

CRAWFORD COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

MINUTES

MAY 15, 2020

The Crawford County Board of Health met Friday, May 15, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. in the waiting area of the Crawford County Health Department and via teleconference. The following directors were present:

Koert Bartman
Kayla Blank, PharmD
Shannon Goebel
David Rotman, M.D.
Robert Walsh, D.O.

TELECONFERENCE: Guy Rumler
William Schaefer, DDS

EXCUSED: Bonnie Finn

OTHERS

PRESENT: Darla Tracy, Certified Public Health Administrator
Jenna Thompson, Nursing Supervisor
Bobbi Branson, Executive Secretary to the Board of Health

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 07:06 a.m. by Kayla Blank, Chairperson with Mr. Bartman, Mrs. Blank, Mrs. Goebel, Dr. Rotman, Mr. Rumler, Dr. Schaefer, and Dr. Walsh present in person or via teleconference at time of roll call.

ADDITIONS, DELETIONS, CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

No additions, deletions, or corrections were noted to the agenda.

Dr. Walsh suggested board members Dr. Schaefer, Dr. Walsh, Dr. Rotman, and Mrs. Blank rotate for on-call COVID-19 consultations each week.

APPROVE REGIONAL REOPENING PLAN

Mrs. Thompson reviewed the Regional Reopening "Back to Business" plan, explaining the three-phase plan allows fourteen days for each phase as compared to the Restore Illinois five phase plan of twenty-eight days for each phase.

She explained there are metrics and analysis for each indicator such as rate of positives, hospital capacity, health department capacity for contact tracing and monitoring quarantine and isolation patients. She noted each phase starts slowly and is increased if safe to do so. Mrs. Thompson stated if there is a spike in cases, we would step back or not advance to next phase until safe.

Mrs. Thompson stated the department must educate and protect the community. Dr. Rotman stated there are more COVID-19 cases in Crawford County than the public realizes. Dr. Walsh discussed the risks for OB patients as COVID-19 causes a hypercoagulable state.

Mrs. Blank stated it is the health department's responsibility to educate and explain procedures to those business that are going to open and teach them sanitizing and disinfecting procedures to keep themselves safe and everybody that comes in their businesses safe.

Dr. Walsh stated the plan created by several healthcare administrators with over one hundred years' of combined experience is to be considered by the Governor for his approval. Dr. Walsh expressed he felt this collaborative plan was a good starting point.

Dr. Rotman stated he felt the County was ready for Phase I.

Mrs. Blank emphasized as a health department and the Board of Health, she did not feel we could encourage businesses to open or condone their opening, but have the responsibility to make sure they do it in the safest manner possible; Mr. Rumler agreed with this role.

Mr. Bartman stated he thought the Board should vote on the back to business program and help businesses in Crawford County open partially or whatever safely.

Mrs. Goebel stated each case is different, as every business is working with separate people, with their own financial needs, insurance providers, and regulations. She stated it is not possible to create a blanket statement, so it will be necessary to work together with businesses to truly get the community reopened in the safest way possible.

Mr. Rumler stated he felt we are fortunate to have the numbers we have and noted that may be due to social distancing. Mrs. Thompson stated she had personally been involved in each of the positive cases and had they not been isolated and the community under the stay at home order, she felt we would have had a higher rate. She stated she believed the one thing that has kept the county where it is, is the community doing all they have done. She noted those quarantined did so immediately and had they been moving around in the community she felt the numbers would be higher.

A motion was made by Mrs. Goebel and seconded by Dr. Walsh to approve the Regional Reopening "Back to Business" plan to begin in Phase I contingent upon the Governor's approval. Upon roll call, motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Blank discussed Dr. Walsh's previous suggestion of Board members rotating for consultations regarding COVID-19 issues. Mrs. Goebel volunteered to help as well and compile educational resources, visit businesses, etc. Those in rotation will include Dr. Rotman, Dr. Walsh, Dr. Schaefer, Mrs. Blank, and Mrs. Goebel.

