

**TOOELE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

September 22, 2020

151 N. Main Street Tooele, Utah

**PRESENT:**

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

Absent: Brian Johnson

Staff: Jeff Coombs, Ericka Jordt, John Contreras, Brad Gillies, Jamie Zwerin, Bryan Slade, Amy Bate

Public: None

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION/FINDINGS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS</b>
Welcome- <i>Chair</i>	Brent Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone.	
Approval of May 14 <sup>th</sup> and 27 <sup>th</sup> , 2020 Meeting Minutes. (Action Item) <i>Chair</i>	Brent asked for a motion to approve the May 14, 2020 and May 27, 2020 meeting minutes.	Linda McBeth made a motion to approve the May 14, 2020 meeting minutes, Linda amended the motion to include the May 27 <sup>th</sup> meeting minutes also. Tom Tripp seconded the motion, all voted in favor, motion approved.
Board Member Assignment Reports (Information Item) <i>Chair</i>	Brent reported that he was unable to attend the last Suicide Prevention workgroup meeting due to a conflict with another meeting. Tom Tripp stated there has been no progress on the opioid lawsuit. Linda reported that the last UALBOH meeting was postponed, it is unknown at this time when the next meeting will be held.	
Health Officer's Report COVID-19 Update	At the request of the Tooele County Commissioner's, Jeff submitted a request to Governor Herbert with health data relevant to Tooele County to consider reducing the level of restriction for Tooele County from low (yellow) to minimal (green). The request was	

<p>(Information Item) Tobacco Specialty Stores Update (Information Item) Staffing Update (Information Item) <i>Jeff Coombs</i></p>	<p>submitted right before a recent spike in COVID-19 cases, which resulted in the request being put on hold. At the time we applied for a lower restriction we met the criteria, but cases have since accelerated. The Governor has the ultimate say on action levels for each county. Provo and Orem cities recently had their restriction level increased from low (yellow) to moderate (orange). This level increase included limiting group sizes to twenty or less, prohibiting in house dining, gyms were closed, no spectators at sporting events.</p> <p>Jeff presented the current COVID-19 data for both the state and Tooele County. After reviewing the data from the state, duplicates cases and some cases that actually belonged to Nevada were removed, this reduced the case count for Tooele County by about one hundred cases. Hospitalization rates and mortality rates have decreased, partly because there has been a large influx of younger people becoming infected and they seem to experience less severe symptoms and treatment of those hospitalized has improved. The average hospitalization stay is averaging at 7 days, down from 14 days. At the beginning of August there was 216 patients hospitalized for COVID-19, today there are 161 patients hospitalized. Hospitalization typically occurs 5-7 days after onset, we will continue to watch the hospitalization rates. Tooele continues to be the only jurisdiction in the state to have zero mortalities. Twelve out of thirteen health districts in the state are seeing an increase in cases. The 7-day rolling average for Tooele County was at about 7%, it is now at 12.5% per hundred thousand per day.</p> <p>Jeff reported that we have not yet had an outbreak in our schools. There have been 17 total cases so far throughout all school districts, private and charter schools and only two are active right now. Seven of these cases were not in school at all during their infectious period. About half of the total cases have been teachers and half are students. All exposure spread so far has been accounted to household exposure, not student to student exposure. On the very first day of school there were two positive cases in the same school that resulted in about 80 students being quarantined. John explained the transmission rate or <math>R_0</math> rate. It is a mathematical term that indicates how contagious an infectious disease is. It's also referred to as the reproduction number. As an infection is transmitted to new people, it reproduces itself. <math>R_0</math> tells you the average number of people who will contract a contagious disease from one person with that disease. We are currently at about 1.2, with .68 being an ideal number. Brent asked if we are close to needing to close any of our schools? Jeff answered that our schools are doing really well right now and are currently not nearing closure. Pam wanted to commend the teachers and staff for doing a great job. Jeff and John explained that some students may have been asked to quarantine, not because they were</p>	
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exposed to a positive case while they were at school, but because they were exposed to a positive case elsewhere. Jeff added that the schools are doing a great job requiring all students and staff to wear masks. John stressed that schools can control the spread of COVID-19 by wearing masks, social distancing, practicing good hygiene and staying home when sick.

