

TOOELE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING

May 14, 2020

151 N. Main Street Tooele, Utah

PRESENT:

Board: Brent Marshall, Anthony Howes, Tom Tripp, Kyle Memmott, Linda McBeth, Brian Johnson (phone), Pam Bennett (phone), Devan Clevenger (phone)

Absent: Michael Wells

Staff: Jeff Coombs, Ericka Jordt, John Contreras, Brad Gillies, Tracy Frailey, Jamie Zwerin, Bryan Slade, Kendra Muir

Public: None

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS
Welcome- <i>Chair</i>	Brent Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.	
Approval of March 25, 2020 Meeting Minutes. (Action Item) <i>Chair</i>	Brent asked for a motion to approve the March 25, 2020 meeting minutes.	Kyle Memmott made a motion to approve the March 25, 2020 meeting minutes, Tom Tripp seconded the motion, all voted in favor, motion approved.
Board Member Assignment Reports (Information Item) <i>Chair</i>	Tom Tripp reported that the court proceedings for the opioid lawsuit have been delayed. A trial is scheduled to begin in November. Fact Discovery scheduled to close June 15 th , this is the period to request and examine documents, deposition of witnesses. Following is daubert hearings, expert reports, summary judgement motions etc. Some litigation going on in New York, but the jury selection didn't happen, and the trial has been postponed.	
Health Officer's Report COVID-19 Update (Information Item)	4:01 Jeff announced that Scott McKenzie-Deputy Director resigned on April 1 st . Jamie Zwerin, Aging Services Director was appointed as the interim Deputy Director. John Contreras has been hired as the new Deputy Director and he will start May 18th. Jeff introduced John and explained that he has been working for TCHD since 2008 as a	

<p>2019 Annual Report (Information Item) Staffing Update (Information Item) <i>Jeff Coombs</i></p>	<p>contracted epidemiologist consultant. John has a PhD in public health. He is also currently a professor at Westminster College. John has worked in public health for about 30 years. Jeff noted that a grant has been approved that may allow for an additional epidemiologist to be hired in July. Miriam Bateman, public health nurse retired April 1st, Taelor Leonelli has been hired to fill the public health nurse position as of June 8th.</p> <p>10:48 Jamie explained that when the pandemic started, they realized a large portion of Aging Services staff and volunteers were older which puts them in a high-risk category. From March until today a Meals on Wheels driver resigned, Grantsville Senior Center Lead Dan Lawrence retired, Debbie Bolinder Lead Cook retired, and a food preparation worker also left. But with the senior centers being closed they were able to shift staff to other tasks such as providing pick-up meals, coordinating senior bags to be delivered and making phone calls to clients. When needed some health department employees have been assisting with the senior centers. Once activities resume the vacated positions will be filled.</p> <p>12:43 Jeff added that one of Scott’s major functions was being the Emergency Response Coordinator, since his departure Tracy Frailey- Emergency Planner has stepped up and filled most of this position. Tracy and Rachel Stone have been coordinating the supply of personal protective equipment with the hospital, the state, and local providers.</p> <p>13:49 Jeff shared current case data and demographics from the internal dashboard provided to public health officer’s/epidemiologists etc. Utah has had a very low mortality rate and as of today no reported mortalities in Tooele County. The hospitalization rate in Tooele is below the state average. Confirmed cases in Tooele are averaging just under 1.6 cases per day over the last two weeks. Tooele County currently reports 83 total cases and of those 83 total cases 42 are considered active and 45 recovered (which is 21 days after onset per the state). Forty five of the positive cases in Tooele were infected from known contacts which is usually family members or a coworker. Jeff and John answered questions from the group. For the most up to date case count visit www.coronavirus.utah/case-counts.</p> <p>25:08 Jeff explained a program called Epi Tracks is used by health departments, doctor’s offices, hospitals and others in the state to track, report and identify all communicable diseases including coronavirus. No matter where the person is tested in the state we are notified if they live in Tooele.</p> <p>27:18 Today Governor Herbert lowered most of the state from a “moderate risk” (orange)</p>	
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level to a “low risk” (yellow) level as of May 16th, this includes Tooele. Below are four core measures the state uses to determine risk level:

- 1- Hospital Capacity- This is a measure of Intensive Care Unit (ICU) utilization so that COVID-19 patients do not overwhelm hospital capacity. The state’s goal in moving from moderate level of risk to a low level of risk is to be below 60% ICU capacity for 14 consecutive days. Utah’s ICU capacity has been at or below 60% for more than 21 consecutive days.
- 2- Transmission Rate- This is a measure of how many people contract the virus from each person who has the virus. The measure divides new hospital admissions by one reproductive cycle of the virus. The state’s goal in moving from a moderate level of risk to a low level of risk is a transmission rate of around 1.0 for 14 consecutive days. Utah’s transmission rate has been at 1.0 to 1.5 for over 21 consecutive days.
- 3- Detect the Undetected- This is a measure of testing and tracing and is monitored by tracking and positivity rate. The state’s goal in moving from moderate level of risk to a low level of risk is a tracking positivity rate of between 3.0% and 10.0%. Utah’s has remained at approximately 4.0% for more than 21 days.
- 4- Exposure source- This is an indicator of the points of exposure. The state’s goal in moving from a moderate level of risk to a low level of risk is to achieve above 60% known contacts for 14 consecutive days. Utah has been at or above 78% for the past 28 days.

