

**TOOELE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

November 30, 2021

151 N. Main Street Tooele, Utah

**PRESENT:**

Board: Brent Marshall, Anthony Howes, Tom Tripp, Linda McBeth, Devan Clevenger (phone), Pam Bennett (phone), Mathew Jackson

Absent: Brian Johnson, Michael Wells

Staff: Jeff Coombs, Ericka Jordt, Bryan Slade, Jamie Zwerin, Brad Gillies, Amy Royal, John Contreras, Tracy Frailey, Leena Chapman, Peter Clegg

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. Roll call was taken.	
Approve September 28, 2021 Meeting Minutes (Action Item) <i>Chair</i>	Brent entertained a motion to approve the September 28, 2021 meeting minutes.	Tom Tripp made a motion to approve the September 28, 2021 meeting minutes, Matt Jackson seconded the motion, Pam Bennett abstained from voting, all voted in favor, motion approved.
Adopt 2022 Meeting Schedule (Action Item) <i>Chair</i>	The group reviewed the proposed meeting schedule for 2022. Jeff noted that the meetings will be held upstairs in room 280 going forward. Linda expressed concern about the date of the July 26 <sup>th</sup> meeting since employees will be off and the building will be closed on the 25 <sup>th</sup> .	Tom motioned to adopt the proposed schedule dates, Anthony Howes seconded the motion, all were in favor, motion approved.

<p>Board Member Assignment Reports (Information Item) <i>Chair</i></p>	<p>Tom is assigned to follow the Opioid lawsuit. He noted there has been substantial movement since he last gave an update. Tooele County joined the lawsuit along with 20 out of 29 other counties in the state. The settlement funds will be distributed amongst all counties in the state whether they joined the lawsuit or not. There will be incentives for settling if 100% of the complainants agree. Utah would get 100% of their portion but if less than 100% agree they will only get 85% of their portion. Funds will be divided by states by population. States would receive 50% upfront and the other 50% over eighteen years to be used for education and treatment. Utah would receive about \$260,000,000 and Tooele County would receive about \$4,000,000. Linda wondered how much it has cost the county directly, that is unknown but 75% of the crime in the county is related to drugs and or alcohol. Brent mentioned the high percentage of court cases related to opioid use. Jeff added that though opioids was the main concern it has now turned to fentanyl.</p> <p>Linda reported that the state will hold a meeting tomorrow on the Symposium that was cancelled due to COVID, and they will discuss holding it at a later date.</p>	
<p>Health Officer's Report  COVID-19 &amp; Vaccination Update (Information Item)  On the Horizon- COVID Treatment (Information Item)  Funds for Senior Center Repairs (Information Item)  Staffing Update (Information Item)  <i>Jeff Coombs</i></p>	<p>Jeff announced that Brian Johnson is stepping down from serving on this board. Selecting a new representative will be on the next COG meeting agenda. We will recognize Brian for his service at the next meeting. Brent Marshall and Devan Clevenger have agreed to serve another term.</p> <p>Jeff gave an update on staffing. He introduced Peter Clegg- Prevention Services Coordinator. He noted that while the state is preparing to combine health and human services at the state level; Tooele County Health Department has already done this over a year ago. Prevention Services and Health Promotion work together to coordinate services. Jeff introduced Leena Chapman as the new Health Equity Coordinator; she previously held positions as a Health Educator and the Vital Records Registrar. Jamie announced Chuck Holland as a new UTA Driver and Scott Cottrell as a Medical Transport Driver. Transportation from Tooele to Salt Lake for medical appointments is available once again.</p> <p>Jeff presented the BOH COVID-19 Status Report for the State of Utah and Tooele County. State of Utah as of November 30, 2021-</p>	

Tooele County- cases have dropped slightly since the beginning of the month. We reached our all-time high since the pandemic began of 67 cases per day just over a month ago. An increase is expected following Thanksgiving and the Omicron variant being much more transmissible.

Tooele County:

- 13,382 total cases
- 500 total hospitalizations (most severe cases are transferred to Salt Lake hospitals)
- 79 deaths
- 7-day case rate 27.4 cases/day (40% lower 7-day case rate than at this time last year)
- 40% lower 7-day case rate this time last year
- 59% lower 7-day case rate since October 26, 2021, the highest case rate since the pandemic began
- Tooele County 14-day case rate per 100,000: 691. Tooele County is still the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in Utah behind Box Elder County, and still considered in a high transmission rate per the CDC and UDOH guidelines of >325
- 7 day rolling average Percent Positive tests is (test/Test) 10.75%
- Incidence Growth: .63 indicating a decline in cases
- Test Sites: Tooele Monday-Saturday 7am – 7pm, Grantsville Thursday & Saturday 12pm – 7pm

Incidence Growth rate is down to .63 and we are seeing a downward trend of our EPI curve Testing is still available in both Tooele and Grantsville. Tracy Frailey expects testing to pick up next week after being a slower week last week due to the holiday. Jeff showed a statewide graph comparing the number of cases in children in 2020 compared to 2021. Cases in 11–17-year-olds have dropped off; this shows the vaccine is working. The vaccine has been available for 5-11 years olds for the last three weeks, second doses for this age group will be offered next week. Though the hospitalization rate for children is less than the rate for adults, children can still become infected and spread the virus.

