

**TOOELE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**

September 28, 2021

151 N. Main Street Tooele, Utah

**PRESENT:**

Board: Brent Marshall, Anthony Howes, Tom Tripp, Linda McBeth, Michael Wells, Brian Johnson, Devan Clevenger (phone), Mathew Jackson

Absent: Pam Bennett

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

Public: Connie Hendricks, Sharon Fletcher, Jolynn Adams, Raymond Adams, Joshua LeBlanc, Melissa LeBlanc, Jamie Lyman, Tim Gillie

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION/FINDINGS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS/ ACTIONS</b>
Welcome- <i>Chair</i>	<p>Brent Marshall called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone. Roll call was taken.</p> <p>Brent asked to move agenda item number 9 to number 2 to allow for public comment. He added that agenda item number 3 Presidents Mandate for Vaccination and Testing is not an action item, it is only an information item for discussion.</p> <p>Raymond Adams expressed his concern with the death rate of the vaccines in the nation being very high and how hard it is to get early treatment for COVID. His wife was recently diagnosed with COVID and after receiving out of state service to prescribe her Ivermectin she recovered after taking it. He would like to see TCHD become an early treatment center that would prescribe Ivermectin and Hydroxychloroquine.</p> <p>Melissa LeBlanc said she was recently prescribed Ivermectin along with steroids to treat COVID and it worked, she also has Epstein-Barr (EBV). Linda asked if this board or TCHD could approve such treatment, Jeff replied they could not. Jeff stated it has not been approved for treatment by either the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Brent asked Raymond Adams to provide Dr. John Contreras, Epidemiologist and Deputy Director of TCHD with the information he has, John agreed to review it and provide his findings to this board.</p>	

<p>Approve May 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes <i>Chair</i></p>	<p>Brent entertained a motion to approve the May 13, 2021 meeting minutes.</p>	<p>Tom Trip made a motion to approve the May 13, 2021 meeting minutes, Brian Johnson seconded the motion, all voted in favor, motion approved.</p>
<p>Board Member Assignment Reports (Information Item) <i>Chair</i></p>	<p>Tom is assigned to follow the Opioid lawsuit. Tooele County has joined the lawsuit along with most other counties in the state and they are represented by a single law firm. The last issue is how money will be apportioned throughout the state. Utah will receive 1% of the total amount since it represents 1% of the population, Tooele will receive 2% of the 1% based on our population. Tom expects we will see the money sometime next year.</p> <p>Linda reported that the Symposium was cancelled due to COVID and is unsure when it will be rescheduled.</p>	
<p>Health Officer's Report  COVID-19 &amp; Vaccination Update (Information Item)  President's Mandate for Vaccination and Testing (Information Item)  Review Public Health Order for 30 Day Mask Mandate for K-12 Outbreaks (Information Item)</p>	<p>Jeff presented the BOH COVID-19 Status Report for the State of Utah and Tooele County. State of Utah as of September 28, 2021- We are in the midst of our second peak, with the first being last fall and winter. The second peak being primarily due to the more infectious Delta variant. We are starting to see the curve here as well as nationally and will hopefully continue to see a downturn in cases.</p> <p>Tooele County-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10,439 total cases</li> <li>• 361 hospitalizations (most severe cases are transferred to Salt Lake hospitals)</li> <li>• 56 deaths</li> <li>• 7day case rate 48 cases/day (6x higher than at this time last year)</li> <li>• 5.7 times higher 7day case rate than this time last year</li> <li>• 3.8 times higher 7day case rate since June 7, 2021, three months ago</li> <li>• 7day case rate is 8% higher than last month</li> <li>• Tooele County 14day case rate per 100,000: 972 Still considered in a high transmission rate per the CDC and UDOH guidelines of &gt;325</li> <li>• 7 day rolling average Percent Positive tests is 13.21%</li> <li>• Incidence Growth at .92, indicating a decline</li> </ul>	

