



**Jefferson County Board of Health  
Regular Meeting Minutes: August 13, 2021, 9:00am  
In Person at WVU Extension Office at 1948 Wiltshire Rd, Kearneysville, WV 25430  
And Virtual Meeting via Zoom**

Board Members Present: Karen Bailey-Chapman (Chair), Anh Nguyen (Vice Chair), Ann Smith, Elliot Simon, Caleb Hudson (Member at Large)

Board Members Absent: David Lutman

Also Present: Nathan Cochran (Assistant County Prosecuting Attorney), Steve Groh (Asst. County Prosecuting Attorney), Dr. Terrence Reidy (Health Officer), Gillian Beach (Acting Administrator)

**Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM by Chairman Bailey-Chapman.  
The agenda for the meeting was presented and accepted.

Reviewed minutes from July 16, 2021 regular meeting and August 2, 2021 special meeting. Ann Smith moved to approve the minutes for July 16, 2021 meeting. Motion was seconded and carried with 3 yeas, and Elliot Simon abstaining. Mr. Simon made a motion to approve the August 2, 2021 special meeting minutes. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:**

- Jennifer Cross- Shepherdstown resident who is the parent of 3 children in Jefferson County Schools. She said that the vast majority of COVID cases do not cause serious illness and children very rarely contract the virus. She said the CDC reports that only 335 children with COVID died and most of these children had underlying conditions. She said she is against requiring masks in schools as long term masking can cause harm to some children and it is unhealthy to force children to remain in their classrooms during lunch.
- Tracy Phipps- Shepherdstown resident who wants parents to be given the choice of whether their children wear masks. She said there are multiple studies that show there is little evidence of mask efficacy.
- Mia Humphreys- Shepherdstown parent of two children and spoke about the Delta variant posing a greater risk to children. She said every day more than 200 children in the U.S. are diagnosed with COVID. She asked that the health department recommends a mask mandate.
- Chris Marshall- Shepherdstown resident. She requests that we mandate masks in schools and require mandatory testing before reentry into schools. She said the Delta variant is much more contagious and that long term effects from COVID are affecting children.
- Karen Buck- Spoke against mask mandates for kids in school. She said arguments on either side can be debunked on either side. She said the masks have not been properly tested and should not be mandated. She spoke against mask mandates, against testing, and against mandating vaccinations in schools.
- Dr. Reidy gave his COVID activity report and said he would not mandate masks in school primarily because he does not believe that is his role and that he is not sure he has the authority to mandate

masks. He does recommend everyone wear masks. He said he does not want the mask disagreement to overshadow the areas that most people would agree on. He said we are seeing an increase in cases in Jefferson County. He said we are also seeing increased numbers of hospitalizations including an increased number of hospitalizations of children and that the capacity to handle children that need ICU care is fairly small. He said this is serious and we do need to do an about face on taking this seriously because we have relaxed and he said vaccinations are important. He said children under age 12 are not eligible for vaccine so they won't be protected. He said the typical flu kills 50,000 people a year and that season is coming up. He said only about half of Jefferson County's population that is eligible to be vaccinated have been vaccinated. He said he encourages everyone who is eligible to get vaccinated. He said wearing your mask is important especially for protecting others. He said it reduces the risk but does not eliminate the risks.

## **Unfinished Business**

Health Administrator and Other Vacancies- Mr. Cochran asked to move this discussion to the end so that the Board may go into executive session for legal advice relating to the vacancies and our request to the Division of Personnel.

Increasing Well and Septic Information Request Fee to \$25- Ms. Beach said that one comment had been received during the public comment period and read the comment to the Board and she gave her response to the comment. Ann Smith made a motion to approve the Well and Septic Information Request Fee of \$25. Anh Nguyen seconded and after some discussion the motion carried 3-1, with Elliot Simon voting against the increase.

DHHR and other COVID related Grant Updates- Ms. Beach said she had submitted revisions for the ELC-2 grant earlier this week and Dr. Reidy spoke about the Threat Prep and Harm Reduction grants that we have applied for. We are waiting final approvals on all grants. Ann Smith asked if we had received any news on American Rescue funds and Dr. Reidy said we have not.

