

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
CITY OF DE PERE, WISCONSIN – May 18, 2020**

The Board of Health of the City of De Pere, Wisconsin met in regular session in the Riverview Conference room at City Hall, on Monday, May 18, 2020 at 5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Dennis Hibray at 5:31 pm.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was taken and the following members were present: Casey Nelson, Kelly Ruh, Dennis Hibray, Teresa Gulyas and Dr. Michael McHenry. Also present were Deborah Armbruster, Dr. Steve Stroman, Trista Groth and Kelly Burke.

3. Approval of March 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Casey Nelson made a motion, seconded by Teresa Gulyas to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2020 Board of Health Meeting. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously.

4. Community Health Updates regarding outreach activities and disease report

Debbie Armbruster reported that the Health Department lead a Bleeding Control training at a few local sites in March. These were at Syble Hopp and the New Hope Church. Other than that, the focus of the Health Department is following up on COVID-19 cases and doing work related to COVID. Dennis Hibray asked if the 697 COVID cases were just De Pere and the time frame of these numbers. Debbie and Kelly responded that this number was everyone in De Pere that was tested and followed up on including positive and negative cases, which were sent to the state.

Debbie provided an update on Brown County's numbers. Brown County has 2033 positive cases, De Pere has 39, Oneida has 42, and there have been 24 deaths.

5. Update on COVID-19

Deborah Armbruster reported that COVID-19 began being our focus beginning March 11th. We began social distancing shortly after this. All of our staff has been working on COVID. The nurses are calling all our index cases. The entire staff is doing contact tracing. Kelly and Trista both have access to WEDSS so they can do follow-up and add documentation in the system. Having Trista and Kelly do this frees up time for our nurses to do phone calling. The nurses report that handling index cases takes hours of work to do the interview, perform contact tracing and complete the follow up of each case. Our nurses have been working long hours, they have worked weekends so we can contact positive cases right away and quarantine their contacts. The majority of our residents have been responsive to our calls and adhere to the quarantine.

Even though our Stay at Home Order was rescinded, this does not mean that we have control of this virus. With the increased testing, we have identified that we are getting more positives and this will most likely escalate with everyone out and about in the community. Dennis Hibray questioned if people were quarantining as asked. Debbie responded that most people are appreciative of our calls and are quarantining. The nurses have been doing a great job educating the people. Trista has been doing a lot of education with our businesses also. We have been handling all our cases alone without help. Trista and Kelly have been actively helping with all of this. We have also helped out Brown County with their cases.

Trista reported that beginning in March we sent an e-mail to our businesses with the most up to date COVID-19 information we had. Trista fielded many calls from operators asking for recommendations on what they should or should not be doing. Trista also reached out to business that we did not have contact information for, such as manufacturing facilities, which we do not license. We worked with a local manufacturing facility who had a positive case to quarantine their employees. We used our perspective gained from this company to assist with other facilities in De Pere. We sent information to facilities we don't license though Definitely De Pere and the De Pere Chamber, so we reached every type of business we could. Our communication with the businesses is ongoing as information changes. We just sent out more information this morning stating that even though the orders were lifted, the pandemic is not over, and pointed them in the right direction for guidelines on how to re-open. We are anticipating calls regarding this in the next few weeks. Dennis Hibray asked if we have had much clear direction from the staff at the division of Public Health. Trista Groth responded that they provided information, but it wasn't timely, often receiving published information after it was already sent to the businesses. Dennis asked if our restaurants had been compliant with the orders. Trista responded that a handful of restaurants closed completely, but most did a combination of delivery and take-out. Trista stopped doing all inspections, but will be returning to inspections this week. Debbie Armbruster added that there was hardly anyone in the state of WI doing routine inspections because everyone was focused on the COVID response. The tavern league has reached out to the health officers for guidance on how to open safely, which is encouraging. Dennis asked what PPE Trista wears during inspections. Trista responded that she wears a surgical mask and washes her hands frequently during inspections.

Debbie shared that there are 2 community testing sites that have been open. This is the 3rd week they are open. Casa Alba was closed for the day because of the wind and rain, but it will re-open tomorrow. Friday will be the last day for these sites and then the health systems will take over. They will test symptomatic individuals at drive-up clinics. The tests will come from the state and be processed at exact sciences. The guidance from the state is to test all long term care facilities by May 31st. Today, we tested Rennes and we had tested Renaissance about 2 weeks ago.