ADVISEMENTS

Mrs. Tracy asked if there were any comments about the Crawford County Board's "Vote of No Confidence" that had been skipped over on their meeting agenda the night before.

Dr. Rotman asked Mr. Bartman what the "Vote of No Confidence" meant. Mr. Bartman stated he felt that it was put on the agenda to basically get the attention and get more communication out to the people who felt they were injured in some way or another.

Mrs. Thompson stated she felt some people had a misconception of what the health department's role is; Mr. Bartman agreed and stated there needs to be a better way of communicating. Dr. Walsh stated a lot of people believe the health department is in an enforcement role and they are not unless in a quarantine situation. He stated he has served on the Board since 2006 and there has only been one case that he is aware of when a restaurant had to be closed due to health and safety issues.

Mrs. Tracy stated she was hurt by this action, as she has always been available by phone and while she spoke to a few councilmen and County Board members, she had not been invited to the meetings people stated she did not attend.

Mrs. Goebel stated she did not feel people understood what a full closure would involve, noting the State's Attorney was not contacted to serve papers to any business to close. Mrs. Tracy stated the health department does have authority related to food code if a food establishment is deemed unsafe. Dr. Walsh clarified the department does not act on anonymous complaints as the person reporting must provide their name. Dr. Rotman stated in the health department's position, the guidance changes daily (from CDC/IDPH) and it is difficult.

Mr. Rumler asked what the department will do if places open up in phase 3. Mrs. Goebel replied the department will educate people the best they can. Mr. Rumler stated he thought that was wise and good. He praised those that attended the County Board meeting on behalf of the department and stated he knew that was a difficult situation. He stated he felt some education needs to be done as to what role is of the Board and that it is not to police or prosecute. He stated he thought passing this plan gives people hope that there is light at the end of the tunnel.

Mr. Bartman discussed inconsistencies of how people can go into other counties and do things not allowed in this county, such as not being able to fill your own fountain drink locally. Mrs. Tracy stated this measure was taken to protect patrons from the risk of cross contamination and while it is stricter than some counties, it is the same as others such as neighboring Lawrence County. It was noted patrons have always been able to get a fountain drink during this time as long as the attendant dispenses.

Mr. Bartman stated he felt we all have the same goal and it's just a matter of how we do it and how we get there. He stated he took it upon himself to talk to people and fifteen chairmen of county boards to see what they were doing and learned everyone was doing something different.

COMMENTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS:

Dr. Rotman discussed the concern of people going out of state and then coming back. He stated he is concerned children may face immunity issues if they do not get back together

soon. Mrs. Goebel stated it is our duty to look out for everyone and noted asymptomatic individuals can spread COVID to others.

Mr. Bartman inquired if by following our plan, county fairs and rodeos would be cancelling. Dr. Rotman stated that may be for this year, adding it is unknown if virus will be attenuating or mutating. Mr. Bartman stated he felt these are things we need to start thinking about and how we are going to handle these situations. Mr. Bartman stated he feels we have a double effect because oil in the county basically shut down and the amount of tax on that the County will not receive will affect us two years from now. He stated we will have a longtime recovery from where we are at right now, noting we will not get near as much sales tax and somehow need to keep everyone open and employed. Mr. Bartman stated Marathon Oil shut down a third of their production. He stated over 1,000 wells have been shut down in Crawford County with no revenue coming in. He noted that is a lot of employment and wondered if people are going to move out of Crawford County. Mr. Bartman stated he does not want anyone to get sick, but there is a lot to think about and there are a lot of complications.

Mr. Bartman stated he hoped restaurants and business will open in a safe manner and thinks they will take the responsibility to do that. Mrs. Thompson agreed she thinks most people are very conscientious.

Mr. Rumler stated he felt people are going to make choices as to whether they are vulnerable or not and if they feel they are compromised he hoped they stay home.

No other comments.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting adjourned at 8:04 a.m.

_____, **Secretary** **Date:** _____