<p>Staffing Update (Information Item)</p>	<p>Jeff recognized a significant decrease in the 7day average from the beginning of the year. The state and Tooele County have been seeing a plateau but are starting to see a slight decrease over the last week and a half. John Contreras talked about emerging variants. Delta is the most prevalent, MU is slightly more infectious than Delta and a new variant called the R1 is showing some resistance to the vaccine. John explained about 10% of positive tests are sequenced for the genetic code of a variant. The Test to Stay event at Tooele High School went very well and 2.2% of students tested were positive. Jeff explained the tests used are antigen tests and PCR tests can also be done to confirm. John explained there are new tests that can detect COVID, RSV or Influenza, but it does not detect bacterial infections or the common cold. John explained how the antigen and PCR tests work. Melissa LeBlanc will forward John an article she found on the CDC site saying the tests will show positive for COVID even if it is a bacterial infection, common cold or flu or respiratory virus. John will research the article Melissa referenced. John shared his credentials and experience working in public health. Jeff said the county is continuing to coordinate with the state to provide testing sites. Currently testing is available in Tooele at the Park and Ride site Monday – Friday from 8am to 4pm and in Grantsville on Thursdays. They are hoping to expand testing to Fridays and Saturdays. Jeff shared data on K-12 cases, the rate is higher than last year but fortunately Tooele County has not had any mortalities in young children. The Delta variant has played a significant role in the increase of cases in children. Jeff confirmed that the counter starts over again once a school meets the Test to Stay threshold. Jeff shared current hospitalization data for Mountain West Medical Center. Currently 50% of ICU patients are COVID positive patients at MWMC. Statewide hospital ICU utilization is at 91.4% of which 43.5% are COVID positive patients. Vaccination status report shows 58.9% statewide have had at least 1 dose, Tooele is at 51.1%. Those twelve years of age and older receiving at least one dose statewide is at 72.9% and Tooele is at 65%. Jeff shared the risk of those vaccinated vs. those unvaccinated for contracting, becoming hospitalized and dying from COVID. Mike asked if there is a way to quantify data of those with immunity from being infected. Jeff said there is not good data on this and there are various studies showing how long natural immunity lasts. Also, he explained it is hard to know the actual number of people that have been infected since many are asymptomatic and don't get tested.</p> <p>John spoke about the Presidents mandate of the requirement for employers with 100 or more employees to require vaccinations or weekly testing. We are still trying to get clarity from UDOH and the CDC on who provides these resources, manpower, training, cost for</p>	
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	<p>testing to the employers, etc. Jeff said it is expected that many states will fight this, and it may be a drawn-out battle in courts. Tom cited a case in 1905 of Jacobs vs Massachusetts in which the Supreme Court upheld a vaccination requirement for smallpox.</p> <p>Jeff reported that the County Council turned down the public health order presented by TCHD requiring schools with outbreaks of COVID-19 that meet the case threshold outlined in Senate Bill 107 to require all students and staff wear masks for 30 days. We will continue to watch and track cases in schools. Matt said the state provided Tooele High School with 6 testing teams when they met the Test to Stay threshold. The testing was very efficient. The school experienced a high rate of compliance, and the event was successful. There is currently no intention to revisit the public health order at this time.</p> <p>New staff hired since the last board meeting are:  Health Dept.: Heather McCormick- Front Door Greeter, April Francom- Dental Clinic Assistant, Crystal McBride- Community Health Secretary, Shayla Chatfield- Community Health Secretary, Dacota Shell- COVID PIO, Rebecca Tripp- Epidemiologist, Hunter Vowles- K-12 Testing Coordinator, Amalie Thorpe- COVID Support Worker, Jane Wrenn- COVID Support Worker, Meghan Vonhatten accepted a new position as a Community Health Worker for Aging Services, Leena Chapman accepted a new position as Health Educator, Crystal McBride accepted a new position as Vital Records Registrar.</p> <p>Aging Services: Kyle Kortie Meals on Wheels Driver, Nayelli Lomeli- Food Prep Worker, Chuck Holland UTA Maintenance, Nina Barnhardt UTA On Demand Driver, Scott Cottrell Transportation Driver, Rebecca Provencio Food Prep Worker.</p>	
<p>Financial Report August 2021  Financial Report (Action Item)  2022 Budget Draft (Action Item)  <i>Brad Gillies</i></p>	<p>Brad referred to the handout titled Actual vs Budget Eight Months Ended August 31, 2021 (67% of year).</p> <p>Brad summarized the following:</p> <p>REVENUE- Operating revenue through August 31, 2021 is about 57% of the annual budget. As of August 31, reimbursements on state contracts had only been received through July, accounting for most of the shortfall. Revenue from most contracts and grants is also</p>	<p>Tom Tripp motioned to accept the report as presented, Mathew Jackson seconded the motion, all voted in favor and the motion passed.</p>

