

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
MINUTES
October 14, 2021 AT 12:00 pm
Class Room 1/Virtual**

Present: Liz Wheeler, Jo Pankonin, Mary Murphy, Bernie Schmidt

Absent: Michael Pekas, Karen Tvedt, Ranae Vink,

Staff Present: Charles Chima, Alicia Collura, Dr. Jen Tinguely, Lisa Stensland

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Liz Wheeler with a vocal roll call at 12:02 pm. A Michael Y
Mary A Karen A Bernie Y Jo A Ranae Y Liz

A motion was made to approve the minutes from July 8, 2021 supported by Jo, seconded by Mary. Motion carries. A Michael Y Mary A Karen A Bernie Y Jo A Ranae Y Liz

New Business:

COVID-19 Status Update:

The past three months the our MSA has seen an increase in the number of COVID Cases, hospitalizations and vaccinations. The last four weeks hospitalizations have remained steady. As of 10/13/21 there were 1,600+ confirmed active cases, 61 currently hospitalized. The vaccination rate had dropped in the summer, but the last two months have seen an increase.

In Lincoln and Minnehaha counties: 147,369 people have received at least one COVID shot. 48.2% of the population has completed the COVID vaccination series to date.

After some surveys and focus groups to find out what barriers exist to receiving the vaccine, it was found that out of the unvaccinated respondents: about 1\ 4 said they would probable or definitely get the vaccine while the rest said they would not. The unvaccinated are much less likely to say they trust in any one or group such as doctors, scientists, CDC, politicians, journalists, government officials, religious leaders, and family/friends. However, they have the highest amount of trust in friends and family, doctors and other health professionals. Future messaging and outreach campaigns will take these findings into consideration.

Vaccine outreach efforts have been done for city employees, BDHH, St. Francis House and the Banquet West. There are more outreach events in planning.

Vector Control Update: Deferred

The Link-

Things are going well for the Link. They have just announced the hiring of Bill Early as the new Executive Director. He is coming from San Diego, CA and has worked with other non-profit agencies. This September the Link had its 1,000th patient encounter. There have been 1145 total triages to date. The Withdrawal Management program has had 203 admissions to date and the average length of stay is 2.5-3 days.

Staffing had been an issue in the first couple of months, but that has been resolved. They are still having difficulty placing patients with comorbidities.

Strategic Planning-

The strategic plan help assess the needs of our community, resources, and key priorities. How can the Health Department fill those gaps? A consultant has been hired to help up through this process. She is in the process of collecting data. We hope to have a draft out in March of 2022.

Public Input:

None at this time

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

Les Stensland

DRAFT