools can remain open. Monday August 17th the mayor will be holding a press conference to keep the community informed.

In June the EOC closed after being open for over 100 days. The work continues with the unified command that met just this morning. These meetings help get a feel for what is going on in the hospitals and helps keep everyone on the same page. The Sioux Falls School district has released their Return to Learn policy. O’Gorman will begin classes next Monday (8/17) and the public schools will be the following Monday (8/24). They have developed many scenarios on “what if’s” around COVID- 19. The consensus is that we need to get the kids back and may begin a sentinel system and do random testing in each district.

The SOAR Team has been very active and continue to do assessments. Lots of special events have cancelled. At this time, Sidewalk Arts and Festival of Bands are planning to hold their events.

There is a plan in progress to assist with the vulnerable populations to help them safely isolate or quarantine. Leadership is working with community members to try and transition this response effort to a long term operation that could be supported by the city but not managed entirely by the city.

There will be a big push to get people to vaccinate for the flu this year and the city is piloting a drive through flu clinic this fall.

The COOP (Continuity of Operations Plan) team, an internal city group that helped direct the continued functionality of the city while keeping staff safe, is hoping that the majority of employees who were working from home will be able to return to the office soon.

Falls Community Health (FCH) initiated a respiratory acute provider at the beginning of COVID and have found it necessary to keep that provider available still. There is a grant available for a mobile unit to help reach the vulnerable populations. The plan is to test the unit with the annual city flu vaccinations.

The city has not had many employees test positive for COVID-19, so there are no plans to change testing unless there is a spike in the community or in hospital rates. We continue to watch the policies of communities in the area in regards to mandatory masks indoors, many corporations are requiring it for their facilities.

Link- (Community Triage Center)

This is a coordinated effort between Avera, Sanford and the City as a first line resource for detox and mental health issues. It will be housed in the Annex next to city hall and the building has just been vacated and city staff moved to the city center. The actual design is in process but the hope is to have demolition started soon. COVID has delayed the project a bit. The planning group is working to make sure that entry to the facility is as easy as possible. Communications will be key and Mary and Alicia are working on a website and communication plan and resources once the facility is open.

Budget Overview:

The health department budget includes both the medical and dental clinics as well as the public health and enforcement divisions. The total budget request is for near 14 million and will include funding for the Link. This is only a 1.5% increase over last year and is heavy on personnel. We as well as the other city departments are being as conservative as possible for 2021 with no major changes being planned.

Some key stats for the department: there were over 26,000 medical visits, 3,500 facility inspections, 5,000 neighborhood nuisance inspections, and over 16,000 vector treatment sites.

Public Input: None at this time.

There being no further business or further discussion, motion to adjourn supported by Liz and seconded by Jo, Y Michael Y Mary Y Karen Y Jon Y Jo A Ranae Y Liz, motion carries.