Matt shared that schools are doing well; positivity rates have dropped, and testing continues. They are starting to see an increase in students being sick with a cold or flu. No

school is currently meeting the “test to stay” threshold.

Statewide Hospitalization ICU Utilization is at 88.6%, 40% are COVID patients. The Tooele hospital currently only has two patients being treated for COVID. There have been 18 fatalities in Tooele since October 1, 2021 of which 12 were unvaccinated 5 unknown vaccination status and one breakthrough case. Linda asked how a medical examiner will list cause of death for someone who had COVID, recovered and then died? John said it would probably be listed as COVID related. The number of people getting their 1<sup>st</sup> dose of the vaccine has slowed down considerably.

Statewide and Tooele vaccination rates:

- 63.7% of all Utahns received at least one dose, 55.3% Tooele
- 55.4% of all Utahns fully vaccinated, 48.1% Tooele
- 68.8% 5+ received at least one dose, 60% Tooele
- 59.9% 5+ fully vaccinated, 52% Tooele
- 49.2% of Tooele County 12-17 years olds are fully vaccinated

Jeff shared the following statistics for vaccinated vs. unvaccinated- 3.1x greater risk of testing positive for COVID, 6.6x greater risk of hospitalization, 7.8x greater risk of dying.

Some new developments with treatment of COVID include monoclonal antibody treatment which can significantly reduce a persons chances of becoming hospitalized or dying. There are several locations in Salt Lake that offer the treatment; we are actively working on getting a location in Tooele to offer the IV treatment. Treatment is most successful if given within the first 5 days of becoming infected. A provider needs to make the referral for a patient to receive the treatment. Approval is expected within the next two weeks for two different anti-viral medications; AstraZeneca and Molnupirivir; again, treatment is most successful when given within the first 5 days. We should receive our first shipment of the medicine in the state this week, Tooele will receive 20 regimens that will be distributed by Mountain West Medical Center. We have set up vaccine clinics at every school offering the vaccine to the 5–11-year-olds in addition to continue offering the vaccine here at the Health Department. About 300-400 doses per week of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and booster shots are given here at the Health Department.

	<p>John spoke of the Omicron variant, first detected in South Africa. The variant was detected through sequencing of positive test samples. He explained that this variant is significantly different because it has about 30 mutations, it is much more transmissible and possibly can evade the vaccines we have. We will have more information on the variant in about two weeks. The variant has already been detected in 20 other countries, including Canada. Jeff added that there are 5 suspected cases in Utah that are being sent to the CDC for sequencing. John reminded the group to continue with these basic health measures; social distancing, handwashing and wearing masks and staying home when sick. It is unknown at this time how much protection the three vaccines will provide at this time.</p> <p>Jeff gave an update on the flood at the Grantsville Senior Center due to a leaking water heater. The flooring was completely ruined, some of the walls were ruined. For some unknown reason the building was removed from our insurance company earlier this year so the \$50,000 to remediate the damage and \$30,000 in repairs had to come out of our budget. A budget adjustment request was submitted and funds from the accumulated fund balance will be used along with funds that were previously allocated to remodel the kitchen in the USU Extension auditorium at the Health Department. Jamie announced that transportation is being offered to anyone who would like to go to the Tooele Senior Center while the Grantsville Center is being repaired. Brent commended Jamie and her staff for doing a great job.</p> <p>Linda talked about the significant isolation older adults are experiencing and wants to make sure this is on the radar, including the mental health aspect. Jamie noted the penetration rate of seniors participating in offered services last year was about 12% in Tooele which is average compared to the state. Brent noted the success of several programs such as the Meals on Wheels being delivered to homebound seniors and the meals being offered at the centers. Jamie also spoke to the “baby boomer” generation being less willing to come to a senior center than they would be to going to a recreation or community center. Jeff recognized that isolation, suicide, anxiety, depression etc. has been seen across all age groups as was shared in Peter’s presentation.</p>	
<p>Financial Report October 2021 Financial Report (Action Item)</p>	<p>Brad referred to the handout titled Actual vs Budget Eight Months Ended October 31, 2021 (83% of year).</p> <p>Brad summarized the following:</p>	<p>16</p>

2022 Budget  
Update  
(Information Item)  
*Brad Gillies*

REVENUE- Operating revenue through October 31, 2021 is about 73% of the annual budget and does not include any money received for COVID, COVID funds are listed separately on the report. Reimbursements on state contracts are always a month behind so they are not yet accounted for. Fees collected for services such as seasonal flu shots will increase soon and that will bring us closer to our budget by year-end.

EXPENSES- Operating expenses through October 31 are about four million compared to 5.7 million that was budgeted resulting in about 70% of budget. All departments are under budget.