35:30 A handout was given to the group created by the state showing general guidelines for individuals and businesses per the low risk phase. The Environmental Health staff also put together a comparison of moderate to low guidelines for businesses. Industry specific guidelines are on the www.tooelehealth.org website. One of the main differences is gatherings of groups of 50 or fewer are permitted, this is for social/family gatherings only not for businesses though. All businesses can now open but will need to follow the guidelines. Brent wondered if we moved too fast from moderate to low risk. John noted that we do not have enough data yet to be confident in knowing if it was the right decision. Jeff added that mass gatherings are still the main source of mass spread. Tom asked about a graduation event he heard about that was going to be held in Grantsville. Jeff stated we are working with the Sheriff’s Dept. and the Planning & Zoning Dept. A letter was sent notifying the person that they would need to apply for a permit within 60 days of the event. Jeff also pointed out that the health department is focused on providing education and outreach. There was one client that came into the health department that did not want to

	<p>wear a mask, he eventually complied in order to receive personal health services. Environmental Health staff have been responding to complaints, but have primarily focused on education, no public health orders have been issued. The group shared their thoughts on reopening and asked questions about what to expect if we have a spike in cases. Some expressed frustration with mixed messaging and fatigue from constant media coverage. Jeff explained that we are a long ways out from acquiring a vaccine or herd immunity. But we are better prepared now for a spike in cases than we were in the beginning. Staff will continue to provide education and outreach to businesses on current guidelines, contact tracing, answering phone calls, and providing messaging of the importance of masks, social distancing and high-risk individuals. Staff have been working long hours without days off and without an end in sight. Brent shared his concern with the number of Tooele residents that commute into areas that are still at the moderate risk for work that could become infected. Jeff agreed what they do does affect us.</p>	
<p>Financial Update (Information Item) <i>Brad Gillies</i></p>	<p>58:15 Brad presented the Actual vs. Budget Report -Four Months Ended April 30, 2020 (33% of Year). Total Operating Revenues show at 34.4% and Total Operating Expenses show at 27.2% of what has been budgeted. Contracts and Grants are 29.1% of budgeted but he noted that we are always about 1 month behind on contract payments. Fees are slightly over budget, but it doesn't mean we are doing more business, there is about a 3-6 month lag time on insurance payments which means money we have received so far is more from services that were done at the beginning of the year. Since the pandemic began there has been a decrease in the number of clients coming in for services. Grants and contracts will take a hit because while employees are still working and collecting wages they have not been working as much on their regular programs, instead they have been working on COVID-19. WIC and Environmental Health services have remained steady. Over the next couple of months we will get a better idea of the overall affect it has had. Several meetings with the state have taken place to discuss what will happen to the money not spent for the contract, hopefully we will be able to roll the money forward instead of forfeiting it. Many contracts expire in June and the money won't be able to be spent out for those specific items related to that specific contract in time. Another possibility is being able to take money designated for a contract and redirect it to the COVID-19. He will continue to track and watch as direction from the state changes daily. Expenses are under budget and overall net is about \$120,000 positive. Additional lines on the report show expenses and funding directly for COVID-19. Expenses so far include contract services for contact tracing, masks, and hourly wages paid to employees that worked on COVID-19 during regular hours and</p>	

	<p>overtime hours as well as. Employees are tracking hour by hour whether they are working on normal contracts or on COVID-19. The state made about \$7,000,000 in funding available in two parts, we received about \$126,000 so far and are expecting a second portion. Jeff clarified that the state has actually allocated \$12.3 million to local health departments some of which comes from the Cares Act money coming to the state and they are determining now how to allocate it out to the health departments. Brad added that additional funds have come in that are designated for Aging Services. They have been assured that expenses will be covered whether through additional funding or pulling money out from other contracts, hopefully we will not have to use county funds or reserves. Tom added that the Cares Act is very specific to what it can be used for. It is expected that payouts will come in June, July and October though it could take longer maybe even years which could result in rainy day funds having to be used. Tom stressed that we need to be scrupulous on documentation. Brad added that we are not yet using emergency funds through FEMA which require more reporting.</p> <p>Jeff added too that since we are going through public health response specific to COVID-19 response that is another pool of money separate from what the county will be drawing on. Brent Marshall asked if any of the money would be directed towards local Boards of Health? Jeff noted the county money is for actual COVID-19 response, but then also getting additional Cares money that will cover other things not related. Tom added there is also agriculture money being divided out to the 38 conservation districts in the state. Tom compared the financial report handout to county's April results, emergency preparedness expenditures and noticed that they don't match. Brad explained he pulled out the difference, some of the expenditures related directly to COVID-19, revenues difference includes COVID-19 funding on county statements not related to normal operations. Jeff commended Brad and Tracy for diligently tracking all COVID-19 related revenues and expenses.</p>	
<p>Aging Services Update (Information Item) <i>Jamie Zwerin</i></p>	<p>1:14 Jamie explained that even though the state and Tooele have reduced the risk to low it does not apply to the senior centers since the population they serve is at the highest risk. Those age 65 or older are considered high-risk and need to continue to follow stricter instructions because they are more likely to suffer severe illness if infected.</p> <p>A new project Aging Services staff have taken on is the state has asked that services also be offered to those at high-risk who are under age 60. Jamie and Tracy were tasked with developing a budget of what this additional service could entail in two days, which was a</p>	

