

**DeWitt-Piatt Bi-County Health Department Board of Health**

**Minutes for December 3, 2020**

DeWitt Office

MEMBERS PRESENT: Aaron Blakely, John Sochor  
Melonie Tilley, Mitch Hammel, Phil Lamkin, Tricia Scerba, via Zoom

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Fred, Ray Spencer

STAFF PRESENT: David Remmert, Michael Schroeder, Shelley Stipp via Zoom

The meeting was called to order by D. Remmert at 7:00 p.m.

The minutes for the September 23, 2020, meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by J. Sochor to accept the minutes; second by P. Lamkin; motion carried.

**Agency Reports –**

Administration/Nursing - D. Remmert mentioned he doesn't have anything set as far as formal agency reports go. He reported we currently have 11 staff doing contact tracing. We are finally caught up where we should be. The testing at Market Place Mall announced they are back to a 24/48 hour turnaround. Testing seems to be going better at this time, than what it was one week ago, and testing centers are getting through their backlog. A mobile testing unit is coming to the Piatt County Office, in Monticello, this Saturday, December 5, 2020 from 8:00a.m. until 4:00p.m. Everyone is welcome to test, including persons who are not symptomatic.

Environmental Health – M. Schroeder commented as far as Environmental Health goes, right now, there is not too much action. With IDPH approval, we have put a halt on inspections to enable response to the pandemic. M. Schroeder is currently developing on a Mass Vaccination Plan. In the coming weeks, he is planning to meet with Warner Hospital and Kirby Medical Center to discuss the tabletop exercise the State of Illinois organized to get an idea of how the process is going to go. Local health departments will be responsible for obtaining limited number of vaccines from Pfizer once they are made available. We will be responsible for obtaining those from our Regional Healthcare Coalition. We have to have a police escort to obtain those vaccines, this could pose a problem with staffing issues at the sheriff's office. High priority groups remain health care workers, paid and unpaid. Our long-term care facilities will be supplied with vaccines from CVS and Walgreens. Phase II – people with comorbidities such as overweight, asthma. Possibly Spring/Summer the vaccine is expected to be available to general populations in masses. Our focus right now is on the health care workers and responders.

Dental – D. Remmert reported Dr. Chow recently retired. We were able to find another dentist, Dr. Ilsoon Kim. He has previously worked in predominately Medicaid practices in Champaign, IL. He will be coming to us as soon as we can get him enrolled. It has been since October that we have been working on his enrollment. Recently an enhanced reimbursement dental schedule was approved for safety net dental clinics such as ours which should help us to get better reimbursement for services provided in our clinic. We are looking forward to this as, in the past, we operate at a loss when we do dental services in Clinton.

**Financial -**

Accounts Payable – D. Remmert reported from our last meeting to yesterday's date, the balance is \$143,456. Everything we are doing now is pretty routine, however; we have added 9 Contact Tracers

and 2 Staff Members doing contact tracing. Some of this expense is being paid for by contact tracing grants. A motion was made by M. Hammel to approve the Accounts Payable; second by J. Sochor; motion carried.

Profit & Loss Report – Total income Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 through yesterday's date, \$1,025,864. This would have included a couple of different grants related to Covid 19. Our expenses so far this fiscal year, \$594, 830. A motion was made to approve the Profit & Loss Report by J. Sochor; second by M. Tilley; motion carried.

Balance Sheet – D. Remmert commented he looks at the most recent Balance Sheet to get a snapshot of where our accounts are currently. The balance sheet displays money on hand, readily accessible. Currently there is \$1,228,388 in our different bank accounts. One account is with Edward Jones, containing CD's which grows interest. We can liquidate these accounts to cash very quickly if we ever need to. Net Income is \$431,034. A motion was made to approve the Balance Sheet by J. Sochor; second by P. Lamkin; motion carried.

Income/Expense Report – D. Remmert mentioned this report is included in the packet is simply for your review. It is a reflection of how our money comes in and goes out. The report does not need to be approved. One particular COVID grant was that we could do immediate purchasing and would need to file reimbursement thereafter.