NET OPERATING- Net operating shortfall for the ten months is about one million short, but we had budgeted to be about 1.6 million short or 62% of what we had budgeted for the year. We had budgeted to take about \$339,000 out of our accumulated fund balance which would balance out our budget. The shortfall will be covered by other budgeted sources such as the County contribution, the health tax levy, and if necessary, the Department's fund balance. Tax levy money collected in November from property taxes will help make up the shortfall and that should eliminate the need to pull funds from our fund balance.

COVID- expenditures so far total \$1,008,251. This includes \$474,958 in direct expenses such as COVID employee wages and benefits, contact tracing, community healthcare workers, computers, and other equipment. Indirect expenses total \$533,293. This includes wages and benefits for non-COVID employees during the time they've spent on COVID related activities. Several employees' wages are covered 100% by COVID funding. Some staff are allocating time back to COVID contracts that are not included in the revenue. All COVID related expenditures have been covered by separate grants and fundings. Tom would like to see more detail on the revenue such as which programs are short or ahead.

Brent entertained a motion to accept the financial report as presented.

Brad reported there is no final budget as of today. The proposed budget was presented to the County Council, Manager and Auditor on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Some changes to the original budget that was presented to this group at the last meeting include that now each department

	<p>within the county will be responsible to cover their own expenses related to their facilities. In the past this fell under the Facilities Dept. budget, with the exception of large items. We now have a \$100,00 line item in our budget called Building Maintenance, this will be an additional expense. A second additional expense charged by the county will be for an Admin fee. The fee will cover expenses for services non grant related for IT, HR, Legal services, the fee is \$183,000. These additional fees will come out of our fund balance and for now we don't foresee the need to increase fees or raise the tax levy. Brent agreed it is good to be able to see what each department is costing to operate and maintain. Tom explained the benefits of these changes. Brad added that going forward these line items will show in our budget. We will request at a future date to set aside additional funds in the Capital Expenditure Reserve for building maintenance needs, more details will be included with the request.</p>	
<p>Aging Services Senior Center COVID Response (Information Item) <i>Jamie Zwerin</i></p>	<p>Jamie gave an update on COVID precautions being taken at the centers. Due to still being at the high transmission level masks are still required. We continue to try and protect our vulnerable population. Several youth groups have asked to come and perform at the centers, but it is still too risky to have them come knowing they may not be vaccinated. Some seniors have stopped coming to the centers because of the mask requirement, Jamie has tried reaching out to them. With the recent flood of the Grantsville Senior Center, repairs are currently under way and hopefully the center can reopen at the beginning of the year. Landscaping will start in January. Jamie expressed her appreciation for the support she has received from both Tom and Brent. She recognized Amy Royal and Tracy Frailey for their help in getting the homebound seniors vaccinated. Transportation is still available for those needing a ride to come to the Health Department to get vaccinated and staff are available to come out to the parking lot, so they don't have to get out of their vehicle.</p>	
<p>Health Promotion &amp; Prevention Services Update Prevention Services Annual Report (Information Item) <i>Peter Clegg</i></p>	<p>Peter showed the group a presentation titled Annual Prevention Report FY21. He explained that this report is submitted annually to the Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. The report contained data from the 2021 Student Health and Risk Prevention (SHARP) survey. The report shows progress on using evidence-based strategies to meet goals and objectives set in our Area Plan. Countywide and coalition specific goals and results were shared. Coalition area successes that were shared included North Valley Communities That</p>	

	<p>Care, Grantsville Communities That Care, Wendover Prevention Group and Tooele City Communities That Care. Though some of these coalitions are relatively new, they are gaining traction and are becoming more recognized and supported within their respective communities. Some notable achievements shown in the 2021 SHARP data is a decrease in use of all statewide prioritized substances (alcohol, e-cigarettes, marijuana, and cigarettes) and we exceeded our 2027 goal for 30-day marijuana and e-cigarette use. Peter also shared the results of these evidence-based programs: Guiding Good Choices, Alcohol Compliance Checks, QPR Suicide Prevention and Prime for Life. Brent commended Peter, Kevin, and his group for their hard work. Peter added that decreases in e-cigarette use is not just due to COVID but also due to policy changes on age limit requirements as well as nicotine content changes. The group agreed that COVID and the disruption to the normal school year has affected our youth.</p>	
Board Member Comments and/or Concerns	<p>Brent recognized that it is hard to handle public comments when they turn into an argument or a grievance. It is best to let them state their comment but not to engage. He added that only the Chair can recognize the public to accept comment.</p>	
Public Comments and/or Concerns	<p>No comments were given.</p>	
Meeting Adjourn	<p>Brent entertained a motion to adjourn.</p>	<p>Tom Tripp made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 pm, Anthony Howes seconded the motion, meeting adjourned.</p>

Attachments: Actual vs. Budget Ten Months Ended October 31, 2021 (83% of Year), Financial Report, BOH COVID-19 Status Report November 30, 2021, Proposed 2022 Meeting Schedule, Annual Prevention Report FY21