	<p>challenge. Jamie shared a handout that included a hotline to call for assistance and what services are offered including: delivery of meals, groceries and medicine, transportation to and from medical appointments and telehealth assistance. Transportation staff and senior center staff have stepped up and coordinated these services. With the 402 bus route temporarily closed, staff were shifted to be used for this project. The hotline for individuals at high-risk of COVID-19 to call is 877-424-4640, callers will be screened and if they qualify, they will then be directed to us. The focus of this project is to keep those most vulnerable at home and safe. Jamie confirmed this hotline is separate from the mental health hotline and emotional support hotline. This information can be found at https://coronavirus.utah.gov/protecting-high-risk-individuals/</p> <p>The Ombudsman program which includes case managers and social workers have worked with Tracy the Emergency Response Coordinator to coordinate weekly with the long term care facilities in our county to check on their supplies of PPE.</p> <p>Jamie announced that the Families First Cares Act has dedicated some additional funding for Aging Services during the pandemic. The total cost of meals has doubled, and this funding has allowed them to continue feeding people. Meals costs remain the same as does the labor cost, but the number of meals they are providing has doubled. They are in the middle of contract negotiations with the meal provider and they have assured that the cost of meals will not go up for at least a year. They are waiting for more information on guidelines and how to bill for high-risk programs. Brent said he checks in periodically at the Grantsville Senior Center, he has noticed a considerable increase in the number of meals being provided. He recognizes the seniors really miss the social interaction. Jamie acknowledged the isolation is very detrimental to the seniors. She noted that staff are calling and checking on them, but realize it is not the same level of interaction as if they were coming to the centers. They are continuously looking for ways to address this including virtual visits.</p>	
<p>Environmental Health Update COVID-19 Business Response (Information Item) <i>Bryan Slade</i></p>	<p>1:29 Bryan gave a brief update on the responses from the businesses in regard to the industry specific guidelines for reopening. Overall, most businesses are doing well in following the guidelines so they can remain open for business. However, there have been calls from citizens reporting that some businesses have not been wearing masks. Bryan and staff will continue providing education. He added that when they do go out to the businesses, they have noticed a good portion of the public visiting those businesses do not</p>	

	<p>wear masks or social distance. Amy Bate has been putting out a lot of messaging on social media.</p> <p>Bryan reported that it was discussed at a previous board meeting that he would be reviewing current fees and recommending an increase for the board to approve. He felt this would not be a good time to raise fees for businesses and will hold off until next year to approach this. We are in the process of getting our forms/applications to where they can be filled out and submitted online and payments can be made online. This will make it more convenient for the public.</p>	
<p>Event Calendar (Information Item) <i>Amy Bate</i></p>	<p>Jeff reported that all upcoming scheduled events have been cancelled or will be postponed to a later, but not as of yet determined date.</p>	
<p>Board Members Comment/Concerns</p>	<p>1:35 Pam stated that the Division of Mental Health (DSAMH) has received federal COVID-19 funds. DSAMH is working with IHC and the Emotional Relief Line (833-442-2211) They will provide emotional relief to nursing facility employees that do not have EAP access, like part-time staff. The UNI warm line (peer run support line) will be expanded statewide from 8am-11pm (801-587-1055). DSAMH has also applied for FEMA disaster money for mental health counselors which consist of 3 teams of 12 and one team of 12 in the rural area and those that are from minorities to provide help to those who are unemployed and those with no access to mental health. The Bridge program (outpatient program for substance abuse) will receive funds to pay for medication for those who have relapsed on alcohol or opioids to help them get back on track. She will send out information on these services.</p> <p>Brian thanked the health department staff for the updates.</p>	
<p>Public Comments</p>	<p>There were no comments given.</p>	
<p>Meeting Adjourn</p>	<p>Brent entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.</p>	<p>Kyle Memmott made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 pm, Anthony Howes seconded the motion, meeting adjourned.</p>

Attachments: Financial Report Ended April 30, 2020, High-Risk Individuals Hotline, UALHD Bill Watch 3/17/2020, Utah Low Risk Phase Flyer