#### **Old Business -**

##### State of Budget: Piatt Co Debit from DPBHD Fund – Discussion

D. Remmert reported Piatt Co has recalled a portion of our budget. He mentioned he is not trying to stir controversy, they were wanting \$50,000 to help balance their own budget. He went to the budget meeting and expressed his problems with it, and tried to fight it. In 2009, we struggled with our financial situation. We were in dire financial straits because the State of Illinois was not paying the grants. Over time we had some grants and Medicaid payments due to us that were over one year behind. The local health protection grant was over one year behind. It has taken us years to return to a more solvent financial situation. The look of our agency changed during that time, such as total staff numbers altered and we have never gotten back to where they once were. We currently have 12 full time staff, dental services are operated by contractual staff and contact tracers are also contractual staff. D. Remmert commented he does not know what this means for our future. The audit indicated the budget has a \$150,000 deficit. J. Sochor asked if we have heard any comments from DeWitt County. D. Remmert reported he was more in favor of them not touching our tax levy because that may trigger the same effect in DeWitt county. M. Tilley reported they have instructed their States Attorney to contact Piatt County's States Attorney and try to come up with some type of resolution. D. Remmert noted that each budget year we request the same cash dollar amount, meaning that our levy has gone down over time because overall assessed valuation of the county has risen during the same time period.

D. Remmert defended the budget at the County Board Budget Meeting. He offered to pay Piatt County \$50,000 out of the operating budget so they would not touch the tax levy amount. He explained it is a shared budget, a partnership between the two counties with an agreement in place. The States Attorneys have been in discussion over the issue. D. Remmert will report back as he hears more.

##### Update on COVID -19 – State Report – Discussion

D. Remmert reported we have caught back up with contact tracing. We have hired additional staff to meet the demands. We were getting reports people were not getting their test results for 5-7 days. Everyone seems to be catching back up. We are in a good position right now. D. Remmert created a State of the County Report. We tend to lose perspective if we concentrate exclusively on our counties alone. We're actually doing really quite well. Our death rate is ranked second out of 17 counties in our

region. Our incident rate in Dewitt County is ranked number one, incident rate in Piatt County is ranked number three. D. Remmert tracks this data one week at a time. Overall, if you look at incident rates and death rates, we are doing very well. 15/20 deaths were in long term care facilities. People who are dying from Covid-19, in our area, are elderly, mostly in their eighties and nineties. The youngest death we have had is someone under 70.

Board of Health members asked multiple questions about the process around contact tracing, indicating they had heard some complaints from area residents. D. Remmert answered their questions and responded to the types of complaints and why they were being received, often due to a lag in reporting time from state labs. Additional contact tracers have been hired to respond to the rising case numbers experienced over the fall season.

Members also inquired about the availability of vaccine and proposed strategies to vaccinate our populations.

### **New Business**

#### **Audit – FY2020**

The FY2020 fiscal audit of the agency was shared with members. There were not any deficiencies identified. Several questions were presented for discussion. A motion was made to approve and put the Audit – FY 2020 on file by P. Lamkin, second by M. Hammel; motion carried.

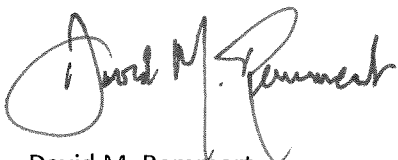
#### **Policy re: Covid -19 related absences**

D. Remmert reported one staff person has tested positive and missed some work. We have had other staff out of work because of family members that had tested positive and they were in quarantine. Recently the Federal government adopted a Family's First Coronavirus Response Act which would give employees additional paid sick leave. D. Remmert would like to offer this to his staff, up to 80 hours of paid sick leave. Because we are less than 50 employees, we wouldn't have to abide by this federal ruling; however, D. Remmert thinks this is a good idea for the agency overall.

Several questions ensued. T. Scerba made a motion to adopt to the Family's First Coronavirus Response Act; second by J. Sochor; motion carried.

Being that there was no other business to discuss; a motion was made to adjourn at 8:13p.m. The next meeting will be held at the Piatt office at 7:00 p.m. on January 27, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,



David M. Remmert

Administrator

I hereby certify that the minutes above hereto accurately represent the actions taken by the DeWitt/Piatt Board of Health on the above occasion.

Board of Health Representative