Jeff announced that TCHD has received a rapid test machine, however it is not available for use by the general public. As a first priority, the machine will be used to test employees and inmates at the jail, county employees, city employees if requested and also it will be used to do testing in Wendover. He added that the testing is free for now. The machine gives a more accurate reading if the person is symptomatic and results are ready in about 15 minutes.

27:28 He explained that in February the Legislature passed a law allowing tobacco specialty shops to become licensed but only if they were previously licensed as a tobacco specialty shops. Three stores in Tooele applied to become specialty tobacco shops but they declined because they were not previously licensed as a specialty shop. One of the stores filed an appeal and a hearing was scheduled for this group to hear and decide on the appeal. The hearing ended up being cancelled because during that time a special legislative session was held, and SB 6008 was passed. SB 6008 allowed establishments that had a general tobacco license to apply for a specialty permit if done before the end of the year. This changed the ruling and now gives the stores the option to reapply. The bill however did not change how the rule applies to municipalities. Municipalities can still deny licensing even if permitted by the health department according to their own setbacks or requirements. Amy explained the reason why a general tobacco retailer would want to become specialty tobacco retailer is because only specialty tobacco retailers can sell flavored tobacco and flavored e-juice.

Jeff gave a staffing update noting the recent retirement of Miriam Bateman and Nikki Scow. New employees include Taelor Leonelli- Public Health Nurse, Amanda Crump- Family & School Health Secretary, Heleena O'Shea- Vital Records/Family School Health Secretary, Jade Murray- Epidemiologist, Mele Lokotui- Health Educator, Emily Jones- Community Health Worker, Lucia Benitez- Wendover WIC and now also Community Health Worker. In addition, ten people have been hired on as contract employees to do COVID-19 Contact Tracing. TCHD received COVID-19 funding for the Contact Tracers, the new Epidemiologist position (for two years) and COVID-19 and E-Cig funding to pay for the Health Educator position.

Jamie Zwerin gave a staffing update for Aging Services. Debbie Bolinder, Janet Garcia and

	<p>Dan Lawrence retired. Rachel Stone was working as an Emergency Planner Assistant at TCHD, she has since replaced Dan Lawrence as the Activity Specialist at the Grantsville Senior Center. New employees include Jennifer Romero- Social Worker (paid by both COVID-19 and federal funds) and Griffen Bate- Meals on Wheels Driver.</p>	
<p>Financial Update (Information Item) <i>Brad Gillies</i></p>	<p>36:02 Brad presented the Actual vs. Budget Eight Months Ended Aug. 31, 2020 report, he noted that it only includes normal operating expenses and revenue but does not include any expenses or revenue related to COVID-19. Fees for services will start to increase now that clients are coming in for flu and other vaccines. Though the report shows eight months of the year our reimbursement from the state for contracts and grants only includes 6 months since payment is always 1 to 2 months behind. Because of all of the work being done on COVID related items, we are not being able to put the usual amount of time and expend money towards our normal programs resulting in coming in under budget on contracts and grants. One example of this is the nurses normally would be teaching the Sexual Risk Avoidance Education program in schools but since the schools were closed and nurses are working on COVID-19 they were not able to provide the full services for this contract. Brad reported that we were just notified that the new contract that starts Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> will allow funds that weren't spent this year to carry over to next year. Expenses are a bit lower at 54.6% of what was budgeted. Net operating is at 47.2%. Other sources of revenue that do not relate to operations are budgeted at about \$228,591 but we will not know the exact amount until individual county property taxes are collected.</p> <p>Brad detailed COVID-19 expenses and funding listed on the report as of last week. The COVID-19 funding is made up of several different parts. Part of the funding is from the federal government CARES funding. The county distributed about \$477,000 to the health department. Of this funding \$450,000 has to be used by the end of the year and \$132,000 is a grant to be used towards epidemiology for the next two years. A separate contract of \$165,000 is funding the payment for the contact tracing efforts through the end of the year, these are contract employees. Another community partnership grant of \$50,000 is being used towards paying two Community Health Workers. Utah Dept. of Health notified us today of an additional \$442,000 and will carry forward until 2022, this amount is not included on the report due to the recent notification. The funds will be used towards mass vaccination clinics, contact tracers etc. Employees continue to track hours spent on COVID-19 separately from their normal program hours, which has totaled about \$450,000 so far. The WIC division also received extra funding. Some of the supplies purchased with the COVID-19 funding include installing automated touchless faucets for the restrooms,</p>	<p>Tom Tripp motioned to accept the report as presented, Kyle Memmott seconded the motion, all were in favor and motion passed.</p>

plexiglass dividers at the reception areas, drive-thru tents for the mass vaccination clinics and additional computer equipment.