less than budgeted as staff has concentrated on the COVID response and have been unable to spend budgeted hours on regular responsibilities. However, this time has been covered by separate COVID funding. Fees for services are down, but some of the revenue is seasonal and we should be at or over budget by year-end.

EXPENSES- Operating expenses through August 31 are about 56% of budget. All departments are under budget. This report shows all wages and benefits paid in their corresponding divisions, although time related to COVID is not being reimbursed through those divisions' grants and contracts. COVID related wages and benefits are covered by separate COVID fundings.

NET OPERATING- Net operating shortfall for the eight months ended August 31 is about \$487,000, or about 56% of what was budgeted. This will be covered by other budgeted sources such as the County contribution, the health tax levy, and if necessary, the Department's fund balance. At this time, it is not anticipated that any draws from our fund balance will be necessary this year.

COVID- COVID expenditures for the year have been about \$854,000. This includes about \$361,000 in direct expenses such as COVID employee wages and benefits, contact tracing, community healthcare workers, computers and other equipment. Included in this total is also about \$493,000 of indirect costs. This includes wages and benefits for non-COVID employees during the time they've spent on COVID related activities. Through August 31, approximately 16,000 hours of staff time had been recorded as COVID. All COVID related expenditures have been covered by separate grants and fundings. There is currently COVID funding available for many areas of the response through June of 2024.

Linda asked if there is a report showing the number of hours the National Guard and volunteers have spent helping with the COVID response? Brad said the hours they have spent helping is not in our budget, but employees have spent about 16,000 hours towards COVID response.

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

Brad presented the 2022 Draft Budget. He noted that the first draft has already been presented to the County Council, County Manager and County Auditor. Changes will likely

Tom motioned to approve the report as a "tentative" budget,

	<p>be made before the final budget is approved sometime in November or December. The proposed budget is about \$1.3 million less than the 2021 budget as it currently stands due to not as much COVID contingency was put in. Jeff added that the 2020 budget included contract money that we did not bill against though we could have. Brad added that we are not losing any of the contracts and money will be available going forward. The budget does not include any new COVID grants and none that are no longer available. Brad noted a couple of items that resulted in significant changes with one being at the end of July all 5 school nurses left employment with TCHD and became employees of Tooele County School District. The school district had been reimbursing us for costs associated with the nurses in the past but will no longer need to do this. So, we no longer show the revenue we were receiving from this, but we also no longer show it on the expense side. All salaries and wages include a 2.6 % COLA increase proposed by the County HR Department. It also includes an estimated 12.5% benefits cost increase. Some upcoming major purchases include a multi-passenger van and remodel of the kitchen in the auditorium (this was in last year’s budget but was never completed). Tom noted that changes could still be made to this preliminary report, so Tom motioned to accept the report as a “tentative” budget. Brent entertained a motion to approve the report. Jeff reminded the group that they can meet with himself or Brad at any time to go over any details or answer questions.</p>	<p>Mike seconded the motion all voted in favor and the motion passed.</p>
<p>EH Update Report on Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day (Information Item) Proposal to Increase Onsite Wastewater Fees (Information Item) <i>Bryan Slade</i></p>	<p>Bryan reported that the Household Hazardous Waste Collection event was held on August 28<sup>th</sup> from 9am to noon at the Clean Harbors Tooele location. Due to COVID, last year’s event that was scheduled to be held in May 2020 was cancelled. This year Clean Harbors did the majority of the work because the event has become too large for Bryan and his staff to handle and there have not been as many volunteers as in years past. Though participation was down it was still a successful event. Unfortunately, this year Bryan was unable to secure a vendor to accept the electronic waste at the event, this may have accounted for a lower participation rate. He noted that two of the largest e waste acceptors in Salt Lake are now only accepting commercial e waste, not household e waste. He will continue to look for a vendor for future events.</p> <p>Bryan explained that the fee for a septic permit is \$300 and \$25 of each fee collected then goes to the state to fund training programs for Level 1 and Level 2 Certifications. Every county in the state pays this same fee to the state. The state has increased their portion to</p>	