## **New Business**

JCBOH Bylaws- Mr. Cochran brought an updated copy of the bylaws and said after the Board votes to approve the bylaws he would like to get a signed copy. Ann Smith said she thinks we need to move the election to July and also mentioned the meeting time should be moved to 9:00 am and the location should be changed. Ann Smith also asked if it is a requirement to have both the health officer and the chairman sign the checks. Nathan said that 16-2-11 said it must be signed by the health officer or the Board Chair, so they would not both need to sign. Steve Groh mentioned it states that it has to be approved by the Board and that having the chair sign the checks is an easy way to show Board approval. Mr. Simon asked if there is a requirement for a secretary and treasurer for the Board of Health. Dr. Reidy stated that the Health Officer is the Secretary and Mr. Cochran said there is no requirement for a treasurer. Mr. Cochran said he would make requested changes and provide them to the Board prior to the next meeting.

Update on COVID-19 Activity and Vaccinations- Dr. Reidy said there were two other things he didn't discuss earlier: He said to prevent transmission if you are sick, please stay home and when you are asked to isolate or quarantine please follow our advice and answer the phone when we call.

## **Agency Activity Report-**

- Health Administrator Report- Ms. Beach reported that we have hired CoxHollidaYoung to help with financial aspects of the business and that they are currently working on transitioning our payroll. She also reported that we have hired for the Threat Prep Coordinator and the Nurse Director positions and they both start at the end of the month. She said the Administrator candidate will need to reapply because he was referred on a previous posting. Ms. Bailey-Chapman asked where we were with our request for increased

salaries. Ms. Beach said they had heard back from Department of Personnel and read the email to the Board. The DOP said they could help us get special hiring rates and retention incentives for the positions we are struggling to hire. Ms. Beach said she would be working with the WVDOP on a new proposal to submit to the Board of Personnel for their September meeting.

- Health Officer Report- Health Department has resumed regular activities.
- Environmental Activity Report- Ms. Beach stated that we continue to be inundated with well and septic work and that isn't leaving much time to do other inspections with only two Sanitarians that are able to conduct field work. She reported the 3<sup>rd</sup> sanitarian has begun her training and she should be finished with training in October. Ms. Beach reported on all grants the Environmental Health Department has applied for and received.
- Medical Activity Report- Discussed previously
- Financial Report- Ann Smith made a motion to accept the July financial reports. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Next Meeting- Scheduled for September 10, 2021 at 9:00 am

Jefferson County Commission one time pay stipends- Ms. Bailey-Chapman said for anyone who doesn't know that these stipends are part of American Rescue Act funding the County received to go to essential employees working on the frontline during the pandemic and they included health department employees. She said that the health department needs approval from the state. Ms. Beach stated that the state asked for our Board to vote on the stipend. Ann Smith made a motion to accept the county commission's one time pay stipend for our employees, motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Grievance Hearing Outcome- Mr. Cochran said there were private employee issues to discuss and liability issues regarding the proposal for increased salaries to the state. He advised the Board to go into executive session. Ann Smith made a motion to go into executive session in order to discuss the grievance outcome and liability issue and to receive legal advice from our attorney. Motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

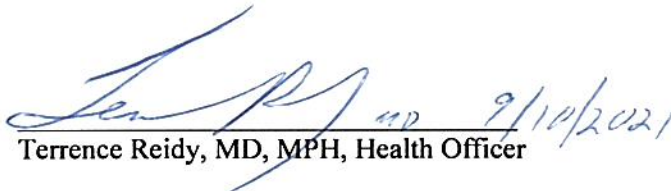
**Came out of Executive Session at 11:08 AM**

Discussed better audio options for combined in-person and virtual meetings.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Ann Smith, seconded and carried unanimously.

**Meeting adjourned 11:12 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,

  
Terrence Reidy, MD, MPH, Health Officer