52:23 Brad presented the Tooele County Health Department Proposed 2021 Budget. Brad also included a narrative that highlighted line items that were new or that have had significant changes from the previous year. With the exception of the wages and benefits for next year this proposed budget was presented to the Commissioners last month. Tom noted that the tentative budget will be approved in November. There have been a few changes since this report was sent to the group, changes will be included before the final budget is presented. The budget contains nothing related to COVID-19 except any items that we are certain of such as the funding for the EPI position already received that will go through the end of 2021. He also mentioned that when the budget was put together it was based upon existing employees and any new employees that we were certain would be hired. The COLA was based on wages and benefits from last year. HR has since provided preliminary information about projected wages and benefits for next year, Brad compared the numbers and if they hold out it will be about \$22,000 less than what was budgeted on the report. Tom said that the insurance contract was signed for two years so there should be no increase for next year. Brent asked Brad to clarify how the new Health Educator position is being funded, Brad replied part from COVID funds and part from tobacco/vaping/marijuana/E-Cig funding. One amount included in the budget is \$106,000 of pass through type funds meaning we receive the funding, but we will then give the funding to four different organizations that submitted proposals based on how they would use the funding to provide education on tobacco/vaping/marijuana/E-Cig prevention. Tom asked for clarification on the wage increase for Emergency Preparedness, Brad explained the half time position was increased to a three-quarter time position that includes eligibility for benefits.

Pam Bennet motioned to accept the Preliminary 2021 Budget as presented. Michael Wells seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion approved.