	<p>\$40 per permit fee starting July 2022. Bryan will propose to the board in March 2022 an increase in the \$300 permit fee to account for the increase by the state. Bryan added that this increased fee has been reflected in net year's budget.</p>	
<p>Aging Services Senior Center COVID Response (Information Item)</p>	<p>Jamie reported that nurses are coming to the senior centers to offer both Flu and COVID vaccines. The centers have been able to remain open due to the high number of the senior population being vaccinated. Patrons are still required to wear masks and they have received a lot of positive feedback thankful for the mask requirement. Transportation employees are offering free rides to TCHD to get vaccinated, and for those who are homebound nurses can go to their homes to give them the vaccine. Social Workers are doing in person home visits for clients and going to assisted living centers, but they are wearing personal protective equipment and practicing social distancing. Jamie reminded that staff are available to assist with Medicare issues, help with enrollment, billing issues etc. Open enrollment for Medicare starts on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup> and staff will be available at the centers to help with enrollment. Jamie didn't have the exact figures but noted that staff helped save about 190 people save somewhere around \$250,000 by helping find better, more cost-effective prescription plans and resolve billing issues.</p>	
<p>Community Health Update Report on COVID Testing in Schools (Information Item) <i>Amy Royal</i></p>	<p>Amy Royal reported on COVID testing in the schools in Tooele County School District as well as the charter schools. Hunter Vowles was hired as the K-12 Testing Coordinator and is housed at the Early Learning Center building. Recently Bonneville Academy had 160 of their 500 students call out sick. Bonneville asked TCHD for assistance in testing their students. Of the 118 tests completed 4 tests came back positive for COVID and 114 were negative. This was the first time TCHD had participated in that large of a testing event and it was a great learning opportunity for future testing events. Tooele High School recently reached the Test to Stay threshold. TCHD assisted the state in testing and resulted in 1431 negative test results and 30 were positive for COVID and 160 opted out of being tested. This was one of the first schools in the state to reach the Test to Stay threshold. Jeff added that the nurses have also been going to the schools doing vaccine events. In addition, staff have been holding mobile vaccine clinics and are trying to hold two events per week throughout the county. Hunter Vowles is working at the Early Learning Center building and can offer testing there. Since Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> Hunter and other school district staff have done 424 tests, 373 negative, 51 positive and averaging 33 tests per day. The charter schools have opted not to do onsite testing, but they can come to the school district to be tested. Amy</p>	

	commended the great relationship TCHD has with Tooele County School District. Starting Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup> staff will be going to the schools to help the school nurses to offer the flu vaccine.	
Board Member Comments and/or Concerns	Brent announced Grantsville City will be dedicating a new walking trail at the Cherry Street Park Thursday at 3pm, all were invited. The trail is made of a rubberized material. Linda commended the banner thanking the National Guard for their help. Tom agreed they are a polite, helpful resource. Mike asked if the senior centers offer oral health checks at the senior centers, Jamie said there has been a dentist come talk about oral health in the past. Mike said he is seeing a decline in oral health with some of his clients due to wearing masks. Mike and Jamie will work together on providing some outreach and education. Devan commended Peter- Prevention Services Coordinator and his staff for the recent mural presentation they put on in August as well as other events. Devan has received a lot of positive comments about the program.	
Public Comments and/or Concerns	This agenda item was moved to the beginning of the meeting.	
Meeting Adjourn	Brent entertained a motion to adjourn.	Mathew Jackson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 pm, Brian Johnson seconded the motion, meeting adjourned.

Attachments: Actual vs. Budget Four Months Ended August 31, 2021 (67% of Year), 2022 Draft Budget, BOH COVID-19 Status Report September 28, 2021