The CDC brought a team for a month to Brown County. They were helpful in taking an accurate assessment of Brown County and determining how to

proceed. They did not go into Oneida or De Pere, which Debbie felt would have given them a better perspective.

The CDC was proud of us for being proactive and testing the meat plants, as well as bringing the National Guard, who were fabulous at working with the businesses. The CDC did not agree with DHS's need for continued contract tracing, but DHS decided to continue tracing, which is very time consuming. Debbie stated that we have struggled to get definitive guidance from DHS, which is discouraging.

Debbie explained the circumstances regarding the Supreme Court overturning the Stay at Home order. When the Stay at Home order was overturned, the health officers scrambled to work with their corporate councils to determine what to do. Brown County implemented an extension, and after speaking with Judy, we implemented an extension the next day. The purpose of the extension was to allow people time to prepare on how to re-open safely. However, after further consideration, Brown County's Corporate Council felt this may be unlawful and they rescinded their order. Even though Judy felt we had the authority to keep the order extension, we felt we should be united with Brown County and rescinded our order. That evening, Attorney Kaul from the State clarified that the Health Officers did have the authority to place these orders, but by that time, we couldn't change it again. The State Attorneys agreed that the Health Officers have the authority to place orders such as these, but they suggested that each community develop an ordinance stating what the Health Officer can do.

Debbie reported that we are working closely with the City of De Pere to make the worksite as safe as possible. We have had a lot of people work from home. The City is making plexi-glass dividers. The Health Department employees have been alternating working in the office. The nurses have dividers and Kelly will be getting one also. We are working with other departments and the City on how to open for sports, etc.

Casey Nelson asked if Brown County had placed their order prior to their Corporate Council reviewing it. Debbie responded that their Corp Council had put together the initial extension and allowed the Health Department to put it out and then re-examined it after placing it. Kenosha had placed orders and then rescinded, and Brown County may have followed their lead.

Dr. McHenry asked what the current opening date was for the City buildings. Debbie responded that we developed a phased approach to keep city hall closed except for appointments. We didn't put a timeline on opening as we will adjust to what is happening in the community.

Dr. McHenry also asked if we would be seeing an increase in contract tracing? Debbie explained that the CDC felt we did not need to continue with it because we had community spread, but DHS wants the contact tracing to continue, so we will see an increase. Trista and Kelly are helping with this as well as the nurses from St. Norbert and other city personnel.

Dennis Hibray stated that he was disappointed with the Legislator and the Supreme Court having no back up plans after they made that decision. He was very proud of Public Health when they came out with the Emergency order and were surprised when it was rescinded so quickly. He asked what the future looks like?

Dr. Stroman explained that this virus is unpredictable and we need to be cautious and rely on our community to continue with the distancing and masking going forward. We don't know if the summer will make the virus less active.

Dennis Hibray commented that he was proud of the City of De Pere Health Department staff for the leadership they have taken and all the hours the staff has put in.

Casey Nelson asked how we can combat the hot zones and if we will look at implementing an order going forward? Debbie Armbruster responded that we could implement another order if things get worse, but in the meantime we are working with our Corporate Council to develop an ordinance that will declare what the health officer has the authority to do so it cannot be brought to litigation.

Kelly Ruh asked about the new ordinance regarding the health officer's authority. What would this look like? Debbie responded that the state sent out a template of what an ordinance could look like. Debbie shared this with our Corporate Council. Currently the health officer has the authority to make regulations regarding communicable diseases, but the new ordinance would be specific to the individual disease. Debbie will send an e-mail to the Board about this as she gets more information.

6. Public Comment on Matters not on the Agenda

none

7. Future Agenda Items

Debbie commented that she just signed off on the grant we have been given for COVID which equals the same amount we had received for Preparedness this year. This grant allowed us to give extra hours to Sara and Kelly and purchase PPE.

July 1st we will be an Agent program. Trista will be going through the state standardization in October, so we can give an update on where we are in that process at our next meeting.

8. Adjournment

Theresa Gulyas made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Casey Nelson seconded the motion. Upon vote, the motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kelly Burke
Health Department Administrative Assistant