<p>Aging Services Update (Information Item) <i>Jamie Zwerin</i></p>	<p>1:14 Jamie reported that the senior centers in Tooele County are still closed for activities as is most of the state. Carbon County has partially reopened their center, but they are struggling to enforce patrons to wear masks and social distance. 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. The Area Agency on Aging is trying to create phases to reopen centers. Some things they are considering is requiring reservations for activities, limiting the number of people participating, increased cleaning. She will find out more information at the next meeting.</p> <p>Jamie gave the group a handout that summarized the recent status of In Home Services, Senior Centers and Transportation programs. They are seeing a slight decrease in the number of pick up meals, partially because of it being summer and also restaurants are starting to reopen. However, there has been an increase since March for the number of home delivered meals provided, averaging 190 meals delivered per day which is a 78% increase. There are currently about 25 people who are considered high-risk, but they are under age 60 receiving assistance such as grocery delivery, access to telehealth by way of having a tablet delivered to them to use for their appointment, meals being delivered. The funding for this service will end December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Because consultations are being done strictly by phone it is taking about 3 hours to get a new client set up on the Meals on Wheels program. Bags with canned goods, fresh produce, toilet paper and hygiene products are being provided once a month to those receiving home delivered meals and those participating in the pick-up meal service at the centers. Staff are calling about 300 seniors each month to provide information and reassurance. Ombudsman are working closely with Emergency Management staff to ensure long term care facilities have the PPE they need, and residents have support during COVID-19. Social Workers are visiting clients either by phone or through virtual avenues such as Skype.</p> <p>Open enrollment for Medicare is Oct. 15-Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>, extra precautions are being taken in order to provide in person assistance.</p> <p>Transportation saw a drastic decline in ridership from March-August. Ridership is starting to pick back up and is back to about 70%. They are taking extra precautions and following safety guidelines from UTA.</p> <p>The Prevention Services program was moved from Valley Behavioral to TCHD the beginning of July. There are four staff members; Peter Clegg- Coordinator, Jamie Slade- Specialist, Kevin Neff- Specialist, and Natalie Heiner- Specialist. They are doing a great job collaborating programs and services with our Health Promotion staff. The program uses evidence based programs to provide intervention to reduce underage drinking, tobacco use</p>	
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	and suicide. Brent commended that Grantsville Senior Center staff for doing a great job.	
Environmental Health Update COVID-19 Business Response Update (Information Item) <i>Bryan Slade</i>	<p>At the last meeting Bryan gave a brief update on the responses from the businesses in regard to the industry specific guidelines for reopening. Since then about 90% of the businesses understand what they need to do. Bryan and staff still receive some calls from the public reporting businesses for not wearing masks, but the number of calls has declined. Overall, most businesses are doing well in following the guidelines so they can remain open for business. For the most part his staff have been able to get back to doing their normal job duties. The number of events being held in the county have started increasing. Following the current guidelines those wanting to hold an event have to submit their plan using a template that includes how they plan to adhere to the guidelines and submit that plan to the health department for review.</p> <p>Bryan reported that the Utah Dept. of Health is revising its Food Safety Manager rule which will affect our local rule. He will rewrite the language and present it at a future meeting for approval.</p>	
Event Calendar (Information Item) <i>Amy Bate</i>	<p>Amy reported that there are no scheduled events at this time. Staff are trying to be creative on ways to safely hold events and activities like the drive-thru family dinner event that was held Sept. 21<sup>st</sup>. Families were able to drive up, pick up a meal and ingredients to make a future meal along with messaging on prevention like the importance of having meals together as a family. The event served 262 households/1237 people. On Saturday a Recovery Day drive-thru event will be held in Stansbury to celebrate hope and remember those who suffer in a night of healing. Today a drive-thru event to hand out care packages at both Tooele and Grantsville Senior Centers was held. Amy provided each member a package and offered her contact information if they would like additional bags. The packages included information on mental health, COVID-19 from the CDC, a survey link, a list of services available, masks, gloves, cleaning wipes, hand sanitizer. We will continue to focus on who in our community is considered high risk and provide them with a bag. Bags have been delivered to the Food pantry, New Reflections, Meals on Wheels etc. Out of the one thousand bags that were assembled there are about 300 left to distribute.</p>	
Board Members Comment/Concerns	<p>Brent discussed a recent rave that was held at UMC, there were many complaints about the noise level. He contacted UMC and they agreed to move the speakers, this seemed to help lessen the number of complaints. He talked to Jeff about using the noise monitor for future events. Brent thanked Jeff and his staff for their work.</p>	

	<p>Pam announced that the state has released the Utah LGBTQ+ Suicide Prevention Plan, possibly being the first in the nation to do so.</p> <p>The Utah Strong recovery hotline funding will continue until next September. To access a disaster counselor, call 385-386-2289 and can assist callers in several languages.</p> <p>The state now has contracts with agencies that provide culturally responsive services to provide mental health and substance use disorder services for those impacted by the pandemic across the state. This includes treatment, case management, and peer support services. The services are available via telehealth and, in some cases, in person. This includes Spanish (Multicultural Counseling Center, Latino behavioral Health Services), Refugee (Asian Association of Utah), Native American (Indian Walk-in Center), and Pacific Islander services (Child and Family Empowerment Services), and the Utah Domestic Violence Coalition (DV advocacy). They are working to ensure that CARES Act and COVID funding is reaching those who are unfunded.</p> <p>Tom asked for an update as to when a vaccine for COVID-19 would be available. Jeff answered that it is assumed that a limited supply of about 23,000 will be made available for the state by the beginning of November, 150,000 by the end of November and 550,000 by the end of Dec. The vaccine will require two doses. A priority will be set for who receives the vaccine first which will likely be health care workers, those at high risk, long term care facility, emergency responders and law enforcement. There probably won't be enough vaccine available to vaccinate the general public until about April. TCHD is working on plans to hold a mass vaccine clinic at Deseret Peak with a trial run for flu vaccine in November. Amy expressed the importance of getting vaccinated for the flu this year.</p>	
Public Comments	There were no comments given.	
Meeting Adjourn	Brent entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.	Tom Tripp made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 pm, Devan Clevenger seconded the motion, meeting adjourned.

Attachments: Financial Report Actual vs. Budget Ended August 31, 2020, Proposed 2021 Budget TCHD